

Big Idea: The battle is real...be prepared!

Many of us will remember a parent telling us when we were in school to never start a fight but to make sure we end one that someone else starts with us. Perhaps it was something more like we should never throw the first punch but should always throw the last one in a fight. In both the military and law enforcement that idea changed slightly. The idea became, if the fight was obviously imminent, strike first to disable an opponent, but be certain that the situation was about to happen. Today’s topic is similar. The threat is very real. The attack will happen soon enough if it is not already underway. The wellness of our adolescents, teens, young adults and families hangs in the balance.

We’ve been considering how to thrive as families in an age that is inundated with technology and the threats that come along with constant connection to the internet. While there is goodness in technology, evil lurks in the darkness and is prepared to use our weaknesses and moments of isolation to attack us. The analogy of an attacking lion is used in the message today. Big cats are dangerous. They hide and blend into their surroundings so that their prey is unsuspecting of danger nearby. Their pound for pound strength is unmatched. Their speed is alarming. Once in their clutches, prey doesn’t stand a chance. The best way to prevent such a devastating engagement is to be aware of pending attacks and guard against them.

To the Book:

Read 1 Peter 5:8 – Prior to the warning to be alert, Peter explained to his audience not to worry too much. The warning to be alert paints a total picture. While God cares for us and wants us to find rest in Him, He also wants us to be wise. In addition to being alert, sober mindedness is also on the table. Being in denial would be a contrast. Alertness and sober mindedness are appealing because of the threat: Satan. Satan has been depicted in Scripture as being crafty and deceptive. This time he is a very formidable and capable threat, but there is no deception. This will be an all-out attack.

V. 9 – The key to winning the battle lies in preparedness. Being ready to defend oneself against the attack and knowing how to fight back is a must. Like not being in denial, standing firm and facing the battle is the way. Ignoring an attack prolongs the amount of time damage can happen and puts a defender on their heels instead of having positive momentum. Running rarely works. Facing the problem and dealing with it responsibly is the way. It is also important to remember that you are not alone. There is safety in numbers and there is wisdom in the experience others have gained from similar battles. Use those things to your advantage.

Family Night Big idea – Read Matthew 4:1-11

In this narrative, Jesus is tempted by Satan. Each time Satan offers a temptation to Jesus, Jesus quotes Scripture directly. In verses 4, 7 and 10, Jesus is seen saying, “it is written.” Scripture is a tool we have at our disposal to help us resist the temptations of Satan.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “How do you think it would help you if we read the Bible more often as a family?”
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “What do you think you would gain by spending more time in the Bible daily?”

Prayer "Lord, You teach us about Yourself and Your ways in the Bible. Help us take Scripture seriously. Help us allow it to become part of our regular routines and to shape how we live. Help us use it like Jesus did when we are tempted. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Velocity is on break until July 10th.

Gravity: Gravity today in the Velocity Theater.

Today’s Songs

Running Home.....Cochren and Co

How Deep the Father’s Love.....Hillsong

Lead Me to the Cross.....Hillsong

New Series “Digital Family”

This is a 6-week series on the family with an emphasis on the roles of pop culture and the digital age, and how both have impacted our families. Pastor Mike and Tyler will be joined by staff members, Chad and Paulette, to talk about Mothers/Fathers, Husband/Wives, and Parenting.

Velocity Summer Camp

Our students leave for Tennessee tomorrow for a great time of study, worship, and white-water rafting. They will return on Friday. Pray for a safe and fun trip!

KidsJAM Summer Camp “Game On”

Summer Camp for rising Kindergarten - rising Third Graders is June 10-14. Camp starts each day at 9:00am and ends at noon. Cost is \$15 per child. You can register online or in KidsJAM. Today is the last day to register to get a T-shirt.

Kenya Mission Trip

Our mission team leaves for Kenya on July 7th. Keep them in your prayers.