

## Road Trip Part 4 Exodus 17:8-16 Winning Life's Battles

### Message to Conversation Guide

#### Ex. 17:8-16

8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I **will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.**”

10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.” 15 Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. 16 He said, “Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.” NIV

#### Discussion Questions

1. Battles cannot be avoided in life; our christian journey is punctuated by various battles. The Israelites had nine different recorded battles against the Amalekites. What does this repeated pattern of battles with the Amalekites suggest?

##### *9 Battles with Israelites*

- *Ex. 17:8-15 - They won.*
- *Numbers 14:39-45 (Re. Duet. 1:41-46, 25:17-19, 1 Sam. 15:2-3)*
- *Judges 3:12-30*
- *Judges 6-7*
- *1 Sam. 14:47-48*
- *1 Samuel 15*
- *1 Samuel 27*
- *1 Samuel 30*
- *1 Chronicles 4:4-41*

2. The purpose of battles is to make us strong; without battles we will be weak in faith and trust in God. Review the verses below that underscore this important point.

**Psalm 18:34**

34 **He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.** NIV

**Psalm 144:1**

*I Blessed be the Lord, my rock,*

**Who trains my hands for war,**

**And my fingers for battle;**

3. Our faith develops for big battles by learning to trust God when dealing with small battles. How does David's experience as a shepherd prepare him for facing Goliath?

**1 Samuel 17:32-37**

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

33 Saul replied, "**You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man,** and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 **But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."**

Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you." NIV

4. How does the verse below indicate that if we can't exercise faith in small battles we will never excel in big battles?

**Jeremiah 12:5**

5 "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, **how can you compete with horses?** If you stumble in safe country, **how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?** NIV

5. What is the significance of Moses' lifting his hands and holding his staff toward heaven as the Israelites face the Amalekites? What does the staff symbolize? **Exodus 4:4, 7:19, 8:5,16, 9:23, 10:13, 2 Tim. 2:13.**

**Exodus 14:16**

16 **Raise your staff** and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. NIV

