



Outward Group Discussion Guide

December 7, 2025 (Salem)

SUMMARY

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores Exodus 17:8-16, using Israel's battle with Amalek as a metaphor for the Christian life. The pastor emphasizes that God often answers our question "Is God really with us?" not through comfort, but through battles that reveal our dependence on Him. The message highlights three key elements: the battle God chooses for us (which is actually a blessing in disguise), the brothers and sisters we need alongside us in spiritual warfare, and the banner of Christ that we rally under. The sermon challenges believers to recognize that difficulties are not signs of God's absence but opportunities to deepen faith, engage in community, and ultimately look to Jesus as our only hope and victory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have you questioned whether God is truly with you during difficult seasons, and how did those questions shape your relationship with Him?
2. How does viewing a battle or struggle as God's chosen blessing rather than a curse change your perspective on current challenges you're facing?
3. What areas of your life represent the 'stragglers' that the enemy might be targeting, and how can you strengthen those vulnerable places?
4. Are you a 'poser' in your faith, having all the outward appearances of Christianity but lacking genuine engagement in spiritual battle? What would it look like to truly fight?
5. Who are the 'Aaron and Hur' figures in your life who hold up your arms when you grow weary, and are you actively cultivating those relationships?
6. What prevents you from naming your sins and struggles with trusted brothers or sisters in Christ, and how might confession lead to freedom?

7. What banner are you actually living under—comfort, security, success, family—and how does it compare to making Jesus your ultimate banner?
8. How does knowing that 'the battle is already won' through Christ change the way you approach daily spiritual warfare and personal struggles?
9. When life becomes comfortable and God seems to have provided everything you need, how do you guard against self-dependence and maintain desperate dependence on Him?
10. What would it look like practically to lift your hands to God's throne in your current situation, recognizing that only He can truly help you?