

Growth Group News

Please pray for fruit from our recent outreach, Fall Fest.

Family Matters: Spiritual Warfare, Part 1 Battlefield You

INSTRUCTIONS: THESE QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE US TO THINK MORE DEEPLY ABOUT OUR FAITH IN VIEW OF THE SERMON. YOU MAY NOT GET TO EVERY QUESTION. ONE QUESTION MAY PROMPT OTHER FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS OR CAUSE A LARGER DISCUSSION. OUR PURPOSE ISN'T TO 'DISCUSS THE SERMON' SO MUCH AS IT IS TO TAKE OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE PASSAGE DEEPER SO THAT WE CAN LIVE CHANGED LIVES.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Did you dunk one of the pastors in the dunking booth at Fall Fest, and did you enjoy doing so?

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

How's your relationship with God?

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. As the series on husbands and wives took up the discussion of spiritual warfare (worship and warfare), were you surprised that marriage could be considered spiritual warfare? Have you ever thought of matters of the family as spiritual warfare? Talk about the fact that to live for Christ in this world as a husband, wife, or parent is in fact spiritual warfare.
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-17. People tend to think of spiritual warfare as mostly engaging with or against or being engaged by some sort of supernatural or demonic activity. While there is certainly an aspect of that, "schemes of the devil" speaks to methods, strategies, etc. Concepts like helmet of salvation, belt of truth, breast plate of righteousness, and shield of faith plus sword of the Spirit (God's Word, the Bible) depict a battle of ideas. After all, helmets cover the head or protect the brain (mind), the breastplate covers the heart (conscience), being grounded in the gospel speaks to being sure of what you believe about salvation (the sandals of the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, some translations). Has it occurred to you that Satan's most effective tactics goes beyond terrorizing villagers in far-off places to seducing cultures with ideas of about morality, sexuality, child-raising, etc.? Which type of method would be more damaging: seducing a continent unbiblical thought or terrorizing a village?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Colossians 2:8. The weapons of war here seem to be ideas, don't they? How do you think the war of ideas might affect "Family Matters"?
4. Think about the culture we live in today and how it affects every aspect of our lives. For example, we are told there is no right or wrong approach to most things. Most of us uncritically accept the idea of not evaluating (or judging) others. Most people in churches think the interpretation of God's word is just a matter of one person's opinion over another. Why is this kind of thinking nonsensical?
5. Review our passage. The majority of church goers have a half-hearted approach to their Christianity. Read Ephesians 6:11, 13 and discuss the need to be totally committed to spiritual warfare (worship and warfare) as you consider words like "whole armor" and "having done all, to stand firm." How are you doing at this? Would you say you are 'all in'? Can you afford not to be? Are you in danger of your faith becoming less than primary in your life?
6. People sometimes overestimate the devil's power and adopt superstitious practices, like those of indigenous peoples around the world. You see this with missionaries in Haiti. Discuss Job and Jesus's comments to Peter in Luke from the sermon and explain why hiding under our bed is not an option and completely unnecessary. Read Jesus' comments in John 10 about the safety of a believer in the Father's hand. What can Satan do to you that God does not allow?