

Lifegroup Discussion Questions

Battleground - The Mind

2 Cor 10:3-5 - For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought (noéma) to make it obedient to Christ.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. - Col 3:2

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1. According to *2 Cor 10:3-5*, strongholds are “NIV - arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God” in the ESV “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,” - in the sermon, several worldviews were given as an examples of “opinion” or “arguments” that “sets itself up against the knowledge of God” - that can affect our mind and lives.

Give other examples of worldviews, ideas that are generally accepted by our culture - but are against God that affects our minds and lives. Explain why.

2. How about false teachings, attitudes, personal opinions and preferences that are against the knowledge of Christ. Give examples and explain why it is against God?
3. Do you agree with this statement by C.S. Lewis - “There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan”. Why do you agree or disagree? What does this look like in your experience? (give examples on what is claimed by God or counterclaimed by Satan)
4. We are commanded to test every spirit in *1 John 4:1* - Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is what it means to “take captive every thought:”.

Because everything that comes to our minds has a spiritual agenda, we need to learn to “filter” our thoughts before they enter our hearts, to either accept or reject thoughts (*discernment*).

Give examples of thoughts that can have a destructive effect on your Christians life. How did you deal with this from your experience? (example: self condemnation, feeling of hopelessness)

5. *Proverbs 15:14* - A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash. (NLT) - Have you allowed “trash” to enter your mind? Give examples? What was its impact on you - emotions, behavior, and life?
6. Reading and Meditating on God’s Word daily - *Psalms 1:2-3* is the key to cleansing and renewing our minds. It keeps you from following the advice of wicked; from approving what they do; and doing what they are doing (Read *Psalms 1:1-3*). What does this mean in practice, that is to take in God’s Word like a tree drawing water from a stream? Have you experienced the cleansing and renewing work of God’s Word? Share your experience.