

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

KINGDOM COME — ENEMY AT THE GATES

Mark 5

Pastor Miles McPherson - March 16, 2014

When Adam and Eve chose to sin, they believed the lies of Satan, thus making an agreement with him. In the same way, when we listen to thoughts in our head that tear us down or lead us to sin, we are making an agreement with Satan, believing that his way is better than God's way!

In today's study, we'll look at our new identity as children of God and how to break free from the bondage of the lies that Satan throws at us.

MEMORY VERSE

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Our thoughts and our mind are a battlefield! On a daily basis we experience thoughts and ideas that either lead us closer to God or away from God. Revelation 12:9 says that Satan is the "deceiver of the whole world" ("leads the whole world astray" NIV). But Jesus said that "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

What are some lies that you have believed or still believe that have led you away from God's truth?

STUDY QUESTIONS

In Ephesians 4, Paul writes about the contrast between our lives before Christ and what we should look like after we enter relationship with Christ.

The Old Self → Read Ephesians 4:17-19

How does this passage describe the mind and heart of a "Gentile" (unbelieving non-Jews)?

What is the result of the condition of their mind and heart?



The New Self → Read Ephesians 4:20-25

How does Paul describe the new self?

If we are “new creations” in Christ (see 2 Cor 5:17), why do we have to put off the old self and put on the new self?

What actions should we take to put off the old self?

What does it mean to be renewed in the spirit of your mind?

New behavior from the new self → Read Ephesians 4:26-32

List the old behaviors to put off and the new behaviors to put on from this passage.

Let’s discuss two of those behaviors that become major hindrances to a person’s growth in the Lord:

Anger (v26-27)

What do you tend to get angry about?

Is anger wrong?

What is implied by the command “Do not let the sun go down while you are angry”?

How does anger give the devil a foothold (ESV = opportunity) into our lives?

Unforgiveness (v32)

What is the basis for extending forgiveness to others?

In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus tells us to pray for our forgiveness “as we also have forgiven...” – it’s not optional!

→ Read Matthew 6:12-15

One of the reasons many Christians walk in bondage to Satan’s schemes and demonic affliction is that they haven’t forgiven others who have hurt them!

“It is my hope that we all take the risk of releasing our offenders and learn to live in the freedom that is our inheritance in Christ.” **Rodney Hogue, “Forgiveness”**



