

The quality of our lives is the product of our thoughts.

“You are today where your thoughts have brought you. You will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.” — James Allen

*“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”
— Norman Vincent Peale*

Our enemy’s attack begins with an assault on the mind.

“He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44

*“The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**. I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**.” John 10:10*

Satan’s plan is to create a stronghold on your mind.

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy **strongholds**.
2 Corinthians 10:3-4

*“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the **truth** will set you **free**.” John 8:31-32*

Don’t take your walk with God too seriously.

You can be as Godly as you want to be.

*“But you are to be **perfect**, even as your Father in heaven is **perfect**.” Matthew 5:48*

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone **fully mature** in Christ. *Colossians 1:28*

You’re going to be dead far longer than you are going to be alive.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the **prize**.
1 Corinthians 9:24

Philippians 3:14, 2 Timothy 4:8

“The most important thing in your life is not what you do, it’s who you become. That’s what you will take into eternity.” — Dallas Willard

How serious are you willing to take this?

Group Prep

In preparation for group, read Colossians 1:28-29 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, listen to the Weekend Service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

The quality of our life is a product of the quality of our thoughts. Every behavior begins with a simple thought. If we want to change any aspect of our life (health, confidence, marriage, financial situation, etc.), we must begin in our mind. The same is true for our relationship with God. There is no limit to how strong our faith can become, but too often we allow lies to keep us from going where God wants to take us.

Discussion Questions

1. In today’s culture, what arguments commonly deceive people from understanding and following the principles of Jesus?

2. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 & John 10:10. Why is it dangerous for us to have an inaccurate view of the devil?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Satan’s attacks begin with an assault on the mind. In your own words, what is a stronghold? As followers of Christ, Paul says we are to “use God’s mighty weapons” to “destroy every proud obstacle (stronghold) that keeps people from knowing God.” What weapon is Paul referring to and how is this weapon used?

3. Create a description of two types of people: Someone who takes their faith seriously and someone who doesn’t. What differences do you notice in the comparison? In Colossians 1:28-29, we see that Paul desires to present us as “perfect” to God. What does he mean by this?

We all have areas of our faith that need to be strengthened. Where do you see the potential for the most growth? What strongholds/ lies do you need to overcome to grow in that area? What truths from God will you use to overcome these strongholds?

Action Step

How serious are you willing to take your faith? What are you feeling nudged to do to take your faith to the next level?

My action step is _____

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I’m praying for _____

Outreach: Groups in Action

Serve at The Refuge: As a group, schedule a Thursday night to support Emmanuel’s local nonprofit partnership, The Refuge. Serving opportunities include preparing a meal, stocking the pantry/ clothing, mentoring a client, and encouraging the disheartened. Call 317-889-7338 and ask for Marcie to make an impact in our community.

Feed others in need: Whether it’s a family who fosters children or one who has recently undergone unexpected hardship, Emmanuel has multiple families in need. One way we can support these families is to prepare or purchase a meal for them. You could make a meal or buy a gift card for them to a local restaurant.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel’s Outreach Director, Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.