

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

Ice Breaker: Share with your group what you enjoy the most about your home. What would you like to change?

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. One cruel way that our adversary tries to get to us is through our spouse and/or children. He exploits our lack of awareness in his desire to create chaos within our homes. Share about a situation which made your home life chaotic. How did that effect relationships with your spouse/children? What was the end result? Do you feel that you could have handled the situation differently? Read and discuss Matthew 15:22; 17:14-15. Why do you think these parents brought their need to Jesus directly?
2. While we live in a world of technology that helps us stay "connected" to our work, family and friends, it can also be a huge distraction that keeps us disconnected in real and substantial relationships to others and to God. How have you seen this in your life? Read and discuss Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What steps are outlined in this passage to avoid this trap of the devil?
3. Pastor Tom shared with us that any family is vulnerable to these spiritual attacks and that the battle doesn't stop when we close our garage door at home. Read and discuss Ephesians 6:11-13. How could you better prepare yourself by putting on the full armor of God? How can your group help you with this?
4. Read 1 John 3:8b and 4:4b and Ephesians 6:18. Pastor Tom explained the importance of staying connected to God because ours is a constant battle and that means we need constant connectedness to Him as well as with your spouse/children. Are there any relationships where you feel a disconnect in your life, (with God or people)? Why do you feel that is? What next steps might you take in order to reconnect that relationship?

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: Ephesians 4:26-27

Day 3: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Day 2: ! Peter 5:8-9

Day 4: Ephesians 6:18



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“THE BATTLE FOR THE HOME”

MAY 11TH, 2014





"The Battle for the Home"

May 11, 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

God's Word never o _____...the results of the deceiver's efforts in human lives, families, and the sinful choices people make. No family gets it right _____% of the time.

The presence of Jesus in our life doesn't automatically mean that our homes and families will be positive, stable, and secure (although it makes _____ our homes a better possibility than ever before).

...many of us are simply unaware that the great, unseen but very real spiritual battle that rages all around us (note Ephesians 6:11-13) doesn't stop once we close the _____ door at our home.

1. Understand Any Family is Potentially _____

Our adversary doesn't consider the family to be o _____-of-b_____ for his activity. In fact, one of his most _____ and impactful strategies is to get to us through our spouse and/or our children (note Matthew 15:21-22; 17:14-15). The deceiver will gladly exploit our lack of awareness of his desire to create _____ and disruption and estrangement from God and each other in our homes.

2. _____ the Rooms (note Ephesians 4:27)

...sometimes knowingly or unknowingly, we allow certain things into our home that the enemy of our souls can take advantage of and _____. Remember the 3 most common "footholds" of _____, sexual immorality, and the love of money and stuff... Make an h_____ inspection of the "rooms" in your home (not just physical, but emotional and spiritual rooms of our lives, too).

(Pastors Chip and Dan helped me with points 3 and 4 as they work with children, students, and families each week):

3. Are We D_____?

- Recent study showed parents spend an average of _____ hours a day on their smartphones.
- Average number of times people check their smartphones every day= _____

Note / Peter 5:8-9a

Important to stay connected to _____...
...and to your spouse and children.

A constant _____ means that constant connectedness is important.



4. _____ God to be a Part of Every Moment

Don't _____ God for just an hour on Sundays...

Note Deuteronomy 6:4-9

5. Rely on God's _____

Note Ephesians 6:10-11, 18, I John 3:8b; 4:4b

This includes our _____ children (especially young adult and older adult children).

"It's not a parent's responsibility to have godly children. It's a parent's responsibility to make sure their children have godly _____." (C&MA Children's Disciple making Facebook posting)

We're in the fight of our lives:

- God is for you and your family.
- He is at _____ in ways seen and unseen.

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!

Engaging in the spiritual battle for a prodigal adult child

(Prayer adapted from the book, *The Adversary* by Mark Bubeck):

"I humbly bow before You, my heavenly Father, to intercede for my son/daughter _____. I bring him/her to You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank You for loving _____ with the love of the cross. I thank You that You gave him/her to us to love and nurture in Christ (*mention here the spiritual commitments and evidences of their love and service for Jesus during their lives growing up here*). I realize no family is perfect, and that includes our family. Forgive us for any of our failures in guiding him/her the way he/she ought to go. I'm thankful for You are sovereign and can even use the depths of sin to which he/she is now enslaved to redound to Your glory. I praise You for this great trial that humbles my heart before You.

Accepting my position in Jesus of being 'mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds', I bring all the work of the Lord Jesus Christ to focus directly against the powers of darkness that blind and bind _____. I pray the victory of our Lord's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and glorification directly against all of the evil one's power in _____'s life. I bind up all the powers of darkness devoted to destroying _____, and I loose him/her from their blinding in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I invite the Holy Spirit to move in _____'s heart to convict him/her of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come. In my priestly ministry, I confess _____'s sins to You and ask for Your compassionate mercy in his/her life. I confess his/her yielding to whatever types of sins which has given the evil one such a place in his/her life. I plead the blood of Jesus Christ over _____'s wickedness and wait on the Spirit of God to bring him/her to repentance, faith, and life in the Lord Jesus Christ. By faith I claim for him/her a life yielded to serve the true and living God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."