

War Room

Week Four - Victory Accomplished



Unshakable confidence
IS NOT BUILT ON
SOMEONE, SOMETHING
or someplace,
BUT ON OUR
unshakable God.

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Victory

Introduction

(Please read and complete this section prior to our first class together and our open discussion)

Who is the enemy? Is it a red-horned, pitchfork-wielding cartoon character with a wicked smile? Hardly. There is a dangerous enemy bent on destroying you. This week is about claiming truth, leaning in toward the power of the gospel, and walking in the victory that has already been accomplished in Christ.

Welcome to week four. Begin this week's study by sharing portions of your individual study experience. Use the following questions as cues.

What stood out most to you during this last weeks's personal Bible study?

How did God speak or guide you this week?

How did you see His grace at work?

Do you find that you have a better understanding of grace and works? How?

As a believer's understanding of grace expands, he or she starts to see God's grace as not only what saves us, but also what sustains us. In the the difficulties of life, Christians need to see evidence of that life-giving grace. When it comes to dealing with the attacks of our enemy, we need that gave more than ever.

When it come to Satan, people have varying beliefs regarding his existence or activity in their lives. There are those who completely deny the presence of the devil and other who no only believe him, but also blame him for every traffic light and rainy day. Some are unaware and ignorant of his schemes (2 Cor. 2:11) and others may tend to overemphasize his wiles and fail to absorb human responsibility and recognize divine providence. Regardless, it is important that our theology regarding the devil stay balanced and biblical.

Over a dozen books in the Bible reference the Devil and Jesus himself testified to his existence (Luke 10:18-20), talked to him (Luke 4), taught about him (John 8:42-44) and warned about him (Luke 22:31). The Bible refers to him by many names including: Satan, the Devil, the serpent of old, the dragon and the accuser of the brethren Rev. 12:7-12). Paul said, "For we are not ignorant of his schemes" (2 Cor. 2:11).

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9:

- 1. How has your understanding of Satan evolved from childhood to today?**
- 2. How do you tend to deny or downplay the devil or overemphasize his role in your life?**
- 3. How have you seen the enemy actively attempt to destroy you and/ or others around you?**
- 4. How have you seen others deny Him? Why?**
- 5. What consequences have you seen from this?**

Open discussion

The clip - There is a distinct difference between acquiring knowledge and applying it. This clip offers glimpses into the latter as Elizabeth take the truth she has learned from Miss Clara home with her. In her prayer, Elizabeth transitions from pleading with God to denying the enemy entry into her home, her life, her family. She moves from earnestly praying scripture to boldly resisting Satan and declaring her victory over him.

Discussion

- 1. What was different about Elizabeth's prayer as she made her way through the den and onto the porch?**

2. Why do you think reading or reciting scripture is such a powerful way to pray?

3. Consider how you tend to regard the enemy. Is he someone you fear or are you keenly aware of Christ's victory over him? Explain.

4. What is the chink in your armor through which he often comes?

Read 1 John 4:4-5)

The Bible communicates that the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers is much more powerful than the Devil.

Read Romans 8:26-27

What does the passage say the Holy Spirit does for us when we don't know how to pray?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

How else does he help us?

We pray for needs and issues which we are personally and consciously aware. However, the Holy Spirit is omniscient and know what we also should be praying. He not only inspires us with additional things to ask, but He intercedes to the Father on our behalf with requests beyond our ability or comprehension. He prays for us perfectly according to the will of God with groaning "too deep for words."

Believers need the power of the Holy Spirit present in prayer because that's where the real battle takes place. In the film, Elizabeth learns that her real enemy is not her husband. Her real enemy is Satan and the real struggle is how much footing he has in her life.

1. What does it mean to give the Devil opportunity?

2. Bitterness clearly gives the enemy the foothold that he uses to build a stronghold. How does Ephesians 4:30-32 say we should deal with bitterness?

3. What other sins might give the Devil ground to attack us and build a stronghold? (1 Samuel 15:23; Acts 19:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20)

4. What role does prayer play in not giving the Devil an opportunity?

Take some time to pray, considering the power of the Holy Spirit?

Day One - Homework

Miss Clara, the catalytic character from War Room, knows many things well. She knows God's word and how to apply it. When it comes to gospel impact, you can't have one without the other. Of course Jesus summed it up best. He explained that anyone who not only hears His words but also applies them is wise (Mt. 7:24-25).

