

Discussion Questions
The Helmet of Salvation (Wear it to Thanksgiving Dinner)
Ephesians 6:10-17

(Has anyone ever saved you from a dangerous situation? What was it like to be saved?)

In Ephesians 6 Paul encourages us to “Put on the helmet of salvation.”

- What have you been taught about the armor of God and how to “put it on”?
- What do you think the helmet of salvation is?
- What is the function of a helmet?
- How do you think we “put on the helmet of salvation”?

In this sermon Peter pointed out that God put on armor and He was in need of salvation. *“The Lord saw that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man (no iysh) and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation—Yasha... And his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; (literally a helmet of Yashuwah)”* (Isaiah 59:15-16). (*“Yehoshua”/Jehoshua*, contracted to “Joshua”) is the name Jesus, which means “Yahweh saves” (or “Yahweh is salvation”).

- What or Who was God putting on as a helmet?
- Since we are to be imitators of God (Eph. 5), what or who might God be revealing to put on as a helmet?

This scripture reveals that God needed saving: *“His own arm brought HIM salvation...”*

- What do you think God needed saving from?
- What do you think the people mentioned in the passage needed saving from?
- According to this passage, what is it that brought salvation?
- Do you think we can bring salvation to ourselves in any way?

When those we love hurt us, it is extremely painful and we are tempted to choose between love & justice as if they were two different & opposite things... We’re tempted to love without justice or tempted to be just without love... —P.H.

- Which do you find yourself most often being tempted towards, loving without justice or being just without love?

“God is love, and God is just. God is not *sometimes* loving and other times just. God is Love and God is Just, *all* the time: *‘Here oh Israel the Lord your God is ONE.’*”—P.H. But what does that look like?

Isaiah 59 talks about God’s *“own arm bringing him salvation”* and that *“he will repay...”* The Hebrew word here (before the vowels were added one thousand years later) for “repay” is *shalawm* or *shilame* both based on *shalom*. *Shalawm* means: “to make *shalom*.” God’s “vengeance” is to make peace. Psalm 62:12 reveals that God repays our dead works. He *shalawms* our sin with *hesed*—that’s Grace. —P.H.

- Our thoughts of how to “repay” sin are often quite different than God’s, Can you think of any areas in which your thoughts of vengeance are not thoughts of peace and grace?
- Can you think of anyone you desire only the justice of God for and not His love? Or vice versa?
- Take a moment to surrender those thoughts and people to God’s plan for them. Ask God to help you “renew your mind” (Rom. 12) and surrender your ideas of vengeance or justice so that He might replace them with His.

When we reflect on the nature of God and what is revealed through Jesus’ work on the cross and His resurrection, we see that even when God goes to battle , He makes peace. Salvation is about peacemaking and grace for everyone (Col. 1:19-20).

- What might this reveal to us about what it means to “put on the helmet of salvation?”

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*