



Week 23 | May 12 Sermon

Community:

Let's talk about moms this week. Happy Mother's Day to all the moms—physical and spiritual—who mean so much to our family! None of us would be here without them!

As you probably heard if you have shared your stories with your GROUP, we all have different experiences with, thoughts about, feelings toward our moms. This isn't designed to be a light and fluffy conversation. It might be that, but it also might be tough for some. Acknowledge that and the desire for authenticity and vulnerability in sharing with your GROUP before you pose these questions related to moms.

- Do you celebrate Mother's Day? If yes, how? If no, why not?
- What is/was the best thing about your mom?
- What is one hard thing you went through with your mom?
- Is/was your physical mother also a spiritual mother to you? What did you learn from her? Are there other women in your life you consider to be spiritual mothers?

Close this time with a prayer of blessing for all the moms in our community.

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25***

GROUPS

Sermon Title: You win some & you lose some | Text: Acts 17

Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Read Acts 17 together. What are you feeling about the people in each city and how they agreed or disagreed with Paul's message?

In what ways, either clearly or under the surface, do you see fear operating in these accounts?

Thinking about being "Kingdom Sent" this year - what are some things that keep you from being a witness?

Have you mis-named some of these things in your life that, at their root - are actually fear?

How does identifying fear make you feel about it?

If you are comfortable, name the fear or other things that have gone unnamed or mis-named in your life that keep you from "agreeing" with your call to be "Kingdom Sent". Then pray together like in Ephesians 3:14, that your spirits would be strengthened by His Spirit to know his deep and perfect love for you. The love that drives out fear. And that he would embolden you to live as witnesses wherever he may lead you.

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 17. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to in this passage?

How do you respond to Kevin's observation about the raging spiritual battle in Acts 17?

Invasion (vv. 1-4)

Counterattack (vv. 5-10)

Invasion (vv. 10-12)

Counterattack (vv. 13-15)

Invasion (vv. 16-31)

Counterattack (vv. 32-34)

Is this something you have experienced? When? Where? What was the outcome?

Kevin suggested that the idols in Athens were the visible front of the invisible forces that were actively shaping art, philosophy, education, and daily life. If this was true then, what idols are shaping the lives of the people living in southwest Iowa today?

Of the learnings from Acts 17, which one is most helpful for you today?

The power of darkness can hold a region in captivity.

Seek to understand what our spiritual battle is.

Breakthrough seems to include a Gospel presentation in both word and deed.

Respond to the challenges of contextualization in a pluralistic culture.

Offer an appropriate response to spiritual opposition.

Could you pray for each other with a particular focus of victory in spiritual battle? Be as specific as you dare in describing the battle you are facing so effective intercession can be offered.