Read John 10:10

Read the following passages and list the details they mention about our adversary, including his name and character traits.

Revelation 12:10

John 8:44

1 Peter 5:8

Ephesians 2:2

2 Corinthians 4:4

Ephesians 6:11

In John 10:10, what does John say Jesus comes to give?

What does Satan offer?

Take a moment and be candid. If you need a boost of clarity, pray for it. If you need the courage to see or the strength to act, pray for them as well.

For each of the following, make the method that the enemy uses to attack you.

How does the enemy distract you?

How does the enemy deceive you?

How does the enemy divide you?

How does Satan work to destroy your life?

Closing the day's study

Read James 4:7

How does submitting bring life rather than destruction?

Why do you think the Devil flees in this case?

Prayer time

Close today by seeking God's will for your life and daily living. Ask for help in be a doer of the word and not a hearer only. Pray that His Spirit will empower you as you submit to Him as Lord of your life.

Day Two - Homework

As Elizabeth prayed in her closet, she cried out to God. In Essence, she begged for help. The very next line she uttered was scripture. When God comes to our rescue, it is often with His word.

Read the following verses Elizabeth recites in her earnest prayer. Then record them in the space provided.

John 10:10

2 Thessalonians 3:3

James 4:7

Those words from the Bible provided all the ammunition Elizabeth needed to stand up and fight against the enemy in the manner Miss Clara prescribed. When you read the verses in the order Elizabeth recited them, it makes a great deal of sense. The first reference unveils the true nature of the enemy's game. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. John 10:10 also reveals to us God's promise in response to the Evil one. Jesus has come to give life, to offer back what sin takes away. Second Thessalonians 3:3 explains how that life is possible. When the Devil attacks, the Lord provides strength. It is He who guards us. Finally, James 4:7 gives the prescription for how 2 Thessalonians 3:3 works. The believer must submit to God and resist the Devil. The, he will flee.

Understand the enemy (John 10:10)

Trust in God's defense (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

Submit to God's will (James 4:7)

Which strategy (or verse) is most difficult for you and why?

Read Ephesians 6:17

What does this verse say about the Word of God

How is it that God's Word can be a weapon in your life?

Read Matthew 4:1-11

How did Jesus respond to the Devil's questions?

Jesus used scripture as a weapon against Satan. He not only knew Bible verses, but knew their context. He had meditated on them and studied them. He realized scriptures can be used as a weapon to defeat temptation and Satan.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

List the ways Paul declares Gods word is useful and try to describe or explain each one

Day Three - Homework

It's been taught that happiness is delight based on circumstances while joy is delight regardless of circumstances. While happiness can be mistaken for joy when all of life seems right, it is only through relationship with Christ that a person can have true Joy even when everything is terribly wrong.

Take a moment to describe a time when you experienced joy during difficulty.

Now consider the source of that joy. The easy "churchy" answer is Jesus. But for this exercise we want you to share in the space provided what specifically about Jesus brings you joy.

Read through the verses below and then write a life principle for each verse in your own words. The first is done for you.

Psalms 71:23 - Joy is present in my life when I am praising God

Psalms 21:6 -

James 1:2-3 -

Psalms 119:11 -

1 Peter 1:8 -

Philemon 1:7 -

Galatians 5:22 -

Paul wrote his most joyful epistle, Philippians, from prison, encouraging us to "rejoice always."

Read Philippians 4:4-9

What does it look like to "rejoice always?" When times are Good? When times are difficult?

What does Paul suggest we do in order to have the "peace of God?"

Paul wrote to the Philippians that they should stop worrying and go to God with their requests. He follows by saying they were to dwell on things that are lovely, pure, and true. There is no one more true, lovely, excellent and praiseworthy than God himself. And there is no word truer, purer, lovelier, or more excellent than the very words of God. There is nothing that can give us peace and joy like prayers, fixing our eyes on Jesus and scripture.

One of the strategies that the enemy employs is to turn your thoughts away from God, away from joy. Perhaps he doesn't do that best by entering your mind but by preventing you from dwelling on that which would undoubtedly turn you toward God.

As you close today, ask God to turn your mind toward those things in Philippians 4:8. Ask Him to help you dwell on His word and on Him. Ask Him to help with worry and for the strength to cast your cares upon Him.