

Discussion Questions
Faith (And the Flaming Darts)
Ephesians 6:10-15

(Who do you most trust and why?)

- When you hear the word faith, what do you think of?
- What is faith? How do you get it?
- Do you think it's possible to grow in faith without adversity and/or adventure?

Your life is to be a glorious adventure, full of twists and turns, mountains and valleys, even pain and suffering that ends in glory as you scream to your Father in Heaven: "What a ride! What a ride!" But in fear, we try to turn life into a merry-go-round...at least in our own heads. —P.H.

- What part of this ride we call life currently frightens you and tempts you to seize control?
- What do you tend to do when you feel out of control or afraid?
- What do you think God desires for you to do in the midst of fear?
- What things in life do you most frequently find yourself on a "merry-go-round" (going round and round in your head) about?
- What situations or circumstances most often cause you to "get stuck" on yourself and your judgments? Why do think you get stuck? What are you focusing on or not focusing on that causes you to real?

Read Ephesians 6: 10-16

- According to verse 16, when (or how often) are we supposed to take up the shield of faith?
- How do you think we "take up the shield of faith"? Is it something we can do? Something God has done? Both?

According to this scripture, the shield of faith helps us extinguish the flaming darts of the evil one. What do you think these flaming darts are?

- How have you experienced the evil one shooting flaming darts at you?

In this sermon Peter gave several examples of flaming darts in the Bible and then summarized saying,

The flaming arrows can come through talking snakes, calamities, and religious friends, and even your best friends. They can even come in the form of scripture and anxieties in your own head. They will contain truths and yet not be true... At the root they're all the same: A bit of truth like: "You sinned," and then the lie: "God can't be trusted, so you better seize control of the ride. You better trust your own judgment."

- Can you identify a few of these arrows in your life? If so, write a few down.
- What is the truth in them?
- What is the lie?
- What is the judgment you are tempted to make about yourself or others?
- Reflecting on the cross and that God's Judgment is Jesus, what is God's judgment regarding those arrows?
- Ask God to help solidify His Judgment and Truth into your heart. Ask Him to help you trust in His goodness and believe that He is your shield.

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*