I am equipped.

Imagine being in an army and being sent into enemy territory told to take out their leader and not being given any equipment or training whatsoever. Only a foolish commander would do something like that. If that’s the case of a human commander, how much more would it be for the one who commands armies of angels?

God gives us the Great Commission, but He also says He will equip us. Of course, like a good soldier, we aren’t to be passive in this. We are given teachers and shepherds and others, but we must listen to them and abide in what they say. This most importantly applies to Scripture, which is our final authority. It is by studying and learning the Scripture that ultimately, we are equipped to do the Great Commission.

Where we see this in Scripture:

**Ephesians 4:1-16**

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”
9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

2 Timothy 3:14-16
But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Questions for consideration:
As you discuss with your group, or read the Bible on your own, reflect on these 3 questions:
1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself, and the world around you?
3. How will change who you are and how you live?

Going deeper
I have a challenge for you. For the duration of this series make a commitment to read through the entire book of Ephesians each week. What! I know it seems like a lot, but it is easier than you realize. Ephesians is a short book of the Bible, just 6 chapters in all, but it is filled with great insights to living out the Christian life. It talks about everything from your identity in Christ, how the church should function, our role in the church, and how we live out our life and faith in every relationship. Read through a
chapter a day, and you will see how this book can radically reshape your life!

-Pastor Matt Peeples

**Recommended resources:**
Sit, Walk, Stand, by Watchman Nee
The God Who Loves You by Peter Kreeft