



## The Shield of Faith

Pastor James Heyward

We are in a fight; a spiritual fight. Our defensive weapons are just as important as our offensive weapons. The shield of faith is our ultimate defensive weapon.

*“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”* Ephesians 6:16 (NIV)

### 1. What is the purpose of a shield?

### 2. Why is it unwise to enter the fight without your shield?

The shield of faith is necessary to protect us from the schemes and attacks of the enemy.

#### I. What is faith?

Faith is the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and giver of eternal salvation through Christ.

*“Faith is only as reliable and helpful as the trustworthiness of its object; and Christian faith is powerful and effective because the object of faith, Jesus Christ, is infinitely powerful and absolutely dependable. Christian faith never fails, because the One in whom that faith is placed never fails.”* (John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians*, p.358)

### 3. What is your personal definition of faith?

### 4. How does faith extinguish the flaming arrows of the enemy?

*“Every God-begotten person conquers the world's ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith. The person who wins out over the world's ways is simply the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God.”* 1John 5:4 (MSG)

#### II. Where is your faith?

*“Cursed is the strong one who depends on mere humans, who thinks he can make it on muscle alone and sets God aside as dead weight. He’s like a tumbleweed on the prairie, out of touch with the good earth.”*

*He lives rootless and aimless in a land where nothing grows. But blessed is the man who trusts me, God, the woman who sticks with God. They're like trees replanted in Eden, putting down roots near the rivers —Never a worry through the hottest of summers, never dropping a leaf, serene and calm through droughts, bearing fresh fruit every season.” Jeremiah 17:5-8 (MSG)*

**5. Describe the person who tries to live life without faith in Jesus; who enters the fight without the shield of faith?**

**6. Describe the person who lives life with faith in Jesus; who enters the fight wielding the shield of faith?**

**7. Where are you putting your faith when the flaming arrows of the enemy are heading your way? Where are you putting your faith in you everyday, ordinary living?**

Family Connect Discussion Starter:

Read Ephesians 6:16. Discuss the importance of having a shield when in a battle. Explain how faith in Jesus protects us from the attacks of the enemy.