

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

Ice Breaker: Share with the group about a time when you were outwitted or you outwitted someone else.

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. Pastor Tom explained how Satan twists and perverts the truth to turn us away from God. Read Genesis 3:1-6 and Matthew 4:1-11. How does Satan twist the truth in these passages? Has this kind of deception ever happened to you? Explain.
2. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 14:33a and 2 Timothy 1:7. Have you ever allowed fear or confusion to impact your decision-making process? What was the result? How have you grown from this experience?
3. Share with the group about a time you were not well prepared. How could the outcome have been different if you had been well prepared? Read and discuss Ephesians 6:11 and 2 Corinthians 2:11. How does putting on the full armor of God help you prepare against the evil one's schemes?
4. Pastor Tom outlined five ways the evil one deceives us (see message notes). Review these five with your group and discuss which one(s) you are most vulnerable to. Satan's deception often looks attractive. Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 11:4 and 1 Peter 5:8. Have you ever been deceived by something that originally was attractive but turned out ugly? Explain.

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: John 18:33-38

Day 3: Luke 4:1-15

Day 2: Isaiah 5:18-21

Day 4: John 17:9-21



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“SCHEMES AND STRATEGIES”

MAY 4TH, 2014





"Schemes & Strategies"

May 4, 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 Ephesians 6:11 and II Corinthians 2:11

In what ways does the enemy of our souls seek to "o _____" us?

His primary tactic is an unrelenting a _____ upon the truth (note John 8:44b,c).

1. D _____ About the Truth

Recall Satan's simple, two-fold strategy: keep non-believers from believing and to keep followers of Jesus powerless in _____.

The evil one deceives us about:

- _____
- _____ consequences
- O _____
- God's Word
- H _____

He points people away from the cross of Jesus Christ, for that is his place of _____ defeat.

Since he's an "angel of light", Satan's deceptions often come in very agreeable and externally attractive _____.

When we're taken in by the deceiver, it often results in discouragement, frustration, fear, and even b _____.

2. P _____ of Truth

Note Isaiah 5:20

Evidence of this tactic in our _____ everywhere...

He _____ the truth in the lives of followers of Jesus...

He encourages us to get angry with God for things that should in reality make us angry at _____ and Satan...

His twisting of the truth makes his _____, temptations, and accusations more believable.

3. Substituting _____ and Confusion for Truth

Note I Corinthians 14:33a; II Timothy 1:7; and I Peter 5:8-9a

...the evil one tries to either make us _____ the wrong direction or paralyze us with fear...

He tries to m _____ our thinking and keeps us confused...

If panicked by fear or pummeled by confusion, our decision-making will most likely be f _____.

We're in the fight of our lives:

Note John 1:14; 14:6; 18:37-38a

The truth in Jesus Christ prevails over everything and everyone, including the evil one.

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32, NLT)

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!