

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.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

At Easter, you and I celebrate one simple truth: Jesus won! He won a war that has raged since the day Adam sinned, and the empty tomb is all the proof we need to know that victory is secured. And when we trust the work of Jesus as the payment for our sins, we get that victory, too. That means that we win, but it doesn't mean that we sit back and relax, because the enemy that Jesus defeated is mad, and he's out to destroy anybody he can. But in Christ, you and I have everything we need for the battle. **Because Jesus won the war, we can stand and fight.** But to be effective in the battle, we need to remember 3 things:

1. **We have an enemy:** Satan is real whether we believe in him or not, and he has a limited playbook. He wants to steal, kill, and destroy, so when situations and people try to do any of those three things, we can know that our enemy is behind it. Stop fighting people and start fighting the powers behind the people.
2. **We have weaponry:** It would be horrible if Jesus called you and me to fight but gave us nothing for the fight! But God isn't like that. He gives us everything we need to take on a defeated, angry foe, and if we find ourselves unprepared for battle, it isn't God's fault. It's ours. It's our responsibility to go into the fight fully dressed and ready to do battle.
3. **We have victory:** Scripture after scripture points us to a victorious King who triumphed fully over the enemy. He didn't barely win, he routed the enemy! And now, we can walk in victory, too. Knowing this changes our perspective in every situation because it means we can have victory IN every circumstance IN SPITE OF any circumstance! Jesus holds us, sustains us and leads us to victory, and as a result of winning, we fight an enemy who wants to steal back what is rightfully ours. A gift of grace by faith, yes, but ours nonetheless. We win!

Discuss

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

- As you've thought back through this week's message, what one thing – if any – inspired you or maybe even confused you?
- What's the best thing you've ever won? Share with the group how you won it and how you felt when you won it?
- Just for fun, name some superheroes and their archrivals. Have you ever had an enemy? Have you ever felt like you were under attack from another person? How did that keep you "on your toes" and "on guard" when they were around?
- Ephesians has had unity as a major theme. How does standing TOGETHER against the same enemy bring people together? How does it minimize the things that make us different?
- Think back through the weapons we've been given and talk about which one is the most important for you right now. Which one is the most rusty in your life?
- It's been said that Christians don't fight FOR victory as much as we fight FROM victory. How does that one word change your perspective on the fight? Paul wrote this powerful section about victory while chained in prison, and yet at the end of his life, he still wrote 2 Timothy 4:7. Why did Paul see victory in the middle of an apparent defeat? Do we?