

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

Ice Breaker: What is the silliest thing that you've ever argued over?

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. Read and Discuss John 17:11-18. Have you ever experienced disunity or division in your family? How about in your church experience? What was the impact of that on your life? Why is unity so important? How does staying on mission help us maintain unity within the church family (v18).
2. Pastor Tom defined demonic oppression as, "the burdensome, unjust exercise of authority or power." Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Have you ever sensed this kind of oppression in your life? Are you experiencing anything like this now? How is God's grace supporting you during this time?
3. Read and discuss Ephesians 2:1-3. Pastor Tom explained that the New Testament seems to indicate certain levels of demonic influence and control in people's lives. How do these verses describe our past and current reality? Do you see these changes happening in your life or in the lives of people around you?
4. Read and discuss 1 Peter 5:5b-6 and James 4:6-8a. Why is humility so important in this spiritual battle? Pastor Tom quoted A.W. Tozer saying, "It is not the praying sheep that Satan fears, but the presence of the Shepherd." How does this effect your perspective?

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 6:10-20

Day 2: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Day 3: John 17

Day 4: Mark 9:14-29



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“DECEPTION IN 3-D”

MAY 25TH, 2014



"Deception in 3D"

May 25, 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 II Corinthians 2:11

1. Division and D_____

I think 2,000 years of church history show that more followers of Jesus have become spiritual "_____ " in "civil wars" than in direct confrontation with the "rulers, the authorities, and the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (*Ephesians 6:12*).

Division...can cut a _____ of devastation through a family, marriage, ministry team, small group, or entire church.

Note John 17—Jesus' prayer emphasizes the spiritual _____ that threatens unity (*note John 17:11b, 13-15*); but it also emphasizes what keeps us united as a church and in our family (God's protection; _____, *John 17:17*; focus on God's _____, *John 17:18*).

Spiritual unity is more than just a possibility...Jesus _____ for it!

2. _____

"Demon-p _____ " is not in the original language...

"d _____ " is more accurate.

The New Testament seems to indicate certain _____ of demonic influence and control in people's lives.

- A. Demonic _____ - the most e _____ level of demonization. Christ-followers and unbelievers cannot be demon-controlled in the same sense (*note I Corinthians 12:13; 6:19-20*). In Jesus, the devil is defeated. In Jesus, we have overcome him (*note Romans 8:35-39; Colossians 1:13; I John 4:4; 5:18*). As believers we always have the power of choice, the exercise of our _____. How are people apart from Jesus "possessed" or "controlled" by Satan? Sometimes w _____... sometimes unwittingly controlled (*note Mark 9:21*).

- B. Demonic O _____ - something _____ Christ-followers experience at varying degrees of intensity. "Oppression" = "the burdensome, _____ exercise of authority or power." *Note II Corinthians 12:7-10*. Severe demonic oppression can r _____ demonic control at times...but a genuine Christ-follower is not _____ or controlled by Satan. The devil's purpose in demonic control and oppression is the same = d _____ (either an unbeliever's soul or a Christ-follower's relationship and walk with God.)

3. What Should be Our _____ Towards the Devil? (resource = *Understanding the Occult* by Josh McDowell)

- A. Know he _____
B. Know his m _____
C. Know his m _____
D. Know his l _____ - he is not God's "worse- _____". God isn't l _____...Satan is. God is present everywhere at once...Satan is not. God _____ everything...Satan does not. God is all-powerful...Satan is not (*note II Timothy 1:7*).

We're in the fight of our lives:

The evil one will not " _____ " us when we are aware of his schemes and when we put into practice 2 important principles:

- H _____ - "It is not the praying sheep that Satan fears, but the p _____ of the Shepherd." (Tozer) *Note I Peter 5:5b-6 and James 4:6b, 7, 8a, 10*
- P _____ (*note II Kings 6:14-17*)

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!