

West Towne Circles Discussion Guide

Versus



Week One: Who is My Enemy?

Overview

We live in a polarized culture. We are constantly challenged to take a side and told that the world will end if the other side wins. But will it? Is God really limited by our decisions? Join us during this 4-week teaching series where we're zooming in on some Bible verses that speak into our polarized culture and help us navigate when one side versus the other.

This week, we began by asking the question: "Who is my enemy?" As we looked at scripture, we learned that other people really aren't our enemies. Our true enemy is Satan – his lies, and the destruction he wrecks on people and our world through leading us to sin. Prior to knowing Jesus, we too were ensnared by the power of sin, and it's only through Jesus that we find freedom and forgiveness from its grip. Once we can learn to see everyone around us as people made in God's image, whom God deeply loves, we can begin to view them as people who simply need to know the truth of who God is, not as enemies that we need to defeat.

Reading and Discussion

1. Open this discussion by reading **Ephesians 6:10-17**. What stands out to you from this passage?
2. Who does our world commonly want us to see as our enemies? Who, or what group of people, do you struggle with seeing as your enemy?

3. Paul writes to the Ephesians that our true struggle in this world isn't against flesh and blood, but rather against spiritual powers and principalities. In essence – our enemy is Satan and the power of sin. How does knowing this change the way you view people? Particularly those whom you disagree with?
4. Paul reminds the Ephesians to put on the "whole armor of God." When we surround ourselves with these "pieces of armor," we're able to resist temptation and the lies of Satan. What are some practical ways that you can remind yourself to stand firm in that armor this week?
5. George opened his sermon with **Ephesians 4:1-3**: *"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* Close this session by praying for unity in your group, in our church, and in God's church across the world.