***Hope-Strong***

**Worship Series – Week 4**

***Army Strong Mobilize Strong***

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**SEach worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Please include the headings of each section in your bulletin.  |

**Announcements and Offering**

***Army Strong***

**Call to Worship:**

I see an army… The Salvation Army

I see confident people touching the lives of those in physical, spiritual and emotional need, in their homes, neighborhoods and workplaces.

I see joyful people, wailing in the freedom of their salvation. I see praying people, bringing transformation to the world.

I see bold people, taking risks to bring the power of Jesus into dark situations.

They bring together the spiritual and social at every level –

No more separation, each one feeding the other.

They are spiritually disciplined and hungry for God.

They talk about Jesus to each other and to others.

I see people passionate, committed, focused on the Savior.

They know who they are in Christ,

They know their part in this Army.

There will be no more attack on each other;

Instead they are powerful against the enemy.

There will be no more distraction by peacetime issues—they are at war.

(General William Booth)

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| **SB#971 – Onward, Christian soldiers****HC#181 – Onward, Christian Soldiers** | TB-188 – sameHC-181 | HTD2-T10 (3 vs.)HCD17-T11 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#819 – O church, arise, and put your armor on****HC-202 – O Church, Arise** | TB-777 – O church, ariseHC-202 | No CDHCD19-T12 |
| **SB#951 – Equip me for the war** | TB-162 – Diademata | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#954 – God’s soldier marches as to war** | TB-53 – God’s soldier | HTD4-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#955 – Hark, hark, my soul** | TB-486 – sameTB-494 – Pilgrims | HTD6-T8 (3 vs.)HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#960 – In the Army of Jesus we’ve taken our stand** | 692 – I’ll stand for Christ | HTD4-T7 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#963 – Joy! Joy! Joy! There is joy in The Salvation Army** | TB-719 – Joy in The Salvation Army | HTD7-T11 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#964 – Lead on, O king eternal** | TB-223 – same | HTD8-T10 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#978 – Soldier, rouse thee!** | TB-756 – Men of Harlech | No CD |
| **SB#971 – Onward, Christian soldiers****HC#181 – Onward, Christian Soldiers** | TB-188 – sameHC-181 | HTD2-T10 (3 vs.)HCD17-T11 |
| **SB#976 – Shout aloud salvation** | TB-823 – same | No CD |
| **SB#992 – Who is on the Lord’s side?** | TB-190 – Rachie | HTD2-T13 – (3 vs.) |
| **HC#153 – Storm the Forts of Darkness** | HC-153  | HCD14-T13 |
| **HC#221 – Servants of God** | HC-221 | HCD21-T11 |
| **SB#960 – In the Army of Jesus we’ve taken our stand****HC#271 – I’ll Stand for Christ**  | TB-692 – I’ll Stand for ChristHC-271 | HTD4-T7 (4 vs.)HCD26-11 |

**Scripture Alive!**

**Option #1 version (NIV) – Scripture Alive!**

**Leader:** 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God,so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities,against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**All:** 13Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**Leader:** 18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. 19Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

(Ephesians 6:10-20, NIV)

**Option #1 version (The Voice) – Scripture Alive!**

**Leader:** 10Finally, *brothers and sisters,* draw your strength and might from God. 11Put on the full armor of God to protect yourselves from the devil and his evil schemes.

**All:** 12We’re not waging war against enemies of flesh and blood alone. No, this fight is against tyrants, against authorities, against *supernatural* powers *and demon princes that slither* in the darkness of this world, and against wicked *spiritual armies* that lurk about in heavenly places.

**Leader:** 13And this is why you need *to be head-to-toe in* the full armor of God: so you can resist during these evil days and be fully prepared to hold your ground. 14Yes, stand—truth banded around your waist, righteousness as your chest plate, 15and feet protected in preparation to proclaim the good news of peace.

