

GROUP LEADER GUIDE (Week: 10/25-10/31) – Vision: Whole Hearts

Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 / Sermon Title: “The Power of Prayer”

BIG Idea: *A successful church wins the spiritual battle against Satan and powers of darkness and it can only accomplish that through consistent prayer in the Spirit.*

Focus this week: We talked about some deep and intense things this past Sunday related to strongholds. **This is a great week to go deep with one another and spend a significant time praying for one another.**

FELLOWSHIP TIME (15 minutes)

Be sure to plan out some way to implement casual fellowship time as people come to your group.

STARTING OFF THE NIGHT (15 minutes)

After the fellowship time at the beginning of your meeting, have everyone find their seats and start off with an icebreaker. You can use one of the icebreakers from the leader resource page found here:

<https://lifewayresearch.com/2020/02/19/75-icebreaker-questions-for-church-small-groups/>

Pow’s and Wow’s (a.k.a. “High’s” and “Low’s”): After you do the icebreaker, one thing you can do to start your group off each week is called “Pow’s and Wow’s”. Have each person go around and share a “pow” (a low moment from the past week) and a “wow” (a high point moment from the last week). This can also be a great way to learn how you can pray for one another.

DISCUSSION (30 minutes)

Start discussion by saying, “This past Sunday we talked about the success of the church being related to winning the spiritual battle against Satan and the powers of darkness. One of the things that hinders us in succeeding in this spiritual battle are what Paul the apostle refers to as ‘strongholds’ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). The only thing that can destroy these strongholds is the armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-18. Praying in the Spirit is what puts the armor to work in destroying these strongholds for the success of the church in the spiritual battle.”

1. What were some things from the sermon that were particularly helpful or challenging for you?
2. Have someone read **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**. The definition used in the sermon for “stronghold” is a mindset, value system, or thought process that hinders your growth in Christ. The way in which Strongholds form are 1) something happens that makes you question God’s character, how he feels about you, and who you are in Christ, 2) Satan reinforces or introduces a lie in your mind, 3) you welcome and believe the lie, then 4) a new habit or mindset is formed that produces a life that is out of step with the gospel. How have you seen or experienced some of this in your life or someone else’s?

3. What are some specific lies that you personally have had a hard time battling in your own relationship with Jesus Christ? How did these lies either originate in the past or get provoked in the present?

4. The main point of the sermon was how “praying at all times in the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:18) relates to the entire armor of God (Ephesians 6:14-17). Praying in the Spirit is **not** another piece of the armor but is the most crucial power that enables one to stand firm in the armor of the gospel. Without prayer, the armor of God will not be utilized in the spiritual battle against Satan’s schemes. We learned in the sermon how to specifically pray for the destruction of strongholds: while praying in reliance on the Spirit of God you 1) identify the lie that you have been believing that hinders your growth in Christ, 2) repent and seek forgiveness from Jesus for believing that lie, 3) replace that lie with a specific truth of the gospel that contradicts it, then 4) you repeat that process regularly. **Take a significant portion of time as a group to go around and pray specifically over lies you have been battling.**

PRAYER (30 minutes)

This is where you should spend a significant amount of time this week in your group. If the sermon was about prayer, then you should spend most of your time praying using the outline listed above. This can be a very powerful time for you and your group. Be sure to take advantage of this.