

social networks

Week 5 Member Guide

THE WIN

The group member will distinguish between engaging in spiritual battle in their own power and the power of Jesus Christ by locating Christ's attributes in the biblical text and comparing them with attributes of the enemy of God, the devil.

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week we were encouraged to be prepared to fight against the devil by embracing a different mindset and equipping ourselves with the proper weaponry.

Did the passages covered (Ephesians 6:10-17) in the message a) confuse you b) encourage you c) make you uncomfortable d) make things clear for you?

Why? How?

WARM UP

If you were forced to engage in hand-to-hand combat what is the one weapon and one piece of armor that you would choose? Why?

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Group Question 1: What are some attributes of the devil?

Passages: John 8:44, 1 John 3:8, Matt 4: 1-11, Revelation 12:9, Ps. 106:37, 2 Cor. 4:4, Gal 4:8, Job 1:12; 2:6, Jude 6, James 4:7

- In your view, knowing Satan is out to make war against Christ-followers, what are the greatest dangers for ourselves/families/communities of faith?

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- Share with the group an experience when you allowed Satan to successfully attack you. What happened? Were you aware of his mission? Did you fight back? What would you do differently?

Group Question 2: What are some attributes of God?

Passages: Ps. 24:8, Gen. 18:14, Jer. 32:27, Eph 3:20, 2 Cor. 6:18, Rev. 1:8, Matt. 19:26, Ps. 115:3, Matt. 10:29-31, Ps. 91:1-3

- How does understanding God's power help you to better prepare yourself for the battle Satan will bring against you/your family/community etc.?

Think through the pairings Paul lists the armor of God:

Gird your loins = Truth

Cover your chest with = Righteousness

Protect your feet = Preparation of Gospel of Peace

Deflect hard blows and arrows = Faith

Protect your ability to think and reason = Helmet of salvation

Attack the enemy = Word of God

- Why could Paul have paired (Truth with an ability to move around freely), (Righteousness covering the vital organs and the seat of emotions), (Gospel of Peace with feet), (Faith with a shield), (Salvation with ability to think and reason) and the (Word of God with a sword)?
- Our ability to put on the armor of God is only possible because of Jesus. How does understanding the armor of God and how each piece serves a purpose strengthen your devotion to Jesus?

Find a partner and imagine this scenario:

A friend of yours is complacent in Christ and their devotion to Him can't really be seen outwardly. You have begun to question whether or not he/she is a Christ-follower at all. If you had 1 opportunity to make him/her aware of the reality of spiritual warfare and the equipment God has provided through Christ, what would you say?

- Ask your partner: On a scale of 1-10 how disciplined are you to put on the full armor of God daily? How can I help you this week be more disciplined?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
Jesus, the Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
-Charles Wesley, 1746