

THE BATTLE

THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN

[2 Samuel 2:12-32]

1. There should be no '**SIDES**' when we are all on the same team. (*Psalm 133:1; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 3:8; Philippians 2:2; Ephesians 4:3; Romans 12:4-5*)
2. Before rushing into something, it is so important to **STOP** and **CONSIDER** the consequences. (*Proverbs 13:16, 18:20-21, 19:2-4; 22:3; Galatians 6:7-8; Jeremiah 17:9-10; James 1:19; Ephesians 4:29; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 4:6*)
3. Beware, lest our **STRENGTHS** become our **DOWNFALL**. (*Jeremiah 9:23-24; Judges 7:2; 1 Peter 4:10; Proverbs 16:18; Daniel 4:30*)
4. Seeking **REVENGE** can make us lose our mind. (*Deuteronomy 32:35; Hebrews 10:30, 12:15; Leviticus 19:18; 1 Peter 3:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; Mark 11:25; Proverbs 20:22*)
5. If a situation is deteriorating and we know God would have us to stop it, **STOP IT!** (*Romans 12:18; Psalm 34:14; 1 John 3:6; James 4:17; Isaiah 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:34*)
6. To make sense of the madness, we have to revisit **BETHLEHEM**. (*Isaiah 9:6 - Luke 4:18; Micah 5:2 - Matthew 2:10; John 12:46, 18:37; Hebrews 2:14; Luke 19:5,9-10*)



Sunday, May 7, 2023

Taking it further to help you THRIVE...

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say “*See you next week*” as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!

For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit thrivekg.org/thrive-groups.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Abner posed to Joab the idea of their men meeting together to compete (verse 14), and we learn as we read on that this was not a good idea. When is 'friendly' competition - not friendly? In what ways can competition get out of hand?

3. Asahel was fast, focused, and determined - and it ended up costing him his life. Sometimes our strengths, abilities, and giftedness can get us into trouble and even be a downfall. Explain how. How do we prevent this from happening?

4. When Abner killed Asahel, Asahel's brothers Joab and Abishai seemed intent on revenge, and they hotly pursued Abner (verse 24). Have you ever experienced a time when your 'blood boiled' in anger towards someone? What do we tend to do in times like this? How should we respond on such occasions?

5. In Romans 12:18, Paul says, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” This does not mean to simply avoid people and thereby avoid tension and heartache. How do we practice this verse in real life?

6. The Holy Spirit takes us back to Bethlehem at the end of this chapter. Given what we have seen thus far in this chapter, what might we learn from 'revisiting Bethlehem'?