

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Not in a small group? Contact us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: What was the most memorable part of your Easter weekend?

Talk It Over Together: *(Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, cover the first 2 discussion questions of each week. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)*

1. Take some time to read through the bullet points listed under section 2 in the sermon notes. Do any of these powers surprise or stand out to you? Which of these powers are the most disturbing to you? Read and discuss (Ephesians 6:10-20). Do you feel it is important to spend time in preparation for "The Fight of Your Life"? If so, how does this affect your personal relationship with Jesus by putting on the full armor of God?
2. Pastor Tom explained that the devil is powerful, but not all-powerful. He is not God, equal with God, or even like God. Read (Genesis 3:14-15). His destiny is doom and the Lord has placed an eternal curse upon him. Read and discuss (Revelation 12:7-10; 20:1-3, 10). Now read and discuss the Tozer quote at the end of the sermon notes.
3. Pastor Tom quoted C.S. Lewis when he said, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." Share with your group what you believe about the existence of the devil. Read and discuss (2 Corinthians 4:1-6). Verse 4 states that the enemy blinds the minds of unbelievers. How does this strike you? What does this passage conclude that we should do in light of this reality? What does that look like here and now?
4. The Bible gives us many different names that describe the devil throughout scripture. Some examples of these are Satan, devil, tempter, father of lies, deceiver, destroyer, evil one, god of this world, murderer, etc. Share with your group which name resonates with you and affects you the most. Read aloud to your group the corresponding verse to that name in this week's sermon notes. How does understanding his tactics help us to stand against him?

PERSONAL READING

As you read through each passage, consider answering 3 simple questions: What did I learn about God from what I read? What Did I learn about myself? What is God asking me to do as a result?

Day 1: 1 Peter 5:6-11

Day 3: James 4:6-10

Day 2: 1 John 5:1-5

Day 4: Ephesians 6:10-20

THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS"

APRIL 27TH, 2014





"The Devil is in the Details"

April 27, 2014

By Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter

for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)



MESSAGE NOTES

Note 2 Corinthians 4:4 and John 12:31

"There are two e_____ and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and h_____ a materialist or a magician with the same delight." (C.S. Lewis)

There is nothing funny or _____ book-like about Satan (note 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:14).

1. Just Who is the Devil?

Note Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14 (with Revelation 13, 17); Genesis 3
God didn't create the devil – pride and _____ did.

- A. The devil (note John 8:44) = "accuser, s_____...accuser of the brothers".
- B. _____ (note Matthew 12:26) = "adversary" or "resistor" (personification of evil).
- C. Tempter (note Matthew 4:3) = his primary a_____.
- D. Father of L_____ (note John 8:44) = his primary tactic/strategy.
- E. D_____ (note Revelation 20:10) = his objective...
- F. D_____ (note Revelation 9:11) = result of deception...
- G. Beelzebub (note Mark 3:22-23) = "Baalzebub" = "lord of the d_____"
- H. B_____ (2 Corinthians 6:15) = ...embodiment of all worthlessness.
- I. Evil one (note 1 John 2:13) = supreme evildoer.
- J. Ruler of this world/_____ of this world (note John 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:3)
- K. P_____ of this world (note John 12:31) = powerful manipulator of world affairs.
- L. M_____ (note John 8:44)
- M. Prince of the power of the _____ (note Ephesians 2:2) = reminder that the devil is a spiritual being.
- N. Angel of light (note 2 Corinthians 11:14) = the n of his deception...
- O. Prince of _____ (note Matthew 12:24)

... "devil's _____" (Ephesians 6:11) tells us he is cunning, crafty, subtle, clever, and very sneaky.

...he cannot be dealt with by human e_____ and resources (note Ephesians 6:10).

2. What _____ Does the Devil Have?

Note Ephesians 6:11-12

- Jesus said he has a kingdom (note _____ 11:14-18).
- Revelation 2:3 says he has a _____.
- He has the _____ to oppose the strongest angels (note Daniel 10; Jude 9) and to deceive believers as well as unbelievers.
- He enslaves people apart from Jesus (note 1 John 5:19).
- He is behind suffering and sickness and he uses _____ (note Hebrews 2:14).
- He is able to "set _____" for people (note 1 Timothy 3:7).
- He has the power to personally _____ and control a person (note John 13:27).
- He puts "wolves in sheep's clothing" amongst God's people (note Matthew 13:39).
- He can i_____ with Christian ministry (note 1 Thessalonians 2:18).
- He can p_____ persecution against God's people (note Revelation 2:10).
- He can _____ the understanding of God's Word from people's hearts and minds (note Mark 4:15).

3. What is the Devil's D_____?

- He is powerful, but not all-powerful. He is not God, _____ with God, or even like God.
- His destiny is _____. The Lord placed an eternal c_____ upon the devil (note Genesis 3:15).

Note Revelation 12:7-10; 20:1-3, 10

We're in the fight of our lives, so:

- "The problem many Christians have in understanding spiritual warfare is that they _____ Satan too much and God not enough."
- We need to be aware of him, recognize his desires and work, but not live in fear of him, or be o_____ with thinking about him and his work.

"The best way to keep the enemy out is to keep Christ in. The sheep need not be terrified by the wolf; they have to but stay close to the shepherd. It is not praying sheep Satan fears, but the p_____ of the Shepherd. The instructed Christian whose faculties have been developed by the Word and the Spirit will not fear the devil... He will recognize the peril in which he lives and will know what to do about it, but he will practice the presence of God and never allow himself to become devil-conscious." (Tozer)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!