

Dig Deeper @Home – “Real and Authentic”

Complement to lesson on 5/19/24 – “Boasting in our Weakness”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What comes to mind when you think of a stronghold?
2. If you had to pick another century to live in, which would you choose and why?

MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

READ – 2 Corinthians 10:1 – 11:15

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about people? And in light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Read again 2nd Corinthians 10: 1-6 and 11: 1-15
 - a. What connections do you notice between 2nd Corinthians 10:1-6 and 11: 12-15?
 - i. How do we apply these verses to our lives?
 - b. How do we test if someone is a false apostle?
 - i. What are examples of “another Jesus,” a “different spirit,” or a “different gospel” that are presented in 2024?
 - ii. How do we make sure we are following the right ones?
 - c. What are strongholds and what’s the connection to taking every thought captive to obey Christ?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Spiritual Strongholds

Many times when people refer to spiritual strongholds, we first think about struggles or sin issues that seem to have their grip on us. And these definitely exist: strongholds of anger, addictions, laziness, covetousness, pride ... the list really goes on and on. However, the word can also mean palace, sanctuary or place of refuge. So, the point is: we demolish strongholds that oppose the knowledge of God and replace them with strongholds/sanctuaries of truth from God’s kingdom. So, use the chart below to identify dark strongholds that are impacting you and what weapon of truth from God’s word you can use to demolish it. Then identify what promise/refuge of God’s word you can use to replace it.

Dark stronghold	Weapon to demolish	Promise to replace
“I have no worth”	I am made in the image of God. Genesis 1:26	The LORD has called me by name and I am His. Isaiah 43:1

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

The Great I Am - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeD79Vj115k>

In Christ Alone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ>

Holy Forever - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n64B42_DBSU

The Love of God - <https://youtu.be/WknJrGINyNs>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Father, though we walk in the flesh, help me not to wage war according to the flesh, but rather to demolish strongholds by taking thoughts and ideas captive, making them obedient to Christ Jesus.