

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.**

## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

### Message Summary

People tend to over-think or under-think the enemy, but we don't want to do either. We want to give one week to exposing his plans and goals and then we'll spend time next week learning how to stay (or get) engaged in the fight against his plans. The goal for this week, though, is simply to expose our enemy so that we can see the battle more clearly.

1. **Satan has a mission statement:** Mission statements – if they're good – tell us why organizations exist and what they're trying to accomplish. It seems odd to think that Satan has one, but John 10:10 tells us that he comes to do 3 things: steal, kill, and destroy.
2. **Satan has a plan:** Lots of people have ideas that never happen because they don't have a strategy, but Satan isn't like that! He's got a plan for stealing, killing and destroying, and he does it by using deception to steal, doubt to kill and distraction to destroy.
3. **How can we recognize his plan?** Whenever he is working his plan in our lives, we'll begin to hear 3 questions pop up in our minds over and over: What's happening, what if, and what's that? These are clues that we need to have our guard up even more and be even more intentional about engaging in the fight (more on that next week!!). But for now, it's a good step to be able to recognize his plan.

### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- Read John 10:10 to remind yourself of Satan's mission, and then read John 10:1-10 to get the context. There is a lot in these verses about hearing and knowing the voice of our Shepherd. How does the voice of Jesus differ from the voice of our enemy?
- Read 2 Corinthians 2:11. The Greek word for "schemes" is only used 6 times in the New Testament (5 of those are here in 2 Corinthians!) and it always deals with the mind. Take the time to read 2 Cor. 3:14; 4:4; 10:5 and 11:3 and then discuss why the mind is the most common battleground in the spiritual battle. According to Philippians 4:7, what can guard our minds?
- Next week, we'll begin to turn our attention to how God has prepared us to go on the offensive in the battle, but for now, practice this strategy from Joyce Meyer whenever you hear a lie going through your mind:
  - **When you hear a lie going through your mind, say out loud:**
  - **2 Corinthians 10:5** "Satan, you are a liar. I will not receive (or believe) your lie in the Name of Jesus."
  - **1 John 4:4** "I remind you that it is written, 'He that is within me is greater than he that is in the world.' I command you to bow your knee to the Name of Jesus and leave me."
  - (Now you have pulled the lie out—just as you pull a weed out of the ground. An empty hole remains where the weed was, and you will need to fill the space you cast the lie out of with Scripture.)
  - **Philippians 4:8** Begin to think on the Word or begin to sing a praise song to God. Make a conscious effort to fill your mind with good, pure, wholesome, and lovely thoughts.