



Epicenter: Week 3 — “Rome (Exchanging Death for Life)”

CONNECT: What’s your favorite costume you’ve ever worn for Halloween or any kind of costume party?

GROW:

1. In what ways have you noticed our culture’s obsession with death and darkness?
2. How do you typically respond when you hear about the evil things in our world?
 - E.g., Do you become overwhelmed with heartbreak or outrage and immediately want to do something about it? Do you feel helpless to change anything and just want to think about something else? Are you so used to hearing about evil that it hardly phases you anymore?
3. Scott overviewed some incredibly dark moments in our history and in current times. While these things are painful to hear and think about, why are they important to be aware of and remember?
 - Read **1 Peter 5:8**, **1 Peter 1:13**, and **Philippians 4:6-8**. Based on these scriptures, how do you think we should strike the balance between being aware of the evil in our world, while also not letting our minds be consumed by it?
4. Read **Romans 1:25**. Ever since the Garden of Eden, we’ve seen a pattern of trading truth for lies, life for death, and worship of the Creator for worship of the created.
 - Thinking in terms of what you’ve seen in others’ lives and your own, why do you think we’re so prone to this pattern? Why does the trade come so easily?
5. In Romans 12, Paul tells us how to combat evil by *thinking clearly and living distinctively*. What does this look like in your world (i.e., your workplace, your family, your neighborhood, etc.)?
6. Read **Romans 12:21**. Scott mentioned two ways to not be overcome by evil:
 - Being faithful with what God has given us
 - Investing in the next generation

What does this look like in your life right now? What *could* it look like?

PRAY: Use Romans 12 to guide your prayer. You can read it aloud together, and then end by asking God to guide each of you in living lives marked by these words.

NEXT: Challenge yourself to memorize Romans 12 by the end of the year! You can work on memorizing a few verses a week, and then keep going until you’ve committed the whole thing to memory. It’ll take some effort, but you won’t regret it!