

A Sacrifice of Praise

TALK IT OVER

Week Two – Worship as Warfare

Think back through the message. What sticks out to you?

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 13:15 - Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name.

Ephesians 6:12 – For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

2 Chronicles 20:12 - We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help."

2 Chronicles 20:21-22 - After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: "Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!" ²²At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What steps would you take if you found out you were going to be in a fight to protect what is most important to you? Why?
- If the fight is spiritual instead of physical, what steps should you take to protect what matters most (your soul, your family, etc.) from spiritual attack.

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- What does Ephesians 6:12 tell us about spiritual warfare?
- What is your default response to stress and overwhelming circumstances? Why do you think we default to those instead of looking to God for help?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- God gives the Israelites one of the craziest battle plans ever... don't fight, worship. Don't put the infantry up front, put the worship team up front. What does that tell us about how God wants us to fight spiritual battles.
- Read 2 Chronicles 20:15-17. If the battle was the Lord's and the victory predetermined, why did the Israelites still have to march? What does that teach us about spiritual battles today?
- 2 Chronicles 20:22 says the minute the worshippers began to praise and worship; God intervened and neutralized the threat. Have you seen God do that in response to your worship? Share what happened to build someone else's faith.

Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

- God, we so often feel overwhelmed and powerless to fight the battles in our life. When the battle feels overwhelming, when the obstacles feel insurmountable, help us to raise up a shout of praise because the battle is yours!

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Determine what steps you need to take to prepare for the spiritual fight for your soul, your family, the things that are truly important. Write them out and commit to putting them into practice now to prepare for the battle even before you know you are in it.
- Commit to memorizing Ephesians 6:12. Repeat it to yourself every time you face a battle to remind you where the real fight really is.