

Five Stones Addicted to...?

Addiction to Jesus frees us from all other addictions (Mark 8:34-35; John 8:31-32). Every addiction – anything we cannot live without – is either an attempt to meet our basic needs for acceptance, identity, security, and purpose, or an attempt to escape when these needs are not being met. Those who struggle with a destructive addiction are wearing the wrong armor for battle, much like David when he put on Saul's armor that did not fit or that he had not used before (1 Samuel 17:38-40). David, instead, took off Saul's armor and put on a different kind of armor, the same armor we have been given for our battles (Ephesians 6:13-18). The armor of God that we are to bear is **Jesus**; He is our truth, righteousness, peace, and salvation. The answer to destructive addictions is not just saying no to harmful thoughts, desires, or behaviors but having a greater yes for Jesus burning inside of us.

GET THINGS STARTED

What do you think that of the idea that we are designed by God to be addicted? Do you agree or disagree, and why? If addiction is anything we cannot live without (e.g. a habit we can't break, a person we can't separate from, a pattern we can't change, etc.), then what kinds of subtle things can we be addicted to beyond the big addictions of alcoholism, drug abuse, or pornography?

WATCH THE GROUP VIDEO FOR WEEK 6

GO DEEPER

1. What stood out or resonated with you from the video this week?
2. From Ephesians 6:13-18, what words are used to describe the type of armor we are to wear? Who do these words describe, according to John 14:6, 1 Corinthians 1:30, and Ephesians 2:14, and why is this significant?
3. What might it look like to be addicted to Jesus, according to Psalm 63:1, Mark 8:34-35, and John 8:31-32?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What destructive addiction, regardless of how big or how subtle it may be, do you need to slay? Which basic need – acceptance, identity, security, or purpose – are you trying to fulfill or escape from because it is not being met?
2. What would be different in you if you were addicted to Jesus? What would change in you if you fully embraced the idea that Jesus cannot have too much of you, and you cannot have too much of Him?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to intentionally pray that you become more addicted to Jesus. Ask God to stir in you a greater yes in your heart and spirit for Him. Ask Him to help you bear Jesus as your armor when you fight your battles. And ask Him to help you overcome and slay any destructive addiction in your life that is keeping you from experiencing the abundant life He has for you.

BLESS

Who is God possibly highlighting this week, in your sphere of influence, that you can begin to pray for? Ask God to create opportunities for that relationship to grow, for a stronger connection to be made, so that you can demonstrate the love of Jesus to them and eventually tell them about all that He has done in your life.