

Discussion Questions

Get Real (and renounce your faith in the devil)

Ephesians 6:1-20

(What challenges or difficulties are currently weighing you down?

(Are there any struggles in your life where you feel you can't win and you want to give up?)

- Paul wrote, "We wrestle..." In what areas do you feel you most consistently wrestle?
- How has life surprised you? In what ways has it been more difficult than you anticipated? In what ways has it been better or easier?

Paul wrote, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

- Does it help to know the enemy is not people? How? Why?
- Can you think of any people or groups of people you might have thought of as your enemy and are realizing are not?
- How might this change the way you treat those people or think of them?

Read Ephesians 1:9-10.

- What is the mystery of the gospel.
- If we think people are our enemy, how does that keep us from proclaiming the gospel?

"If you choose to wrestle, don't be surprised if something wrestles back. And don't be surprised if the rulers and authorities beat you and throw you in jail."—P.H.

- When you've wrestled the true enemies, how have you experienced them wrestling back?
- Does it make you want to keep wrestling or not, or both?
- According to Scripture, the battle against the enemy has already been won (see Colo. 2:15); the battle is won, so why do you think God continues to have us wrestle when the enemy has already been defeated?
- If God is training us through allowing us to wrestle the enemy, what do you think He is training us for?

- "In Ephesians 3:10 Paul told us that it's through us that God makes His victory in Christ Jesus known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. It's with you, through your life, that He delivers a message to the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."—P.H.
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- Does the realization that God has placed you here to be a testimony to principalities and powers in heavenly places change your perspective on the trials, temptations, and difficulties you face in this world? What is it like to realize you could be testifying to God's goodness to the spiritual world unknowingly?
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- In the sermon we watched a clip from *Nacho Libre*. When Nacho felt he was wrestling against insurmountable odds he felt discouraged, but when he found himself wrestling *for* something he was empowered and able to conquer.

- How could focusing on wrestling *for* something or someone rather than against give you strength to wrestle?
- What people, things or ideas are you passionate about wrestling for?

Thank God that He has given you authority to wrestle the enemy and proclaim the Gospel. Pray for each other—that God would reveal the true enemy and help you to wrestle in the power of His Spirit and with wisdom.

** These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*