**All:** 16Don’t forget to raise the shield of faith above all else, so you will be able to extinguish flaming spears hurled at you from the wicked one. 17Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**Leader:** Paul knows that the real battles and dangers we face are not against flesh and blood. The enemies we see are real enough, but they are animated by spiritual forces of darkness that stay strategically hidden from view. These powers often reveal themselves in institutional evils—genocide, terror, tyranny, and oppression—but the weapons needed to combat them are not earthly weapons at all. What is needed, Paul advises, is to stand firm in God’s power and to suit up in the full armor of God. Although the devil and his demon armies are destined for destruction, they are serious threats now and must be resisted and beaten back. For Paul, the best offensive weapons we have are the word of God and prayer.

**All:** 18Pray always. Pray in the Spirit. Pray about everything in every way you know how! And keeping all this in mind, pray on behalf of God’s people. Keep on praying feverishly, and be on the lookout *until evil has been stayed*. 19And please pray for me. Pray that truth will be with me before I even open my mouth. *Ask the Spirit to guide me* while I boldly defend the mystery that is the good news— 20for which I am an ambassador in chains—so pray that I can bravely pronounce the truth, as I should do.

(Ephesians 6:10-20, The Voice)

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| **SB#313 – Spirit of the living God****HC#159 – Spirit of the Living God** | TB-611 – Fill me anewHC-159 | HCD14-T19 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#284 – God is Spirit, Holy Spirit** | TB-634 – God is SpiritHC-104 | HCD9-T14 |
| **SB#323 – Lord, hear my prayer, Thy power I claim** | TB-762 – Move, Holy Spirit! | No CD |
| **SB#315 – All over the world the Spirit is moving** | TB-545 – All over the world | No CD |
| **SB#316 – At the moment of my weakness** | TB-658 – His Provision | No CD |
| **SB#335 – Great God, your love has called us here** | TB-442 – Melita | HTD9-T11 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#371 – I will offer up my life in spirit and truth** | TB-894 – This thankful heart | No CD |
| **SB#456 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind** | TB-105 – Repton | HTD8-T13 (3 vs. – repeat last line of vs.) |
| **SB#517 – Purify my heart** | TB-805 – Refiner’s fire | No CD |
| **SB#573 – Be Thou my vision** (2 different sets of words) | TB-831 – SlaneTB-568 – Be Thou my visionHC-191 | HCD18-T11 |
| **SB#584 – Give me a heart that understands** | TB-61 – BelmontTB-82 – Irish | No CDNo CD |
| **SB#819 – O church, arise****HC#** | TB-777HC |  |
| **SB#917 – Christ for the world, we sing** | TB-197 – Harlan (slow)TB-198 – Moscow | HTD10-T2 (3 vs.)HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#957 – I have read of men of Faith** | TB-625 – Gird on the Armor | CD |
| **SB#966 – Make the world with music ring** | TB-795 – Over Jordan |  |
| **SB#1009 – Men of faith, rise up and sing****HC** | TB-825 – Shout to the North | No CD |
| **SB#981 – Sound the battle cry!** | TB-833 - same |  |
| **SB#979 – Soldiers of Christ, arise** | TB-149 – Falcon StHC |  |

**Leader:** Pray always. Pray in the Spirit. Pray about everything in every way you know how! And keeping all this in mind, pray on behalf of God’s people. Pray that truth will be with you before you speak. Ask the Spirit to guide you while you boldly defend the mystery that is the good news— for which you are an ambassador.

***First…We Pray!***

[Leader of the prayer time should use the Soul Training guidelines to guide the prayer time. The Soul Training box at the end of this document should be included each week in the bulletin as a separate handout for the congregation to take home each week. List the following (condensed version) in the bulletin outline for prayer points during the prayer time.]

