

Ice Breaker:

Have you ever had a moment where you thought you knew something or someone really well, but then discovered it wasn't as it seemed? Maybe it was a restaurant that looked amazing from the outside, but the food was disappointing. Or maybe it was a friend who you thought was trustworthy, but then they let you down. Take turns sharing one time when you had this experience and how it made you feel.

Discussion:

1. Guest speaker Greg Boyd shared a few passages that demonstrated how Jesus manifested the loving character of God by freeing people from their afflictions. As a group, read Luke 13:10-16 for one example, and then make a list of 3-5 other passages from scripture where we read an account of Jesus doing something similar. What stands out as you review those passages/characters? What do these examples show us about God's care for people?
2. How did Greg's representation of "spiritual warfare" help you understand this concept better? What did you find most compelling about his explanation? Was there anything you found confusing?
3. One practical implication of Greg's message was the encouragement that we need to move out of "vacation mindset" and into a "spiritual warfare mindset." For example, instead of seeking only personal gratification or comfort, we can instead ask three questions when faced with a decision involving our finances: "Do I want it?", "Can I afford it?," and "Is it God's will that I use my resources on this thing/purpose/experience?" Which of these - vacation mindset or spiritual warfare mindset - do you more naturally gravitate toward in your own life, and how can you continue to grow in this regard?
4. Another way living with a spiritual warfare mindset can shape us is that we live with an awareness that there's always more going on than meets the eye. He gave an example of how an argument between spouses can be about a "certain thing," but when we're aware of the spiritual battlefield, we're even more attuned to how Satan may be using an issue or argument to bring disunity in our marriage. What examples can you share as a group of being aware of the spiritual component in everyday situations like this?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

PODCAST



Lisa Marie Bowens – The Cosmic Battle in 2 Corinthians

[The Bible for Normal People](#)

VIDEO



N.T. Wright on Satan and Evil 3

[YouTube](#)

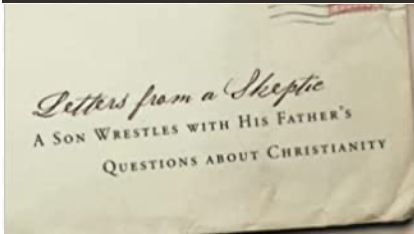
PODCAST



Is Satan Simply a Metaphor for the Opposite of God?

[ReKnew](#)

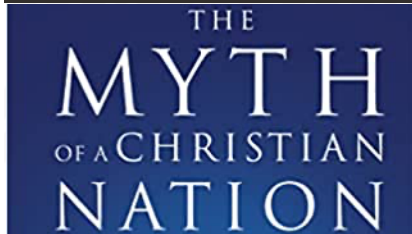
BOOK



Letters from a Skeptic by Gregory Boyd

[Amazon](#)

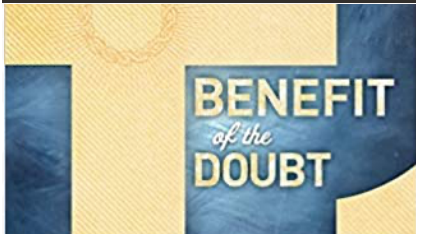
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The Myth of a Christian Nation by Gregory Boyd

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Benefit of the Doubt by Gregory Boyd

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Is God to Blame? by Gregory Boyd

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