

At the Movies Part 2 - Captain America: Civil War

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER (Optional):

- When it comes to conflict, are you more of a “mama bear” who will protect yourself or others at all costs, or do you tend to be a “sweeper-under-the-rug” who would rather not deal with the conflict?

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What is the silliest fight you have gotten in lately? How long did it go on?
- If you could identify one core issue behind most of the fights you get into, what would it be?

GO TO THE SOURCE: James 4:1-2; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 (ESV)

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER:

WHEN AT WAR, REALIZE THERE IS A WAR WITHIN YOU

Read James 4:1-2 and answer the following questions:

- Review James 3:17-18. According to James, what was the source of the wars and fights arising in the church?

- Where do you see self-indulgence working in our broader culture? How does what you see around you support what James is saying in Scripture?

- Why do you think James called the people "adulterous?" How were the attitudes of the people aligned with the world instead of with God?

- Look through Genesis 4:1-8. What led Cain to kill his brother? Why can we simply not afford to let jealousy and sinful desires continue unchecked (see verse 7)?

WHEN AT WAR, REALIZE THE ENEMY IS A WORK

Read Colossians 2:15 and 1 Peter 5:6-7. Answer the following questions:

- What two actions did Peter call believers to take in these verses? How do these actions go together? What action did Peter say God would take?

- Why do you think Peter compared the devil to a lion? How does the devil devour a person?

- What do you gather from Peter's warnings to "Be serious! Be alert!" (v. 8)? What about his explanatory statement exemplifies the importance of the issue of which he speaks?

- How does one resist the devil? Is resistance to the devil futile? Explain.

TO STOP THE WAR, DECISIVE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN

Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 and answer the following questions:

- What is the danger of forgiving others without also grieving the sin? What happens when we don't recognize the seriousness of sin in our lives and Christ's church?

- What is the danger of grieving the sin without also offering forgiveness to the sinner? What happens when we don't prioritize restoration and forgiveness within the body of Christ?

- Based on 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, what was the problem that Paul was addressing?

- Does that mean, then, that we should prevent sinners from experiencing sorrow?

- What reason did Paul give for forgiving the man in verses 10 to 11?

MAKE IT COUNT

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead gives us the power to overcome our desires. Why, then, don't we turn to God to overcome our sinful desires? How can we make turning to God amid our desires a pattern in everyday life?

- How has jealousy been the cause of some of your disagreements? If you are honest, what incites your jealousy?

- How can we, as followers of Jesus, learn to stop "wars" between us, and promote the unity to which God has called us to experience with one another?

PRAYER

- As you close, pray that you and your group would have a heightened sense of awareness of the spiritual battle going on around us. Pray that you would be able to identify the enemy and resist him through Jesus.
- Humble yourself before the Lord and admit your need for Him. Ask Him to safeguard you as you resist the devil's schemes.
- Thank God for the forgiveness He has given us in relationship to Jesus Christ. Ask Him to help you be someone who builds up His body in grace and truth, not someone who tears it down by unforgiveness.
- Invite Him to make your group an authentic community of believers, obedient both in acknowledging the seriousness of sin and in forgiving and restoring those who fall into sin and repent.