

Small Group Guide: Fighting the Battle of Amalek

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you felt like you were in a spiritual battle. What did that look like, and how did you respond?

Sermon Overview

This message explores Exodus 17 and the battle against Amalek as a picture of our ongoing spiritual warfare against the flesh, the world, and the enemy. The sermon reveals a three-part strategy for victory: active fighting (like Joshua), intercessory prayer (like Moses), and the Spirit's empowerment (like Aaron and Hur).

Key Scripture Passages

- **Exodus 17:8-13** - The Battle with Amalek
- **Luke 11:2-4** - The Lord's Prayer
- **John 17:15** - Jesus' High Priestly Prayer
- **Romans 8:26** - The Spirit's Intercession
- **Colossians 3:5-10** - Putting the Flesh to Death

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding the Battle (15-20 minutes)

1. **Why did Amalek attack Israel at this particular moment?** What does the timing tell us about when we're most vulnerable to spiritual attack?
2. The pastor mentioned that we often view God through the lens of our circumstances rather than viewing our circumstances through the lens of God's character. **Can you share an example of when you've done this?** What was the result?

3. **How does restlessness and discontentment open the door to spiritual defeat?** (Reference the Garden of Eden and the Israelites' grumbling)

Part 2: The Three-Part Battle Strategy (20-25 minutes)

4. **Joshua in the Valley - Active Fighting**
 - What does it practically look like to "take up your cross daily" and actively fight against the flesh?
 - The pastor said, "Be killing sin or it will be killing you." How does this challenge our passive approach to sin?
5. **Moses on the Hill - Intercession**
 - How does knowing that Jesus constantly intercedes for you change your perspective during difficult times?
 - Read John 17:15. Why does Jesus pray for us to stay *in* the world rather than be taken out of it?
6. **Aaron and Hur - The Spirit's Empowerment**
 - When was a time you experienced the Holy Spirit helping you pray "with groanings too deep for words"?
 - How can we give the Holy Spirit more "space" in our daily lives?

Part 3: Personal Application (15-20 minutes)

7. The pastor shared three necessary components for victory:
 - **We fight** (like Joshua)
 - **Jesus intercedes** (like Moses)
 - **The Spirit empowers** (like Aaron and Hur)
8. **Which of these three do you tend to neglect most?** Why do you think that is?
9. **The pastor's story about his father's death** illustrates how God sometimes answers prayers differently than we expect. Have you experienced a time when God answered "no" or "differently" to a prayer, but you later saw His wisdom in it?
10. John Owen said, "Be always at it whilst you live. Cease not this day from this work." **What daily practices help you consistently "mortify" (put to death) the flesh?**

Key Takeaways

✓ **Spiritual warfare is real and constant** - The battle with Amalek represents our ongoing struggle with the flesh, world, and enemy.

✓ **Victory requires all three components working together** - Our active participation, Christ's intercession, and the Spirit's empowerment are all essential.

✓ **Prayer is warfare** - "You will not know what prayer is for until you know that life is war" (John Piper).

✓ **We must view God through Scripture, not circumstances** - Our situations don't define God's character; His Word does.

✓ **The battle is daily** - "Give us this day our daily bread" reminds us that the Christian life is a day-by-day walk.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

- 1. Pray the Lord's Prayer daily** - Use it as a model, personalizing each section for your current battles. Focus especially on "deliver us from evil."
- 2. Scripture memory for warfare** - Memorize one verse this week that you can use as a "sword" against specific temptations you face (like Jesus did in the wilderness).
- 3. Pray for someone else's battle** - Identify someone in your group or church who is struggling and commit to praying for them daily this week (be like Aaron and Hur).
- 4. Morning consecration** - Each morning this week, before checking your phone or starting your day, spend 5 minutes acknowledging: "God, I can't do this in my own strength. I need Your Spirit's power today."

Accountability Question for Next Week:

Which practice did you choose, and what did you learn from it?

Prayer Focus

Pray as a group for:

- Those currently facing intense spiritual battles
- Strength to fight daily against the flesh
- Greater awareness of Christ's intercession for us
- Openness to the Holy Spirit's empowerment
- The children's ministry transition (Katie and Carmen)
- Each other's specific struggles and needs

Closing Prayer Suggestion: Have someone pray through the Lord's Prayer slowly, pausing after each section for group members to silently personalize it for their current battles.

For Further Study

- Read John 17 in its entirety (Jesus' High Priestly Prayer)
- Study the full account of Amalek in Scripture (Exodus 17, Deuteronomy 25:17-19, 1 Samuel 15)
- Explore Ephesians 6:10-18 on spiritual warfare and the armor of God

Remember: "If Joshua stops fighting, they lose. If Moses stops praying, they lose. If Aaron and Hur stop supporting, they lose. All three are necessary for victory."