

## **Living in Relationships: Why so Difficult?**

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February 2, 2020

From Last Sunday...

### **The Importance of Helping Our Kids Love and Treasure Jesus**

Our Problem: We are not doing as well as we could: our kids are leaving our churches in droves.

Our Solution: To provide our kids with a safe, engaging, developmentally appropriate, happy (joyful) experience of Jesus' love every Sunday morning that complements what parents are promoting at home.

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### ***Ephesians 5:21-6:9 — Ephesians 6:10-20***

Relationships are tough, and they require lots of work. Why? Could there be more going on than we can see?

### **Trusting in the Goodness of God**

## **GRACE GROUP Discussion Questions**

*Ephesians 6:10-20 (week of Feb 2, 2020)*

***Spend some time catching up and talking story.***

***Spend some time in the text — Read Ephesians 6:10-20 together.***

### **Review:**

- What are the difficulties in walking in our relationships in the ways that Paul instructs us to in Ephesians 5:21-6:9?
- Do you think there is a link to the following passage on spiritual warfare (6:10-20)?

### **A Biblical view of Satan:**

- The name Satan comes from a Hebrew word that means adversary.
- Old Testament prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah both give us key information about Satan and his cosmic rebellion by first critiquing a human leader gone bad and then moving on to Satan himself:
  - Ezekiel 28 — make observations of what we learn of Satan
  - Isaiah 14 — make observation of what we learn of Satan

### **Making sense of our adversary:**

- What images do you associate with Satan or the devil?
  - List 5 descriptors of the devil that readily come to mind.
  - Are these images spurred on by Scripture or pop culture?
- While most of the global church takes Satan seriously, the church in the West struggles to embrace the reality of spiritual battle.
  - Why?
  - When you think through the last year, how many sermons did you hear about Satan or spiritual battle?
  - Why does the uncomfortable idea of spiritual battle cause Western Christians to shy away from the reality of Satan?
- What keeps you, in your relationships, from embracing the reality of spiritual battle?
  - How often do you or your friends discuss Satan or the possibility of spiritual oppression?
  - Why would Satan care about our relationships?

### ***Spend some time sharing and praying together.***

- Pray through Ephesians 5:1-6:9. Pray that the Lord will give us the strength and power to obey His words to us. Pray specifically for situations in our lives that require a submissive spirit.
- Thank God for giving us His Spirit to guide us and empower us.
- Pray that we will stand, in God's power, and resist in the "evil day."