

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE SHIELD OF FAITH

1. The Roman shield was made of plywood built up layer by layer. How has your faith been built up? What experiences, situations, or challenges have layered and strengthened your faith?
2. Either bronze or leather strips were used to keep moisture from dissolving the glue that held the scutum together. What are elements of the glue that binds your faith together? What is the moisture, or the threats, that can penetrate your faith-shield and threaten to deteriorate that glue? How does faith help you guard the edges of your life?
3. Recall and relate some circumstances when your own faith linked with the faith of others provided a testudo of protection for all of you. What was it like to be part of that group? How can you join with others at home, at work, or in your church to develop a mutually functional testudo? Will it be defensive or offensive? Explain.
4. Who, right now, needs your faith to help shield them from the blows of an enemy? How and when will you help them?
5. The shield was made to be light-weight, flexible, and moveable. How do those elements apply to your faith experience?
6. The back of the shield had reinforcement pieces to add strength and utility to the shield. Who does or did that to strengthen your faith? How do or did they strengthen your faith? With what results?
7. Having a shield does not make someone immune from attacks and blows of the enemy. In some cases it may be the specific target of the enemy. Have you ever experienced an attack on your reputation, your values, your faith, or your beliefs? How did you ward off the blows? How did your shield/faith help you do that?
8. To Paul, the ultimate faith was faith in Christ. Other shields are too flimsy to provide serious protection. Re-count a time when you saw someone put faith in a flimsy shield only to find out that under pressure they needed much more than they had.
9. The shield had to be firmly grasped to be effective. The soldier had to hang onto his shield. How firm is your grip, your faith in Christ? What can you do to make your grip on Him stronger?
10. Relate some of the accounts in the Bible where people used their faith in God to see them through and/or as a shield against the attacks of the enemy. Recall and recount when some folks in the Bible let their shield down and what the results were.
11. Sketch a design you would want to have on your shield on the back of this sheet. Use symbols that represent your personal faith and values. Explain your sketch to others in your group.



www.biblefaces.com

E-mail: dickardis@comcast.net

Phone: 970-667-0866