



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

THROUGH THE WILDERNESS Lesson 3

ARMED TO WIN

Exodus 17:8-16; Deuteronomy 25:17-19



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

WHEN I SEE ANOTHER WHO IS TEMPTED TO SIN, I CAN HELP HIM PRAISE JESUS AND WE BOTH SHALL WIN!

SCRIPTURES OF THE WEEK: *Repeat 2x with Congregation*

Ecclesiastes 4:12 "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Matthew 18:19 "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

INTRODUCTION: God had given the Israelites everything they could possibly need but they would not stop their murmuring and complaining. God showed His compassion for the Israelites by giving them water from the rock. God showed His compassion on us by sending us Jesus. If we place our faith upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, He will give us living water, His Holy Spirit to fill us, immerse us in Himself, and flow out from us to bring life to others. This week we study how important we are to each other in the body of Christ, to lift each other up in the midst of our battles.

2. CHILDREN’S STORY: Sandy, May & the Test



Sandy and May were best friends at school and they had lots of fun playing together. One day, the new girl in school, Brenda, whispered to Sandy, that May had said terrible things about her so she shouldn't talk to May

anymore. Sandy's feelings were really hurt so she agreed with Brenda that she would not talk to May anymore, and when May tried to talk to Sandy after school, Sandy walked away. Brenda followed Sandy and invited her to come to her house after school. "What a nice friend," thought Sandy. She didn't know Brenda had lied to her. For the next two weeks Sandy didn't talk to May at all. But then Sandy saw Brenda whispering and laughing with May! "How strange?" she thought, and the next thing she knew, Brenda and May just walk away and they would not talk to her!

Sandy remembered to pray. She went to Jesus and asked Him what she should do. Sandy felt in her heart that she should go and talk to May alone, so she did. May was angry and suspicious but she listened. Come to find out, Brenda had played the same dirty trick on both of them! She had meant to break up their friendship so they would both only like her! What should they do?

Sandy remembered that God's word says our battle is not against each other but against our enemy Satan. May remembered that Jesus gives us power to overcome every evil thing and to overcome all power of the enemy. So Sandy and May prayed together that God would give all of them His love to forgive each other, and asked Jesus to help Brenda so she wouldn't act that way anymore. Brenda was afraid that Sandy and May wouldn't want to be her friend, but they told her all was forgiven and asked if they could pray with her. Brenda was so sorry, and do you know what? Brenda asked Jesus to be her Savior! From that day on, Sandy, and May, and Brenda, and Jesus were the best of friends!

3. GOD BUILDS A HEDGE AROUND HIS CHILDREN.

In ancient times, men planted hedges around their property to identify their property and protect it so that predators could not just wander through to harm them without being noticed. The hedge built around them protected them. When we come to Jesus, He builds a hedge of around us because we belong to Him and He protects us.



Job 1:10 “Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.”

God provided everything the Israelites needed yet they would not stop their complaining against Him. When they faced the enemy coming out of Egypt, God told them to not be afraid but to be still and they would see the salvation of God because He would fight the battle for them. But they were so afraid that they forgot! Have you ever been so afraid that you forgot to rest in Jesus, and watch the Lord fight for you? Well, that is what happened to Israel too.

Exodus 14:13-14 “And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. ¹⁴ The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”

The Israelites had seen God win great victory for them when they saw their enemies, the Egyptians, washed up on the shore. They had seen evidence that God had placed His protection like a hedge around them and supplied their every need, yet they showed by their complaining that they did not trust in the Lord their God.

4. ALLOWING FEAR TO TORMENT US QUESTIONS GOD AND BREAKS A HOLE IN THE HEDGE.

The people did not see they were allowing their fear to rule over them instead of taking the fear captive by their faith, was complaining against God. There is a lot to learn here.

Psalm 4:4 “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.”

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”



There is no sin in experiencing fear, because we all do. When fear hits, and it will, and we let that fear grow so strong that the fear is ruling our hearts instead of God’s love ruling our hearts, we become weak and open a big hole in that spiritual hedge He

builds around us, leaving ourselves open to Satan’s attack. And Satan always attacks us right in our weakest spot! Have you ever been feeling the love of God while you were complaining? When fear is allowed to rule, we are sinning against God and leaving ourselves open to further attack and more fear. When fear is allowed to rule, then our faith is being rejected. By their rejection of faith, the Israelites took themselves out from under God’s protection and wide open to attack at their most vulnerable spot.

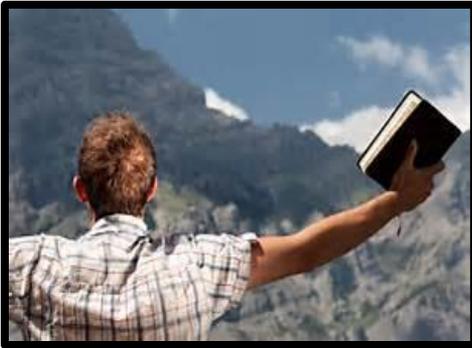
Exodus 17:7-8 “And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not? ⁸ Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.”

