

EXODUS

PART 2: IDENTITY



FEBRUARY 10, 2018 | **COMMUNITY** GROWTH GUIDE

Lifted Hands

Exodus 17:8-16

Message Big Idea

To win the battle, we must begin the battle on our knees.

Belong

1. Do you enjoy action/war movies? Why or why not? If so, which is your favorite?
2. Have you ever noticed that most of these movies take a normal person and put them in extreme circumstances to overcome massive odds? Why do you think that is?

Grow

1. Have someone read Exodus 17:8-16. What are some key ideas and thoughts that stood out to you in this passage? How did God move through His people?
2. In this passage we get a picture of Moses and God's people going to war with Amalek. They had an impressive plan that we'll get into later, but none of it would have been possible without the power of a relationship with God. He gave Moses the plan for victory which was cultivated through Moses' obedience and time spend with Him. What does your weekly/daily time with God look like? How do you cultivate a space with God that is meaningful?
3. Sometimes the battles of life can be draining and feel hopeless. Have someone in your group read Jeremiah 29:11-12. God promises his people in these verses that He has an amazing plan for their future. Is it easy to keep our eyes on that plan? Why do you think some people forget the plan and get bogged down in their trials, hurts, and tribulations? When the battle is raging, what are some ways to trust fully in God's promise?
4. God's plan in our story today required both that His people trusted Him completely and it required a physical commitment to following the plan. He could have just wiped out the people

of Amalek. Why do you think God included the physical component in this war plan? What would God have taught Israel if he had just snapped His fingers and won the battle? What do you think the people of Israel learned instead? Why is this important for us?

5. Bryan's main idea this week was that in order to win the battle, we must begin the battle on our knees. Take time to look up some of these verses and then share with the group some of the powerful truths that you've found about prayer: 1 John 5:14-16, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:13-18, Psalm 34:15, Philippians 4:6, Proverbs 15:19, Hebrews 4:16... (Feel free to add any other verses that come to mind - this is just a starting point!)

Reach

- Take time to pray together. Go around the room and share prayer requests with each other. Once everyone has shared, take time to call out to God on behalf of the other people in your group. Maybe go around the circle and have everyone pray for the person on their right, or have everyone pray for a prayer request that was heavy on their heart. Use some of the scriptures listed above. Try moving out of your seat and kneeling. Through this act of prayer you are literally lifting the arms of your brothers and sisters and fighting their battles with them. Don't rush past this moment, but spend time in the presence of God together.
- Follow up! This week, check in with the person you prayer with during your group time. Pray for them throughout the week and let them know that you have been. Maybe write a note or card with the specific prayers you've been praying and drop it in the mail to them.