

I M A G O D E I

JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

March 24–30, 2024

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

This Week's Big Idea

Stand firmly in Christ. Actively demonstrate to all the powers what it looks like to be fully enveloped in the identity and strength of Jesus, as His Kingdom marches forward through His image bearers.

Scripture & Study

KEY TEXT: Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 [Click here to access this week's scriptures](#)

God said, "Let us make man in our image and likeness." Imago Dei. And then, as the image and likeness, mankind was commissioned to "subdue" and "rule" over creation. Humanity, reflecting and imitating God, was created to partner with God in the expansion of His Kingdom - His rule and His reign over every aspect of creation. Created to bring all things into unity under God.

The "powers" of this world resist being brought under the rule of Jesus. These cosmic forces - great and small, personal and impersonal, individual and systematic, resist the saving activity of God among humanity. They "disciple" us to think certain ways, to desire what is outside of created order and they challenge all that Jesus declares as truth. Their goal is to cause us to live in ways that destroy Imago Dei.

Therefore, as Image Bearers, we are called to stand in God's own armor and to "wage war" against everything that would come against God's Kingdom being fully established - within us, together with those who are living in covenant partnership with us, and in the area of influence that God has given to us. Our "waging war" looks very different than what the world would consider "waging war", but God's armor and His sword are powerfully effective in establishing His righteousness, peace and joy, as all things are brought to fulfillment = unity under Jesus (Ephesians 1:10)

Discussion Questions

- Subdue. Rule. Wage war. These are words or phrases that many times are seen as carrying negative connotations. Yet they are used in Scripture in relation to God's Kingdom being established. What do they mean or look like in that sense?
- How do we "wage war" against strongholds (arguments, pretensions, thoughts) in our own lives?
- Read Isaiah 11:4-5, 49:2, 52:7, 59:17. What is Paul showing us in the Ephesians passage by referencing God's own armor?

Apply It

- Spend some time reading through Ephesians 6:10-18 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Ask Jesus to show you if you are carrying arguments, arrogant obstacles, or thoughts that are contrary to His image being fully displayed in you. Spend time in quiet, listening to what He brings to your mind. Write it down.
- Now ask Jesus to show you a Scripture verse or passage that declares His truth over what He has shown you. Write it down and then read it out loud. Spend time everyday (or whenever you think of it!) praying and declaring that Scripture out loud. Share what you are doing with a covenant partner and invite them to "wage war" together with you.