

NEWS & REVIEWS



CURRENT SERIES:

Week 3:  
Hook And  
Jab



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

→ Advance & FBC.

CALENDAR:

- BIG STUF- June 14-18!
- Advance- **March 28 @ 10:30 AM** immediately after Xtreme service is over.
- Family Birthday Celebration- **May 2.**

ATHENS CHURCH  
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PICTURES!



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# The Battle Within: Hook And Jab

**Bottom Line:** We are often tempted to pursue the *right* thing the *wrong* way.

## Message Overview:

There are many of us who are very goal oriented, some are very driven, and ambitious. There is always that thing that we want more than anything. It can be something tangible like making a sports team, getting a girl or boyfriend, getting that scholarship or maybe it's more of an intangible something like being accepted or wanting intimacy. This drive for wanting that thing can lead us to a specific temptation. Temptation doesn't always have to be about doing something bad. In fact, sometimes it's not the end result that's not necessarily a bad thing, but how we plan to get there. It's the temptation to take a shortcut, the path, the compromise. And in this fight, this struggle with temptation, sometimes the punches we throw and the ones thrown at us are simply about pursuing the right things but in the wrong way. **The goal this week is to help students see that when we pursue the right thing the wrong way, the issue isn't the thing we are pursuing, the issue becomes whether or not we trust God.** Can we trust God with our lives enough to not take matters into our own hands? That is a big question we will be asking our students this morning.

**Scripture References:** Matthew 4:8-10, Matthew 28: 18-20, Deuteronomy 6:10-12

## Questions:

- 1.) Would you describe yourself as a goal-oriented or driven person? Why or why not?
- 2.) What are three things that you want out of life in the next three years?
- 3.) Think about some of the goals you want to achieve or things you want. What are some easy shortcut that you could be take?
- 4.) What might make a person choose to take a "shortcut" to get one of their goals?
- 5.) If you choose to take a shortcut, what are you saying about your trust in God? Have you ever thought a shortcut and your trust in God were connected? What could you miss out on if you always choose to do things your own way instead of trusting in God?
- 6.) Listen to this statement: "You'll never accomplish the will of God by abandoning the principles of God. And you'll never maintain the blessing of God if you abandon the values of God." Do you believe this? Have you ever had an experience where you saw this was true? (As a leader, this might be a good time to share a story of how you have seen this work out in someone's life.)
- 7.) What are some potential problems with taking shortcuts?
- 8.) Don't trade what's important for what's immediate. What does that mean to you in your life?

## The Next Step:

**X/IO:** The mantra for this week is simply this: "Don't trade what's important for what's immediate." What if every student just committed this statement to memory? Can you imagine how it might effect their daily decisions? Try having your students repeat this line several times. You might even make it a new "favorite quote" in Facebook, or part of your e-mail signature for a while just as a way to remind them over the next few weeks.