

When God Fights Our Battles



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WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Let each GG member share an irrational fear they had growing up. Take turns sharing stories about how those fears were overcome.

WORSHIP:

Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:

Be Strong and Take Courage

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WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

- GG members will become strong and courageous in the Lord, relying on Him through prayer and obedience as they face many spiritual battles ahead.
- 2. GG members will remember how the Lord is a powerful promise-keeping God, building up their faith and trust in Him.

INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter of Joshua was a lesson on seeking God as we encountered the predicament the Israelites had gotten into with their covenant with the Gibeonites. In this chapter, we find that the same covenant was upheld as the Israelites battled against Amorite forces.

Joshua led the Israelites to battle against the forces of the five Amorite kings (vv. 1-15)

This section of the passage records another one of Israel's many famed battles in their conquest of the Promised Land. The Lord had used the Gibeonites' previous deception to set up a conflict that would further Joshua's campaign, this time against five Amorite kings.

- 1. Who were the kings in the passage? What particular lands do they rule over? Which king in particular heard about what the inhabitants of Gibeon did, and how did he respond?
- 2. In the face of an impending battle, how did the Gibeonites take action? Recall what the covenant that was established between them and the Israelites entailed (cf. Joshua 9:15, 18).
- 3. With the group, make observations and try to visualize the events that took place in the battle that was recorded. How did the Lord participate in the battle? How did Joshua and the Israelites participate? Based on their actions, what can we learn about each character in the narrative?
- 4. According to the passage, the Book of Jashar (cf. 2 Samuel 1:18) affirms the miraculous event of the sun standing still during the battle in the story. Interestingly, it is recorded in Joshua in the form of poetry. What can we learn from this event about the power of God and about the prayer of His people?

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Application

The same God who miraculously caused the sun to stand still is the same God who miraculously regenerates every person who puts their faith in Jesus Christ. Even now, the One who gives the believer access to the Father is the Son. With that in mind, what are the seemingly impossible prayer items you have been inclined to give up on? Make it a goal this week, as you remain accountable to the group, to set your heart to God's desires and pray with bold faith to the Lord these things that only He can answer.

Joshua captured and executed the five Amorite kings (vv. 16-27)

While the battle against the forces may have been won, the five Amorite kings had seemingly escaped. The rest of the passage records how Joshua and the Israelites pursued after them.

- What were the kings found doing as the Israelites battled against their forces?
 How did Joshua instruct the sons of Israel to act in response?
- 2. Continuing with the narrative, what were the things Joshua instructed to be done to the kings when they were brought out of the cave in Makkedah? What do you think was the significance of the gesture done by the chiefs of the men of war? What do you think was the effect of the bodies of the kings being hung?
- 3. Previously, the Lord had told Joshua not to be afraid nor dismayed (cf. Joshua 1:9, 8:1). Earlier in the passage, the Lord echoed this statement when He promised to give the forces into the hands of the Israelites. In verse 25, who gave the exhortation to be courageous this time? What do you think is the significance of this moment?

Application

More often than not, it takes several reminders for our fickle hearts to start becoming bolder in the Lord. For this reason, we must constantly encourage one another to take courage in God, especially since becoming a follower of Christ invites troubles from the world. In the midst of our spiritual warfare, what particular aspect of obedience has God been telling you to be strong and courageous about? Share it with the group so that you may pray for one another and be strengthened.

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WORD & WALK:

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PRAYER ITEM

Heavenly Father, You are the Lord who set the sun in the sky, and You are the one who made the sun stand still. You are my source of our strength, my Rock, my Refuge. I know that I can run to You and trust in You to keep Your promises and keep me in Your perfect peace. Grant me the courage to face a new week filled with many battles, knowing that You are leading the charge. May the song of the victory Christ has already won resound in me this week so that others may hear it. This I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.■



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