So now besides their fear of hunger and thirst, another enemy came to fight – Amalek and all his mighty army attacked the Israelites at their very weakest spot - beginning with the most fearful.

5. WHEN THE ENEMY COMES TO FIGHT, AND HE WILL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

God always knows the best way out if we will listen, and always has a plan for us in tough situations. We must listen for His Holy Spirit to show us new direction for every problem, like Moses.

Exodus 17:9 “And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.”



Moses held up the rod, the symbol of the power of God high up on the hill overlooking the battle that was about to start. When you know that the enemy is about to come in with a flood of fear and worry and doubt, head him off at the pass! Be prepared with the

rod of God, the standard of His Word in your hand, in your heart, and spoken from your mouth, held high above every attack the enemy can think of, and don't be moved!

Isaiah 59:9 “So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.”

It doesn't matter in the least what will happen because God is for you, your job is to hold up the standard and trust Him!

Romans 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Exodus 17:10 “So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.”

6. BATTLES ARE WON BEING SEATED WITH GOD AT THE TOP OF THE HILL OVERLOOKING THE BATTLE!

Exodus 17:11 “And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.”



We may not think that our little faith that we show by our actions and words we speak, has anything to do with God’s will prevailing in our lives, but He shows over and again in His word that our words and our actions are absolutely part of His working out His plan for us.

Moses put Joshua in charge of the army while he took Aaron and Hur with him to the top of the hill. Jesus fights our battles for us in just the same way today. What is to be our position when our own battle is raging?

Ephesians 2:4-6 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶ and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

God has given those who surrender their whole heart to Him, trusting in His name, the position of victory where we are seated with Him in the Heavenly realm in prayer. Oh how many of life’s battles could have been won if we had only prayed a little longer? When Moses lowered his arms and stopped praising God, his brothers stepped in to pray with him, holding up his arms and that standard of God to Heaven, praising Jesus because He is God!

7. JESUS HAS QUICKENED US TOGETHER WITH HIM!

Jesus conquered death and sin and all power of the enemy! When you received Jesus as your Savior He forgave you and quickened you to be alive with Him! And He triumphs over all!



Colossians 2:13-15 *“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;***
¹⁴*blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;* ¹⁵***and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”***

How does the picture of Moses and the Israelites’ battle against the Amalekites give us instruction for our own battles?

Ephesians 6:12 *“For **we wrestle not against flesh and blood,** but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

Your battle is never against the armies, or your brother or sister, or against threatening circumstances, or against loss, but your battle is against the one enemy of God who is the ruler of the darkness that controls everything and anyone who threatens your peace. And the only sure way to prevail over all power of the enemy is to open your mouth and praise the Lord Jesus who is victor over all things!

It was God who fought the battle with the Egyptians, and made the Red Sea to close upon them, and now God who told Moses to raise his arms and the rod of God to praise Him through this battle too!

8. OBJECT LESSON: All Wound Up In Jesus

It is very hard to stand up against an enemy all by yourself. Sometimes the enemy may be an illness, or the enemy may be somebody threatening to beat you up, or someone spreading rumors. All by yourself, it is easy to become so discouraged that you just give up. That's why God said that it is not good to be alone. Jesus said to share one another's burdens because two joined together in prayer are much stronger than one! Look at the next verse:

Ecclesiastes 4:12 "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

When you join together with a friend and come into agreement, Jesus said He would be right there with you when you pray, and that what you ask is done - there is great power in agreement! With Jesus in the center of your team, you have all the power of Heaven at work to solve your problem and overcome all power of the enemy to harm you! Jesus in the center of your friendship will bond you strongly together.



Look at this rope, it is very strong isn't it. How many strands does it have? Three. That reminds us of God: as the Father in Heaven, the Son who was born, crucified, and risen back up to Heaven, and His Holy Spirit who lives in us. And it reminds us of you and your friend praying, with Jesus in the center of your friendship, all wound up together. But look what makes up every cord: why there is a whole family of threads in here like a whole church of people, we have 3 churches here! Satan can take one of us out alone and break us quite easily, but all wound up together we are strong!

Why do manufacturers of rope bind three cords together to make one? Because three cords make a very strong rope. Always remember to bring Jesus into every relationship so that you will have a three-fold cord with Jesus as your strength. Then you will be all wound up in Jesus and strong, just like this rope!

9. MOSES WON THE BATTLE BY PRAISING GOD.

Exodus 17:12-13 *“But Moses’ hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³ And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.”*

The same principle that was used by Aaron and Hur is as powerful and available to us today, when we join hands together and pray!

What can happen to us if we murmur and complain until we become weary and weak like the Israelites?

1 Peter 5:6-9 *“Therefore humble yourselves...Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*



What kind of weapons and protection does God provide us for fighting our enemy Satan?



