

Small Group Discussion

Welcome

Have you ever been faced with what you thought was a hopeless case, but turned out to be a great success?

Worship

In Luke 19 we read how Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus saw Zacchaeus - and loved him - just as he was. How did Jesus invite himself into your life?

Praise God together for your salvation.

Word

Read Ephesians 3:16-19

The theme for this week is: *"...the **shield of faith**, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the **helmet of salvation**..."*

Shield of Faith

This shield deflects arrows and also 'quenches' them - or robs them of their power to harm.

James warns us to be careful in the way we speak; speaking of the tongue he says: *"How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire... and is itself set on fire by hell."* (James 3:5-6)

The 'flaming arrows of the evil one' could be those words / ideas that enter our heads. Sometimes through what people say to us, sometimes just niggling doubts and worries.

- How would the ideas of Paul's prayer in Eph. 3:16-19 'quench' the flaming arrows that unsettle you?

- Are you dealing with any flaming arrows at the moment?

Helmet of Salvation

Jesus said to Zacchaeus: *"Today salvation has come to this house..."* but the people outside grumble that Zacchaeus as a 'sinner'.

In Eph. 2:8-9 Paul reminds us that we are not saved because of who we are or what others think of us, but because of God's mercy and grace.

- What can you do to help you remember that God has saved you?

- What can you do to help others remember that God has saved them?

Work

How can you put your answers to the questions above into practice this week? As you pray for each other - base your prayers of Ephesians 3:16-19.

Homework

Prayer

This week ask God to help you to live: In truth (Belt of truth), In faith (Shield of faith, helmet of salvation) With integrity (Breastplate of righteousness) With purpose. (Gospel shoes, Word sword)