

# Yahweh my banner

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## SMALL GROUP NOTES

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### Scriptures

Exodus 17: 8-16

### Scripture context

The people of Israel are fighting with Amalek. Moses meets with his second-in-command Joshua and sets out a rather unorthodox battle plan; 'you go out and fight Amalek, I'm going to the top of a hill with my staff.' Whenever Moses holds his hands up, Israel prevail, whenever he lowers them, Amalek prevail. With the support of Aaron and Hur Moses holds his hands steady until sundown. The result is a great victory for Israel. Moses builds an altar and calls it 'The Lord is my banner.'

### Did you know?

- This passage contains the first mention of Joshua in the bible.
- The people of Amalek (called the Amalekites in others places) were the descendants of Esau through his son Eliphaz. They were a nomadic tribe who had a long running feud with Israel.
- Rephidim was the last stopping place for the people of Israel before they reached Mt. Sinai.

### Question for study and discussion

1. Joshua fought on the ground, Moses on the hill. Think about their different roles in the battle. Which role do you identify with most; battling with your actions or with your prayers?
2. What does this passage teach about the power of prayer?
3. Moses grew weary when praying. Do we ever feel the same? How can we be a people who 'pray without ceasing'? (1 Thess. 5:16).
4. Why is it an encouragement in our battles that the Lord is our banner?

### Digging Deeper

How do we deal with verse 14 and the Lord's commitment to 'blot out the memory of Amalek?'  
Read Deuteronomy 25:17-19 for further consideration on this.

### Resources for further study / devotion

*Incomparable; Explorations in the character of God*, by Andrew Wilson.

*Enjoy your prayer life*, by Mike Reeves

*A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a distracting world*, by Paul E. Miller

*Prayer: Experiencing awe and intimacy with God*, by Tim Keller