

The Battle Comes

Insights on Exodus 17:8-16

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, March 5th, 2017

When battles come, we must understand:

(Exodus 17:8-9, Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

- There is...
- Battles...
- Battles...

In battles we need intercession:

(Exodus 17:9-12, Ephesians 6:18-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-3)

1. In intercession we place _____.
2. Intercession takes _____.
3. We need others _____.
4. We never _____.

Why do we need a “banner?”

(Exodus 17:15-16, Hebrews 10:23-25)

- A banner is...
- A banner is...
- A banner is...

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 8” of our Small Group Session!

Our small groups are where folks move from ‘believers’ to ‘belongers.’ May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in weeks ahead as we meet together, pray together, and study God’s Word together. This quarter our groups will meet for 13 weeks wrapping up the week of April 9th (the week before our Easter Celebration).

Getting Started:

1. God has led the people of Israel to the city of Rephidim. First at Rephidim there was no water, and now we see there is a battle at the same place. Deuteronomy 25:17-19 tells us that the Amalekites attacked the tail end of the camp of Israel before the Israelites were able to go out and fight the next day. The Israelites were “blind sided” by the attack. When has there been a time in your life you were “blind sided” by something? How did this impact your relationship with God in that moment?
2. When we think about the situation with Moses, Aaron, and Hur it is almost comical. Here are three guys in their 80’s all working together to hold the stick of God in the air, so the Israelites could win the battle. When was there a time where you felt you were too old to do something, but you did it anyways?

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

1. We heard this weekend how God gave the Israelites victory but they still needed to fight for it. God and the Israelites both had a part to play in the victory.

The same is true for us. God causes our growth but we also have a part to play in it. How do the following passages help you better understand these two aspects of growth?

- Ephesians 4:22-25
- Galatians 5:16-23
- Philippians 2:12-13

What do you think could happen if you focused only on your part in the growth process or just on God's part?

2. The Israelites were exactly where God led them. He took them to the city of Rephidim where he knew there was no water, and the attack by the Amalekites did not surprise him. We see that the battle was messy and hard for the untrained and unprepared Israelites. Just as battle came to the Israelites battles will come in our lives as well. How do the following passages encourage/challenge you when battles come in your life?

- Ephesians 6:10-20
- 1 Peter 4:12-19
- 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

3. During the battle against the Amalekites we see Moses, Aaron, and Hur going up on a mountainside to hold up the staff. In so doing, these three guys were interceding to God on behalf of the Israelites who were fighting down below. Look at the following passages. What are some key principles we can learn about intercession?

- 1 Timothy 2:1-3
- Romans 8:26-27, 34
- Ephesians 6:18-20

4. When God gave the Israelite army victory over the Amalekites, Moses built an altar to the Lord and named it "The Lord is my Banner." As we saw this weekend, the banner was an item used in battle for the troops to rally around, a place to regroup, and a place to receive instruction. This sounds a lot like church! Church should be a place to rally around the Gospel, regroup from our daily battles, and a place to receive instruction before we go out into the battle again. Read Hebrews 10:23-25. Why is it important for us to continually meet together? How has meeting together been an encouragement to your life? Why are small groups an important ministry in the life of the church?

Wrapping Up:

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out?

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group.