**Congregational Prayer Time**

**Soul Training – Sharing Your Faith**

* Pray – Pray for God to send you someone.
* Watch – Help me see who you are bringing me.
* Reach Out – Find ways to reach out to the person.
* Listen – Simply by listening you are demonstrating God’s love…
* Connect – How does the gospel apply to his or her situation?
* Share – Share your story.
* Invite – Invite the person to join with you and other Christ-followers in some capacity.

Pray for someone to witness to. Share your faith!

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| **SB#418 – Every day they pass me by****HC#269 – People Need the Lord**  | TB-797 – People need the LordHC-269 | No CDHCD25-T19 |

**Pastoral Prayer**

***Mobilize Strong***

**Message – Mobilize Strong**

**Video – Mobilize Strong**

**Response**

What’s stopping you right now from being mobilized?

Who is God sending you to?

Where is God wanting you to go?

Will you go? Will you mobilize strong?

We are called to LOVE STRONG. Love strong compels us to FIGHT STRONG. Fight strong is the passion to SERVE STRONG. Serve strong motivates us to MOBILIZE STRONG. Together, we are HOPE STRONG.

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| **SB#255 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-225 – My soul is now unitedTB-213 – Aurelia | No CDHTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#301 – He wills that I should holy be** | TB-36 – RockinghamTB-12 – Ernan | No CDNo CD |
| **SB#316 – At the moment of my weakness** | TB-658 – His Provision | No CD |
| **SB#418 – Every day they pass me by**  | TB-797 – People need the Lord | No CD |
| **SB#514 – O the bitter shame and sorrow** | TB-391 – None of self | No CD |
| **SB#565 – All I once held dear, built my life upon** | TB-725 – Knowing YouHC-89 | HCD7-T19 |
| **SB#588 – I bring to Thee my heart to fill** | TB-414 – Christ is all | HTD3-T6 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#609 – My body, soul and spirit** | TB-211 – My all is on the altar | HTD5-T14 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#626 – The Savior of men came to seek and to save** | TB-484 – The old rustic bridge | No CD |
| **SB#636 – All to Jesus I surrender** | TB-333 – I surrender all | HTD5-T9 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#649 – If crosses come, if it should cost me dearly** | TB-490 – I’ll not turn backHC-33 | HCD2B-T13  |
| **SB#682 – Thou has called me from the byway** | TB-379 – South Shields | HTD10-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#699 – Every promise we can make** | TB-640 – Grace aloneHC-207 | HCD19-T17 |
| **SB#707 – I need Thee every hour** | TB-680 – I need Thee | No CD |
| **SB#712 – In the depths of my soul’s greatest longing** | TB-695 – In deeper consecration | No CD |
| **SB#721 – Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole** | TB-505 – Lord Jesus, I long | No CD |
| **SB#766 – In the secret of Thy presence** | TB-383 – The vacant chairTB-371 – same (repeat line 4, omit chorus)HC-35 | HCD2b-T15 |
| **SB#770 – Lord, I come to Thee beseeching** | TB-391 – None of self | No CD |
| **SB#771 – Lord, I pray that I may know Thee** | TB-333 – I surrender all | HTD5-T9 (3 vs.) |

**Benediction**

20Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21equip you with everything good for doing his will,and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

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| **Vocal Benediction – SB#992 – Who is on the Lord’s side?** | TB-190 – Rachie | HTD2-T13 (3 vs.) |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#355 – Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior** | TB-867 – The potter’s handHC-112 | HCD10-T12 |
| **SB#934 – The world is needing us** | TB-877 – same | No CD |
| **SB#959 – I’ll go in the strength of the Lord** | TB-433 – In the strength of the Lord | HTD4-T8 (3 vs. – Intro to each verse; extended ending) |
| **SB#819 – O church, arise, and put your armor on****HC#202 – O Church, arise** | TB-777 – O church, ariseHC-202 | No CDHCD19-T12 |
| **SB#954 – God’s soldier marches as to war** | TB-53 – God’s soldier | HTD4-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#971 – Onward, Christian soldiers****HC#181- Onward, Christian soldiers** | TB-188 – sameHC-181 | HTD2-T10 (3 vs.)HCD17-T11 |
| **HC#193 – Soldier’s Hymn** | HC-193 | HCD18-T14 |
| **HC#277 – We have caught the vision splendid** | HC-277 | HCD26-T17) |

***Hope-Strong***

**Worship Series – Week 4**

***Mobilize Strong***

***By Commissioner Barry Swanson***

**Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20**

**Title:** **Mobilize-Strong**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6: 10-20

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 6:13: “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand”.

