



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:10-13

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:10-13

Sermon Summary:

The daily life we live in North America is usually so wrapped up with our daily affairs (kids, school, work, groceries, friends, etc.) that very few of us are even aware that we are in a war. And that war is not with our government or even with one another. Ephesians 6 shows us that our warfare is against evil, cosmic powers! That's right, an unseen, but, oh, so real, foe. This spiritual warfare we are in is not a thought tacked on at the end of this letter. Rather, it's a crucial theme that Paul weaves throughout.

Being aware of one's enemy is a key component to successfully fighting a war. We don't want to underestimate nor overestimate their ability. What we see in Ephesians is that these evil, cosmic forces have hijacked God's good world and hold it, humans included, in their enslaving grip. But God has broken that grip through Christ's death on the cross. Now those who are set free through Christ's death, the church, are a sign of God's victory on earth and are to display God's wisdom to those enslaving and evil powers.

Discussion:

1. If you are being very honest with yourself, how aware are you of the evil, cosmic powers and their activity in your daily life? If your answer was, "Not really that much" or "Not at all", what does that tell you?
2. As you look back at Ephesians, where do you see the activity of these powers showing up in the letter? What does the fact that their activity is seen in each chapter say to you?
3. In the "Christian West", we tend not to pay much attention to the activity of these evil, cosmic powers. And, we may think that Christians elsewhere pay way too much attention on the matter. What "schemes" do you think the devil uses here in the West?
4. How have you personally seen or experienced the schemes of the devil?
5. What role do you think God asks the church to play in his mission when it comes to spiritual warfare against the evil, cosmic forces?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for your eyes to be opened regarding the warfare we are in as Christians.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.