



Week 1

More than Meets the Eye

Main Text: Ephesians 6:10-17

Additional Texts: John 8:44; John 8:31

Before You Begin: In the series I'm going to be referencing a book written by Carlos Whittaker called "Kill The Spider." If you or anyone in your group would like to read the book copies will be available at the church.

All of us have behaviors that we have in our lives that if left unchecked can become destructive. Often times we make efforts to stop these behaviors— our new years resolution are often based around them. However, an overwhelming percentage of the time these resolutions or efforts to end destructive behavior fail. Even if they don't fail, often times one behavior is replaced by another. This series is about diving into our hearts and finding the root cause of the behavior. The lie that we believe— often about ourselves— that leads to the bad behavior.

Analogy: The behaviors are called "cobwebs" in the book. Often when we clean the webs off, they are just replaced again and again. The reason is because we have to find the "spider" or the cause of the webs and kill the "spider" (the lie) so that we can be transformed from the inside out.

Ask: What is a new years resolution that you have made more than once?

Discussion Questions:

1. What sort of behaviors could be "cobwebs?"
2. Why do you think people often fail at behavior modification? Why have you failed?
3. **Read John 8:44.** How is Satan described? Why would Satan want to lie to us?
4. Why is it so difficult to recognize the lies of Satan?
5. What are some lies that he tells you (or others) that could lead to destructive behavior?
6. **Read Ephesians 6:10-11.** How does Paul say we are supposed to stand firm against the lies fo Satan?
7. **Read Ephesians 6:12—** Why is it important we fight these schemes spiritually?
8. What have you been taught about spiritual warfare? How does the notion of spiritual warfare make you feel? Why?
9. **Read Ephesians 6:13-17**
10. Why do you think the "belt of truth" is mentioned so early on? Why is truth important?

11. How can we know truth?
12. Why is righteousness important? How about a willingness to go and share with others?
13. What is the only offensive weapon mentioned?
14. Of what importance is the word of God for battling lies? How has this been the case for you?
15. In what ways can we lean on God's word as we seek to hunt out our own "spiders?"
16. What are some spiders that you may have in your life? (they may not want to answer out loud, you may want to provide paper for them to write them out.)
17. What are some steps that you can take to engage in "spider" killing, not just "web" management?