

## **WITNESS – Reaching out to others** ***(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)***

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

### **1 Relationships**

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one. In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

### **2 Health**

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

### **3 Wealth**

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

### **4 Education**

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

### **5 Church**

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

## **Prayer Wars** ***Ephesians 6:10–24***

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### ***Purpose:***

To grasp how the ultimate battle is fought and how it can be won.

### ***WELCOME (Aim for 10 minutes)***

What has happened to you that helps you to know that we are in a spiritual battle?

### ***WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord*** ***(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)***

What has been the best thing that has happened since our last meeting?

OR

When have you felt closest to God since our last meeting?

**Pray your “thank you” to God**

## **WORD (Aim for 40–45 minutes)**

In a war of bullets, careful aim and heavy armour win battles. In a war of words, eloquent speech and sharp pens overcome the opposition. But if the fight is outside the realm of sight, sound and touch, how are victories won?

1. Read Ephesians 6:10–24. In 6:10–12 Paul emphasizes that our struggle is not with flesh and blood. How do you sense a battle around you with more than physical forces and foes?

2.  Four times in verses 11–14 Paul urges his readers to stand firm in the battle against the devil's stratagems. How are we susceptible to instability as Christians?

3. When Paul wrote Ephesians, he may have been chained to a Roman soldier (see 6:20). This could easily have inspired his analogy of 6:13–17. How does the “armour of God” prepare us for spiritual battle?

4. Which piece of armour do you need most to fight your spiritual battles? Explain.

5. In 6:10–12 Paul identifies our ally and enemies in battle. In 6:13–17 he considers our preparation and tactics. Now, how is the battle itself fought? Explain your answer.

6. In 6:18–20 Paul urges all kinds of prayers. How has he been a model of a prayer warrior throughout this letter?

7. What main obstacle do you face in fighting the battle of prayer more effectively?

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