WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: How to Face Life's Battles
Key Scripture: Ephesians 1:18-20
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/easter-at-woodvale
Date + Speaker: March 31, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA: Our lives are full of hard seasons. We can feel like we are constantly 'fighting'; that there's no peace. As followers of Christ we need to reframe the way we think about these 'battles'. We ARE more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)

Starter Question:

1. Reflecting on the whole of your life what was the 'biggest' fight you ever had? What was at stake? Who won?

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):

2. Read all 3 verses (Eph. 1:18-20). Re-read them in another version. What words pop out at you and why?

3. As children of God, what 'resources' does Paul highlight in this passage?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):

4. When facing life's challenges what types of things do we tend to turn to as humans? Why?

5. Pastor Mark shared 4 truths about God's power (related to 4 Greek words in the original text): Dunamis power is enabling power, Energeia power is working power, Kratos power is completing power and Ischus power is holding power. Which of these truths is most relevant or significant to you right now and why?

6. Read 2 Kings 6:15-17 and Ephesians 6:10-18. What do we learn about battles and battle strategy as believers? Encourage group members to share instances when they experienced victory this way?

7. Consider closing by praying this personalized prayer together:

"Dear heavenly Father we pray that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened, so that we would know the **hope** of Your calling. That we would know what are the **riches** of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints. And what is the boundless greatness of Your **power** towards each of us who believe. Help us to live in such a way that shows we believe that all this is in accordance with the working of the strength of Your might brought about in and through our resurrected and victorious Saviour - Jesus. Forgive us when we turn to weaker, lesser helps. Our hope is in You. We choose to wait on You. We trust You. Thank you for your patience and love. In Jesus name, Amen."

<u>Leader notes:</u>

Question 1 – be prepared for some contributions to be fun and silly and some to be serious and weighty.

Question 2 – perhaps someone will notice the predominance of the pronouns "He", "His", and "Him" – This is significant to the Big Idea.

Question 3 – examples: hope, riches, power, strength, resurrected Saviour…

Question 4 – brainstorm our 'go to' resources – money, talent, deceit, panic, perfectionism, counsel from worldly sources, control…

Question 6 – this is another brainstorming moment; really encourage your group members to identify godly strategies and share personal stories of victory.