

## THE BIG IDEA: See more than you see.

### The Take-Off

Welcome to “At the Movies!”

This is going to be a fun series, and I’m really excited about our first movie, which was actually a cartoon before it was a movie

Let’s see if this takes anyone back to Saturdays in the fall of 1984...

[Clip - Transformers Opening Scene]

Like a lot of things in the 80’s - shoulder pads, leg warmers, parachute pants - Transformers could be a little strange, but here’s the basic storyline:

***The fate of humanity is at stake when two races of robots, the good Autobots and the villainous Decepticons, bring their war to Earth. The robots have the ability to change into different mechanical objects as they seek the key to ultimate power. Only a human youth, Sam Witwicky, can save the world from total destruction.***

Did you hear the lines “more than meets the eye” and “robots in disguise” in the theme song?

You could be looking at a car and then suddenly it was a robot. Yikes!

In a war between powerful beings from a place outside our planet yet brought to our planet, things weren’t always what they appeared to be.

Can I tell you that earth is still the battlefield and that things still aren’t always what they appear to be.

There is a war in the heavenly realm that has spilled over into this realm, and you and I are a part of it, willingly or unwillingly.

This morning, I want to encourage you to **see more than you see**.

## 1. Recognize the real enemy (problem)

- a. [Clip - Base attack]
- b. Did you notice that they allowed the enemy in?
- c. They felt like something wasn’t quite right and yet failed to act in time.
- d. Some of us here are in the middle of blown up relationships, blown up commitments all because we didn’t **recognize the real enemy**
- e. Look at **Ephesians 4:17-27 (NIV)** to see how the enemy slips in
  - v. 18 / darkness and separation comes as a result of a hard heart towards God
  - v. 19 / end result is a calloused heart, dull to the things of God
  - v. 20 / we are to be different (in other words, we can become calloused if we harden our hearts - Hebrews was written to believers and contains a command to “not harden your hearts” to God’s voice)
  - v. 21 / our story is one of truth
  - vv. 22-23 / take off deceit and put on truth
  - v. 25 / same thing, but this time in the context of COMMUNITY (church)
  - v. 27 / this is the end result - the devil gets a foothold
- f. Greek word for “foothold” is “topos” and means “place”
- g. Don’t give the enemy an opportunity or space to operate
- h. If we don’t recognize the real enemy, we’ll give him room to operate his destruction
- i. **John 10:10 (NIV)** / he wants to steal, kill, and destroy
- j. **Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)** / the real enemy isn’t the person you’re looking at
- k. We’re in a spiritual battle against a spiritual enemy, and just because we can’t see him doesn’t mean he isn’t real

## 2. Use the right weapons (solution)

- a. Once we recognize the enemy, how do we fight him? We’ve got to **use the right weapons**.
- b. You’ve got the perfect weapon right in your hand.
- c. [Clip - You Hold the Key]
- d. You and I hold the key to defeating the enemy - it’s the Word!
- e. Let’s see what the Bible says about fighting our enemy:
  - **Eph. 6:14, 17 (NIV)** / armor begins and ends with truth, the Word

- **2 Cor. 10:2-5 (NIV)** / we take captive thoughts that are against the knowledge of God (revealed in the Word)
- **Eph. 4:11-14 (NIV)** / the gifts given to the body can help us wage war
- Matt. 4 / when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he responded to the enemy with the Word
- **Psalm 119:11 (NIV)** / I have hidden your word in my heart - more word, less room for the enemy

### 3. Bring the light to the fight (invitation)

- I've got one last clip to show, but before I do, can I just point out the obvious: Jesus won.
- Colossians 2:15 (NIV)** tells us that Jesus actually made a public spectacle of the enemy
- But did you notice that we still play a part in the battle? We put on the armor, we take thoughts captive, we seek the gifts in the body, we quote the Word, we hide it in our hearts so that we won't sin
- That's a lot of "we," y'all - and this morning, we have a choice to make
- [Clip - Get in the Car]**
- Jesus invites us to follow him, but it isn't a passive following - it's active
- We are in the middle of a battle between life and death, light and darkness
- Yes, the enemy is defeated, but he isn't done
- Jesus invites us to follow him into a battle against an angry, defeated, deceiving enemy
- There is an urgency to the call; there's a cost to the call
- You have to give up the life you have in order to gain the life he gives**
- 1 Thess. 5:5 (NIV)** / we are children of the light, and we are called to **bring the light to the fight**

#### The Landing

How do we wage war with the enemy?

Through worship and the Word.

Recommit yourself to those disciplines.

Read Psalm 119 (the chapter in the reading plan for today, by the way!). Worship to a playlist.

Let's pray.