**Key Word:** Victory

**Aim:** A Hope-Strong life requires that we allow the armor of God to do its job, while we do ours: to stand in victory!

**Introduction**

“Finally”. Finally Paul brings his brilliant and hope-filled letter to the Ephesians towards a thrilling climax. Suddenly his metaphor of choice in describing the church is a military one: an Army of God doing spiritual warfare with the forces of darkness. We note this does not depict a one time, apocalyptic battle taking place in some future time, but instead reminds us of the reality of day to day, hand to hand, mortal combat we are constantly engaged in. The problem is we don’t (always, often or ever) realize it!

The key to being and remaining Hope-Strong is to do the work required to be Army-Strong on a daily basis. It is God who sends us into battle; who equips us to fight; who fights for us; and who has already determined the outcome. Make no mistake; the fight is long, hard, and ugly. Our adversary is cunning and filled with hatred and unspeakable evil. He is the antithesis of hope. He is the personification of despair and wishes to extend his reign over all human kind.

With the battle lines drawn, let’s look at what our sovereign God would have us do.

1. The Enemy (Ephesians 6:10-12)

It is said that the number one rule of warfare is to know your enemy. Paul seems to agree because he offers a careful profile of who and what we are up against in our campaign to bring the hope of Christ into our neighborhoods and communities. He names him: the devil. Although some, perhaps many, today view Satan as a mythical figure taken from the latest film or video game, we must never, I repeat, NEVER forget that he is real and that he is dangerous. His schemes are designed to oppose the purposes of God, which Paul has tried to outline in this letter, and to cause real harm, for obvious reasons, to all humanity, especially Christians and the church.

Paul also reminds us that this is not warfare in any conventional sense. Let’s be clear: this struggle is against spiritual, demonic entities: rulers, authorities, and powers whose realm is this dark world and heavenly (spiritual) places. We are not told more than that, and I think it wise to not indulge in further, often unhelpful speculation. I trust God would share any required information on a need to know basis.

What is clear, is what we are expected to do.

1. The Armor (Ephesians 6:13-17)

No Christian warrior is sent into battle unprepared. Paul and his readers would have been very familiar with the sight of a heavily armed Roman soldier, which seems to be his inspiration for how we are to engage the enemy: confident in our Captain (the Lord), full armor properly worn, and standing firm to meet the enemy’s assault.

Each of the six pieces of armor mentioned, belt (truth), breastplate (righteousness), boots (good news of peace), shield (faith), helmet (salvation) and sword (the word of God) are used to create a picture of the complete soldier. As long as the armor is “put on” we are protected from danger.

Let us not forget the role of the Holy Spirit in this confrontation. It is he who inspires, encourages and provides the materials we need. As Paul says repeatedly, the ONLY thing we are required to do is to stand.

1. The Secret Weapon: Prayer (Ephesians 6:18-20)

Paul gets very personal as he concludes. “Pray also for me” he says. In many ways we see him as a spiritual giant, theological genius, a master of missiology. If we learn anything, it is in Christian ministry, only prayer brings success. TwicePaul asks for prayer that he would be fearless in his preaching of the gospel. *Twice.* He knew the ultimate source of power lay only in the name of Jesus.

1. The Victory (Ephesians 6:13)

“To stand” is what God calls us to do. That is our part. He will equip us and position us. He will fight for us. The assurance of his promises activates our faith, turning us into men and women who will take their stand.

