



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 5

February 5th & 6th, 2011

Small Group Warm-Up

February 6th was Super Bowl Sunday. Did you watch the big game? Do you own any sports jerseys? Which ones?

Opening Prayer:

Read Hebrews 4:15-16. Father God, thank you for loving us unconditionally. Because of your love we don't have to hide our struggles from you. Instead, we can run to you and find help and grace when we need it most.

Discussion Questions:

Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

The Bible teaches that there are unseen spiritual forces at work in our world, but there are many people who believe only in what they can physically see and touch.

- Is it hard or easy for you to believe in the unseen spiritual world? Why?
- Make a list of the elements of the "armor of God" listed in this passage.
- What piece of armor would you most like to bring with you into the week ahead? Why?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-19

When we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. God's very presence is with us as we go throughout our day! Describe the difference you see between this biblical call to sexual purity with the messages we hear in our culture that condone sexual promiscuity.

There are people who think that pornography is harmless, but this weekend, Craig Gross, Founder of xxxchurch, said that pornography is a progressive problem. It will lead you to take greater and greater risks in order to satisfy your sexual impulses.

- Has anyone ever told you that pornography is a harmless habit?
- How would you respond to someone who says it is harmless after listening to the message this weekend?

This weekend we learned that pornography is an \$80 billion dollar industry. The Internet has made this a growing problem across all age groups and both genders. The Bible says that when sin increases, grace increases more:

"God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:20-21, New Living Translation

Read James 5:16

In order to stand firm against this assault from the enemy of our souls, we need to have help from above and help from the people along side us. If you are struggling with any kind of secret sin, ask God to show you who you can talk to. Make a decision to confess your sin to a trusted friend and to make any changes necessary to remove this sin from your life.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for taking our sins to the cross. We want to confess our secret sins today and ask for your forgiveness. We also want to take the bold step to ask for help from a trusted friend so that we have help alongside us this week. Give us the strength and the power to leave our sins at the cross and to live a new life through your power.

