

Sermon Based Small Group Guide for November 27, 2022 sermon:
"A playground or a battleground?"

Warm up:

1. Opened the message talking about the Pearl Harbor attack and the factors that made it such a "surprise". Hopefully a positive, how a negative...what is the biggest surprise that you ever received?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how seriously do you take the reality of "spiritual warfare" in your Christian life? A "1" is never really thinking about it. A "10" would be constantly alert and aware.

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. ASK: What are the goals of Satan as he attacks God's children?
If you want to hurt a parent, hurt their child! Satan hates God but knows he is powerless against Him, so he does everything possible to distract and confuse us so our relationship with our Heavenly Father is damaged. In our Western culture, physical appearance, personal success and freedom to do what I want to do, when I want to do it, are just three examples of things the world encourages us to put before God. What do these passages say about the importance of keeping our eyes on God and not being deceived or distracted? Romans 8:12-14, James 1:22-25, 1 John 2:15-17

2. ASK: What tactics does Satan use to trick and defeat God's children?
The temptation of Adam and Eve, which we read about in Genesis 3, (review this passage) provides a clear picture of what you can expect from the devil:

- He is more crafty than any other being.
- He comes alongside you pretending to be an ally.
- He deceives you by trying to bend the truth God speaks to you.
- He tries to plant doubts in your mind about the things God has said.
- He wants you to think God is restricting you when in reality He is protecting you.
- He encourages you to rebel against God by telling you that you deserve to be the ultimate authority of Your life.
- He uses your pride and your sense of shame to turn you against others.

Be mindful that our enemy, the devil, is real. He is single-minded and dangerous, so be wise in how you conduct your warfare with him. If you follow Jesus, God has given you incredible resources by placing the Holy Spirit within you, but you need to resist letting your pride tempt you to try to fight the enemy on your own.

Apply it: (10 minutes) Ephesians 6:18 basically just says to pray ALL the time in EVERY possible way. Discuss how you can, as friends in a small group together, encourage one another to be more faithful in prayer? Would one person in your group volunteer, just for one week, to send out a DAILY prayer reminder? Are you sharing requests? Make sure that prayer is always a part of your time TOGETHER and pray for each other during the week!