

Yep, you've made it to week 5, the halfway point...Congrats!

We will start promptly at <enter time> and jump into reviewing Week 5 "The Enemy" then break into two groups (men/women) and close with praying over our strongholds.

Day 5 should not be done quickly so PLEASE make time for honest evaluation and pray God reveal any strongholds in your life. And remember, I will ensure this is a safe place for you to do business with God. God desires to replace our strongholds with His truth! see pages 101-102.

**Not every sin is a stronghold. A stronghold is where we continually allow our flesh to cooperate with Satan to create consistent and destructive patterns; patterns that are the opposite of what God desires for us.*

Serve Experience: We are shooting for 100% attendance. Please make this a priority! (add details of your experience here time/location/etc)

Week 5: Bible Memory Verse

"For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His dear son." Colossians 1:13

Note: Research a scripture that can encourage you and others during the attacks of the enemy. Share in GroupMe if you like, before coming to Week 5 Session. (This will start to prepare hearts to be compassionate and encouraging).

There is an Enemy!

It is easy to begin to believe that the devil is a cartoon character in a red suit with a pitchfork or a black caped villain from one of the Star Wars sagas, but scripture tells a very different, but real story. I pray this week will help us all be better equipped for battle.

This week includes teachings about "strongholds." This may be new to some of you, but the impact on your lives is not. We all have areas we struggle to get right. Areas we don't like to talk about and have dogged us, sometimes for years. This may not be a deep dark secret, but it can be something in which the enemy would like you to believe you are all alone. I want to encourage you to do the work on Day 5 and come prepared to discuss this battle. (If a co-ed group, let them know that the men will meet with the men and vice versa) This will not be easy, but it is crucial.

In the movie, In the Heart of the Sea, Herman searches for the story of Moby Dick. Tom, a boy on the ship which encounters the great whale, is hiding in the torment of this part of his life and refuses to retell the tale. Herman offers to pay Tom for his story and Tom calls it a "devils bargain." Herman responds with these words, "The devil loves unspoken secrets, especially those that fester in a man's soul." When I heard this I was reminded of Week 5, day 5. Don't let the enemy keep you from this weeks hard work and this weeks healing power.

God has moved quickly and I've enjoyed watching him stir in your hearts individually and as group. Whether you're quiet or vocal, I want to affirm each one of you that I see God revealing himself and growing you in the process. Rooted is not an intellectual effort to "be a better christian, husband/wife, dad/

mom, etc..." experience. It's God's starting point for you and God to begin real conversation and fellowship around his truths for you in every day life....even the struggles.

Each one of YOU are a blessing to me!