

Small Group Guide: "The Believer's Warfare - Water, Spirit, and Fighting the Flesh"

Based on Exodus 17:6-14

Opening Prayer & Welcome (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for His faithfulness and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to His truth.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you experienced God's provision in your life, but shortly after faced a significant challenge or struggle. How did that sequence of events affect your faith?

Key Scripture Reading (5 minutes)

Have someone read **Exodus 17:6-14** aloud. Ask another person to read **Deuteronomy 25:17-18**.

Main Teaching Points Summary

1. **The Significance of "Then"** - After receiving God's blessing (water from the rock), Israel doubted God's presence, which opened the door for Amalek's attack
2. **Amalek Represents the Flesh** - Our ongoing battle with our sinful nature that attacks when we're weak and doubting
3. **The Pattern of Spiritual Warfare** - Receive blessing → Face trials → Choose faith or doubt → Experience consequences

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Doubt and Spiritual Vulnerability (15-20 minutes)

- 1. The pastor emphasized that the Hebrew word "then" (Wayvo) indicates not just sequence but consequence.** How does understanding that Amalek's attack was a *consequence* of Israel's doubt change how you view spiritual warfare in your own life?
- 2. Read James 1:6-8.** The sermon stated, "When we doubt God after everything we know...it gives an opportunity for the flesh." Can you identify an area in your life right now where doubt might be creating vulnerability to spiritual attack?
- 3. The Israelites asked, "Is the Lord among us or not?" even after seeing multiple miracles.** Why do you think we so quickly forget God's past faithfulness when facing new challenges? Share an example from your own experience.

Section 2: Recognizing Amalek in Our Lives (15-20 minutes)

- 4. Amalek attacked "from the rear" and went after "the stragglers" and those who were "faint and weary."** What does this teach us about how the enemy targets believers? When are you most vulnerable to spiritual attack?
- 5. The sermon connected Amalek to Esau, who "disregarded his birthright" for immediate gratification.** In what ways do you see yourself choosing immediate, fleshly desires over your spiritual inheritance? Be specific and vulnerable.
- 6. Read Romans 7:18-19 and 1 Peter 2:11.** Paul describes the internal war between wanting to do good and actually doing it. How does this passage resonate with your daily experience? What "passions of the flesh" wage war against your soul?

Section 3: The Ongoing Battle (15-20 minutes)

- 7. King Saul was commanded to completely destroy Amalek but kept King Agag alive and took spoils.** What happens when we try to "manage" our sin rather than completely eliminate it? What areas of compromise might God be asking you to fully surrender?
- 8. The sermon traced Amalek's presence all the way to the Book of Esther (nearly 1,000 years later) because Israel didn't fully deal with them.** What "small" sins or compromises have you allowed to remain that have grown into bigger problems over time?

9. **The pastor said, "Whether I feed the spirit or the flesh, that's going to dictate who wins the war for that moment."** What practical steps can you take this week to "feed the spirit" rather than the flesh?

Section 4: Victory in Christ (10-15 minutes)

10. **Moses called Joshua to fight, representing how Christ fights our battles with us.** How does knowing that Jesus understands your weakness and fights alongside you change your perspective on your struggles?
11. **Read Exodus 17:14.** God promised to "utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." When will this complete victory happen for believers? How does this future hope affect how you fight today?
12. **The sermon ended with the challenge: "See yourself as Christ sees you as a child of God."** How would your daily battles change if you truly believed and lived in your identity as God's beloved child?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Doubt opens the door to spiritual attack** - When we question God's presence after He's proven faithful, we become vulnerable to the enemy
- ✓ **The flesh (Amalek) attacks when we're weak** - Spiritual warfare intensifies during times of weariness, discouragement, and doubt
- ✓ **Incomplete obedience leads to ongoing battles** - Compromising with sin rather than fully surrendering it leads to prolonged struggles
- ✓ **Victory requires participation** - Unlike previous miracles where God did everything, now Israel had to fight alongside God's provision
- ✓ **Complete victory is coming** - Though we battle the flesh now, ultimate victory is secured in Christ and will be fully realized when He returns

Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:

- 1. Identify Your Amalek** - Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal one area of "flesh" that keeps attacking you. Write it down and confess it to one trusted person in this group for accountability.
- 2. Combat Doubt with Truth** - Create a list of 5-10 ways God has been faithful to you in the past. When doubt creeps in this week, read this list aloud and thank God for His faithfulness.
- 3. Feed the Spirit Daily** - Commit to 15 minutes each morning in God's Word before checking your phone or starting your day. Journal one truth you learn each day.
- 4. Complete Surrender** - Identify one area where you've been "managing" sin rather than eliminating it (like Saul with Agag). Take radical action this week to remove it completely—delete apps, end relationships, confess to leadership, seek counseling, etc.
- 5. Memorize Victory Verses** - Choose 2-3 verses from this sermon (Romans 8:31, Galatians 5:17, 1 Peter 5:8) and memorize them to use as weapons when the enemy attacks.

Accountability Partner Assignment

Pair up with one person in the group. Exchange contact information and commit to:

- Texting each other daily this week with one way you "fed the spirit" that day
- Praying for each other's specific Amalek battle
- Checking in mid-week about your chosen practical application

Prayer Time (15-20 minutes)

Prayer Focus Areas:

- 1. Confession** - Invite the group to silently confess areas where doubt has created vulnerability in their lives
- 2. Intercession** - Pray specifically for those who are in the "rear" right now—wary, struggling, feeling attacked. Pray for God's strength and protection.

3. **Declaration** - Pray Romans 8:31 over each person: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
 4. **Future Victory** - Thank God that complete victory over the flesh is coming and that nothing can separate us from His love
- Consider praying in smaller groups of 2-3 for more intimate sharing.**

Closing Thought

"Don't doubt. Don't be afraid. If you just stop believing in your circumstance and believe in me, your life will begin to change, but you have to start."

Remember: The battle with Amalek (the flesh) is real and ongoing, but we don't fight alone. Joshua (Jesus) fights with us, and complete victory is already secured!

Preparation for Next Week

The sermon will continue with "how we fight" — through prayer, participation, and faith. Come prepared to discuss what happened as you applied this week's lessons and be ready to learn practical strategies for spiritual warfare.

Additional Resources

- **Book Recommendation:** *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges
- **Scripture Reading Plan:** Read through Exodus 17-18 and Galatians 5 this week
- **Worship Song:** Listen to songs about spiritual warfare and victory in Christ