2 Corinthians 10:3-5 *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh...bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*

Ephesians 6:13-18 *“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand...Stand therefore, having (truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, word of God); praying always with all prayer and supplication...”*

10. MOSES ESTABLISHED A MEMORIAL AND CALLED GOD HIS BANNER.

Exodus 17:14-16 *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. ¹⁵ And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi: ¹⁶ for he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”*



God told Moses to write a memorial in the book of remembrance and He would utterly destroy even the memory of this enemy. It is so important to stay strong in Jesus by praying and praising Him for taking care of us. We must not be afraid but stay close to Jesus so that we have His strength to protect us where we are weak.

Deuteronomy 25:17-19 *“Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; ¹⁸ how he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. ¹⁹ Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.”*

The Israelites had just questioned whether God was with them or not when their enemy, Amalek and his armies, came to fight them. The Amalekites took unfair advantage against their weakest when they were tired. But what had God told the Israelites He would do for them if they would trust in Him?

Matthew 18:19-20 *“...if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three...”*

11. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR MY LIFE

1. Be sure to keep a hedge of protection around you by praising God and guarding your heart. Don't allow complaining to break down your hedge and put yourself at risk by playing at the edge of the enemy's camp.
2. The enemy will come in to try and destroy you so be prepared. Put on the full armor of God and take up the mighty weapons of the Spirit God gives to you.
3. Stay seated on the throne with Jesus. Don't give up your seat in the heavenlies to come down to Satan's level to battle in your flesh.
4. Remember that your battle will be won by God as you remain still before Him with a heart full of praise.
5. Write a memorial of all that God has done and lift up your banner of victory in Jesus for all to see!

Let's bow our heads and pray this prayer together:

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank you for being my Savior and protecting me. Forgive me for my sin of complaining and help me to praise you for how wonderful you are. Thank you that you always answer my prayers. I put on the full armor of who you are in me, Jesus, so I will be able to stand when the enemy tries to attack me. Help me to be bold, to tell of your love and praise your miraculous works to everyone I meet so that they will want to know you too, in Jesus name, Amen



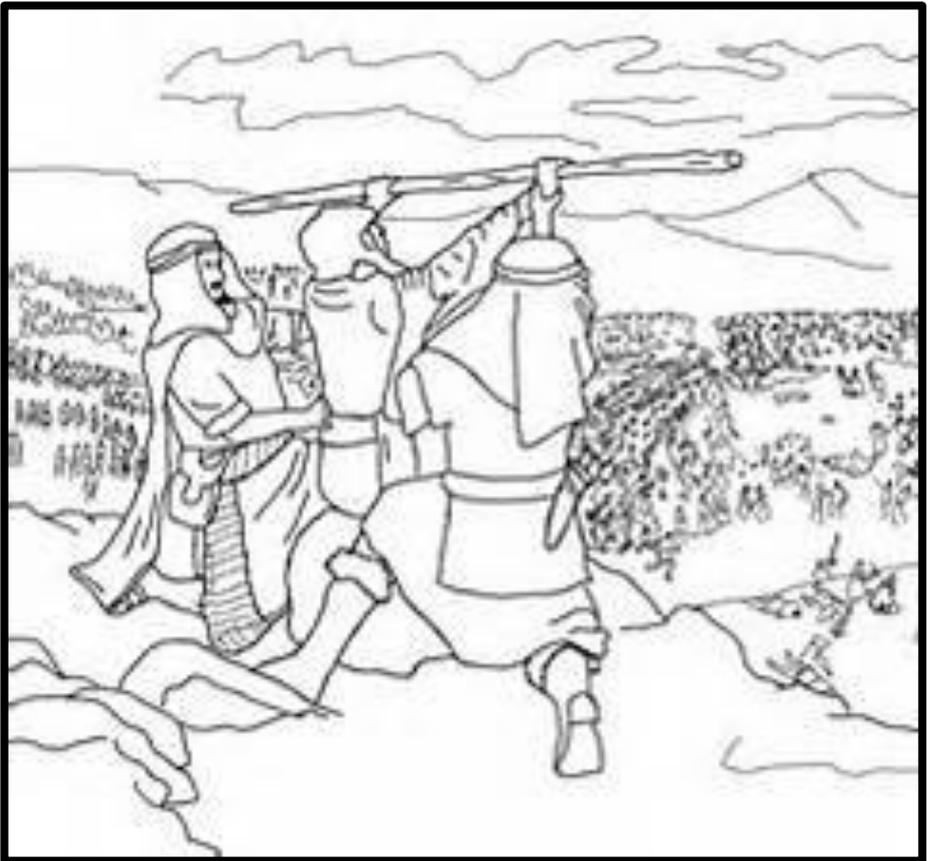
The Battle Was Won When Aaron and Hur Helped Moses Raise His Hands To Praise God May 25, 1462 BC

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Directions: Color picture, glue onto colored cardstock. Glue yarn around the edge for a frame.