

## Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, February 19th, 2017

Obstacles to Movement: Evil (Ephesians 6:10-20)

**Sermon Recap:** Claude's message on evil highlighted three characteristics according to scripture. Evil is personal, we have an enemy who is opposed to God and our good. Evil is pernicious (subtly harmful) and works slowly to drive us off the course that God has placed before us. Evil is NOT permanent; God has already won the battle and given us, through Christ, the power to overcome whatever obstacles of evil are placed before us.

1. Martin Luther posted his "95 biblical ideas" to the door of the church to draw it back to a community of faith focused on making disciples and being a blessing to all. What truths from our passage today have we lost sight of as the church in America?
2. What are some of the key strategies of Satan in our lives? How do the various pieces of armor Paul lists combat these?
3. Claude referenced the personal, pernicious and non-permanent nature of evil. Where do you see these elements in the passage?
4. Read Eph 2:1-4. What does Paul reveal about evil and our relationship to the evil one?
5. Even as evil blooms in the world, how do we corporately serve as the invading force against it?
6. Given the realities of evil Paul reminds us of and his emphasis on spiritual armor and prayer in verse 18, how should we pray? How did Jesus teach us to pray in regards to the evil one (Matthew 6)?
7. In light of the evil one, how should we change our approach to difficult situations? How might equip others to rethink these spiritual realities as well (children, friends, co-workers)?