The Bible is replete with examples (Hebrews 11 is a great place to start), as is the long history of the Church. You know the names and the stories. Our own colorful history contains wonderful example of people choosing to live by faith instead of sight, and in the process. Every time another person becomes saved, a victory is declared in heaven.

“Faith is the victory!

Faith is the victory!

O glorious victory

That overcomes the world.” (SASB 919)

It comes down to you and me. We are the ones who, in Christ’s name, bring hope into the world. We are Hope-Strong! As we live, work, worship and serve together we are Army-Strong! We have a purpose for being, and that purpose has not yet been fulfilled. At this time in our history let us reclaim our place as soldiers who have put on God’s full armor and stand ready for our victorious God to show us his mighty power.

Salvation Soldier, put your armor on!

Stand up.

Stand firm.

Stand ready.

Mobilize!

[The Soul Training box below should be included each week in the bulletin as a separate handout for the congregation to take home each week.]

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| ***Soul Training***Who should you witness to? What are the criteria in deciding who to share your faith with and when to share it? And finally, how do we go about it? We are always witnessing, whether we know it or not. People are watching us, and our actions communicate something, for good or for ill. Below are seven exercises that will help us when we become more intentional about reaching out to others and drawing them into the life of faith. 1. PRAY

Pray for God to send you someone. This is a powerful prayer that nearly always gets answered, and soon. Pray not only for God to send people your way, pray also that you would have eyes and ears to know it when they come. 1. WATCH

Once you have prayed, keep watch. Ask God regularly, “Help me see who you are bringing me. Give me eyes of compassion. Let me know who it is and when I can take the next step.”1. REACH OUT

Once you have a sense about who that person is and have sensed God preparing the relationship, find ways to reach out to the person in nonthreatening ways. Ask him or her to have coffee or to go to lunch. 1. LISTEN

Listen well. This is so seldom done in our harried and hurried culture that it almost seems like a lost skill. Simply by listening you are demonstrating love. Listen for clues to the condition of the person’s heart. What is he or she longing for? Struggling with? The best thing to ask yourself privately is, “Where do I think God is working in this person’s life. Whatever it is, try to discover what the person cares about.1. CONNECT

It is at this stage that your understanding of the gospel comes into play. If you have discerned what is pressing on the persons’ heart, try to connect his or her situation with the message of the gospel. How does the gospel apply to his or her situation? Try to continue making connections between the person’s condition and the good news you know, without preaching. You are in a dialogue at this stage. At some point you might be able to more explicitly draw the connection between what is happening in his or her life and what God has done and will do.1. SHARE

At some point you might be asked to tell your story or share your thoughts. If that happens, do not be afraid. God is not asking us to be perfect or have all of the answers. God is asking us to invite people into an interactive life with the Trinity. Remember Peter’s advice: “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence” (1 Peter 3:15-16). It simply says, “Be prepared to tell people why you have hope—and do it with gentleness and respect.” This means explaining how the message of the gospel has intersected your life. Just tell your story, how you came to know God, how God has been at work in your life. Be honest. Let the person know that you are not perfect, that you have struggled, but you nonetheless have put your confidence in God. 1. INVITE

At a certain point in your relationship, invite the person to join with you and other Christ-followers in some capacity. It may be in church. This is usually not very threatening, but it can be for some. You might want to invite him or her to spend time with you and some of your Christian friends in a social setting (dinner or movie), and perhaps even a small group Bible study. Some people find it less threatening to be with a group of five or six in a home than in a church with strangers. Another idea is to invite your friend to join you and other apprentices in a service project. This can be a powerful witness.Above all, keep praying for this person. Trust God. The journey this person is on will have twists and turns you could never imagine. For now, you are privileged to be one person on that journey, telling your story and pointing your friend to the God who reigns.(Adapted from *The Good and Beautiful Community*, pages 59-63) |