



Small Group Discussion Guide

September 16, 2018

Sermon Title:

"Satan's Schemes"

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:6-11

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting. Have someone offer a brief prayer inviting God to speak and lead using the group's discussion.*

Getting Started: This past week we observed Patriot Day, as we remembered the events of September 11, 2001. Pause for a moment and pray for the families of the victims of that fateful day, including civilians and first responders.

Discussion

1. What comes to mind when you hear the statement, ***"Evil is very present in our world"?***
2. Having read the sermon text, do you ever use the word scheme, or schemer? What comes to mind when you consider the definition? ***Scheme: "a plan, especially a secret or devious one."***
3. In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul was very mindful of Satan's attempt at destroying our relationship with God. He viewed Satan's attempts at doing this as "schemes" **(See Vs. 11)**. Are you ever made aware of Satan using his schemes against you? If you are comfortable doing so, share a place that he regularly attacks you.
4. Consider these areas the Pastor mentioned that Satan frequently uses against all of us:
 - **He exploits our human weaknesses.** What did Jesus say about the flesh? **(Reference: Matthew 26:41)** Would you agree with this statement? Examples?
 - **He tempts us to fall away.** In the wilderness testings, **(Matthew 4)**, scripture refers to Satan in what term? **(Reference: Vs.3)** Do you know him to be this?
 - **He makes sin attractive.** **(Reference: Genesis 3:6)** What sense added strength to this temptation? Are we ever tempted through this sense today?
 - **He inspires people to put God to the test.** Again, reference the Temptation of Christ in the wilderness. What did Satan tempt Jesus to do, and what was Jesus' response to him? **(Reference: Matthew 4:6,7)** Is there a difference in "testing God" as Satan tempted Jesus to do, and "testing God" as other places in the scripture encourage? **(Reference: Malachi 3:10)**. If so, how do you interpret these differences and justify them in your mind?

Closing: Close by sharing prayer requests. Pray for each another and for the needs that were shared. ***Have a blessed week. GO SHARE JESUS!***