

Small Group Study: "Defeating the Enemies of More Part 2"

Welcome & Opening Prayer

- **Leader:** Welcome everyone and briefly recap the sermon's main idea: God's love is abundant and wants "more" for us, but five enemies (Lack, Expectations, Pride, Misunderstanding, Hopelessness) can block us from receiving it.
- **Opening Prayer:** "Lord, thank You for Your limitless love and the promise of 'more' in our lives. Open our hearts today as we study Your Word, reflect on Your goodness, and seek to overcome the barriers keeping us from You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Icebreaker

- **Question:** "If you could picture God's love for you as a scene or image (like a forest with golden light from the sermon), what would it look like to you personally? Share briefly."
- **Purpose:** Connects to the sermon's opening imagery and gets everyone comfortable sharing.

Scripture Reading & Discussion

Exploring how God's love provides "more" and how we can defeat the enemies that block it.

1. Lack (Deuteronomy 28:1-8, Philippians 4:6)

- **Read:** Deuteronomy 28:1-8 (blessings for obedience); Philippians 4:6 (don't be anxious, pray).
- **Summary:** Lack says "God won't," but God promises to supply our needs if we obey and trust Him.
- **Questions:**
 - How do you see "lack" showing up in your life (e.g., finances, relationships)?
 - What's one area where you've struggled to trust God will provide what you need?
 - How can obedience to God (like giving or forgiving) change your view of lack?

2. Expectations (Psalm 81:11-12, Philippians 4:6)

- **Read:** Psalm 81:11-12 (God lets us follow stubborn desires); Philippians 4:6 (prayer over anxiety).
- **Summary:** Unmet or misplaced expectations can lead to anxiety and distance from God's plan.
- **Questions:**
 - Share a time when an expectation didn't match reality—how did it affect you?
 - How can we align our expectations with God's will instead of our own?
 - What's one way prayer could replace anxiety in your current situation?

3. **Pride (Job 38:1-3, James 4:2)**

- **Read:** Job 38:1-3 (God questions Job's pride); James 4:2 (we don't have because we don't ask).
- **Summary:** Pride keeps us from asking God for help or accepting His love and blessings.
- **Questions:**
 - Where do you see pride (e.g., self-reliance, judging God) in your life?
 - Why is it hard to ask God for "more" sometimes?
 - How can humility and community help you overcome pride?

4. **Misunderstanding (John 11:21, 39-44, Proverbs 3:5)**

- **Read:** John 11:21, 39-44 (Martha's misunderstanding, Lazarus raised); Proverbs 3:5 (trust, don't lean on understanding).
- **Summary:** Misunderstanding God's timing or purpose can make us miss His bigger plan.
- **Questions:**
 - Have you ever misunderstood God's actions (or inaction) in your life? What happened?
 - How does trusting God without full understanding feel to you?
 - What's one situation where you can choose trust over demanding answers?

5. **Hopelessness (Psalm 34:18, Ephesians 3:20)**

- **Read:** Psalm 34:18 (God is near the brokenhearted); Ephesians 3:20 (God does more than we ask).
- **Summary:** Hopelessness says God won't provide, but His love promises abundance.
- **Questions:**
 - Where do you feel hopeless right now, even if it's just one area?
 - How does knowing God is close to the brokenhearted encourage you?
 - What "more" do you want to believe God can do in your life?

Application (10-15 minutes)

- **Reflection:** "The sermon ends with Ephesians 3:16-20, describing how wide, long, high, and deep God's love is. Which enemy (Lack, Expectations, Pride, Misunderstanding, Hopelessness) is most active in your life right now, keeping you from experiencing that love?"
- **Action Step:** Choose one response from the sermon's close:
 - *Repent and receive forgiveness* (for pride or disobedience).
 - *Confess and recommit* (to trusting God's promises).
 - *Surrender and engage* (with prayer, scripture, or community).
 - Share your choice with the group and pray for each other to follow through this week.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

- **Leader:** "Father, thank You for loving us with a love too great to fully grasp. Help us defeat lack, expectations, pride, misunderstanding, and hopelessness by trusting and obeying You. Show us the 'more' You have for us this week. In Jesus' name, Amen."
- Encourage group members to check in mid-week via text or call to pray over their action steps.