

The banner features a dark blue background with a faint, stylized illustration of a fortress or cityscape. Silhouettes of soldiers or figures are visible on the battlements. The word "FORTRESS" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below it, a white horizontal bar contains the text "2023 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS" in blue, sans-serif capital letters.

FORTRESS

2023 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

MONDAY QUIET TIME DEVOTION

Note to Leaders:

Please take a few minutes to make copies of this first camp quiet time for everyone in your group. We have found that students who have done a quiet time prior to arriving at camp are more prepared for the week ahead. We have also found that giving the devotion to students during the drive to Caswell — first thing as they begin the trip, right after lunch or about 30 minutes prior to arrival — begins their preparation for the awesome week ahead. If on the way is not possible, please make time once you arrive at Caswell for students to read the devotion before they attend evening worship in Hatch Auditorium. Thanks for your help in this matter, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

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STRATEGY: Put on the full armor of God.

INTELLIGENCE GATHERING: Ephesians 6:10-13

“Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.”

OPERATIONS:

What do you think about when you hear the word “battle”?

Do you think about:

- An athletic contest
- “Guardians of the Galaxy” or “Star Wars” movies
- An actual war being fought in another part of the world
- Playing video games with your friends
- A relationship, maybe with your siblings, parents or a peer

According to *dictionary.com*, the word “battle” means a “lengthy and difficult conflict or struggle.” In the Bible verses for our quiet time today, the apostle Paul is writing to the believers in Ephesus about a battle we are fighting against our enemy, the devil. Whether you realize it or not, we are in an ongoing battle against the devil and his schemes. The devil is real and so are his evil forces, both here on earth and in the heavenly realms. This battle is fought not against other humans, but against the devil and his forces.

Your mom, dad, brother, sister, friend, teacher, athletic opponent, a rival school, ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, or any other human being is not your enemy. The Bible teaches us that the devil is our enemy. He wants to use his schemes to lead us away from God and following Him! The devil wants to distract, deceive, divide, discourage and defeat us in every way and possibly every day in order for us to not follow the purpose and life that God has planned for us.

BUT GOD!

The great news is that God has won the war against the devil. The Bible also tells us that God has defeated the devil, but we as followers of Jesus still have to battle the devil at times throughout our lives. For that reason, Paul tells us that we must put on the full armor of God in order to keep standing against the devil. We will decide each day what armor we will put on

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— our armor or God's armor.

This week, we are going to learn about God's armor and why it is crucial for us to put on the "full armor of God." We will learn how it helps us win battles against the devil so that we can stand strong for God's glory!

TACTICAL ENGAGEMENT:

What are some of the battles you have faced in life or are presently facing?

Ephesians 6:12 tells us we do not battle against other people, but against the devil and his forces. Whom do you feel like you have been battling, but now realize you aren't really battling them?

Take a moment to pray for these people right now.

What are you wanting God to do in your life this week at Caswell?

Pray: Thank God for allowing you to have the opportunity to come to camp with your youth group. Ask Him to open your heart to hear the truth of His Word, and for boldness to be obedient to what He leads you to do during and after this week. Ask God to help you learn why His armor is important and then to put it on each day!

MEMORIZE THE THEME VERSE

Today, memorize this: "For this reason take up the full armor of God." — Ephesians 6:13

DAILY HAIKU

Each day we battle

The devil is a troublemaker

GOD has WON the war