

Discussion Guide

Warm Up

Tell us about your week. How did it go?

Share one highlight from the series so far.

Passage

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven."

1. *"Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and cut off all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God."* Deuteronomy 25:17-18

Brainstorm recent injustices that are similar to the injustice Israel experienced. How were they rectified? Brainstorm other injustices that occur in our world. How good are we at addressing them?

2. *"Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind but fear your God. I am the LORD."* Leviticus 19:14 Apply the passage to other areas of life.
3. If you want to ruffle God's feathers just oppress the poor and marginalized:

"Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'

"And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

The Journey: "Engaging the Battle"

Exodus 17:8-14

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"And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

Matthew 25: 41-46

How good are we at feeding the hungry, offering hospitality to strangers, offering clothing and housing to those in need of them, and visiting those in prison? How do we show compassion so that justice is done rather than the injustice of enabling people to remain in their situation?

4. God led Israel intentionally to Rephidim to experience an injustice many had suffered from at the hands of the Amalekites as they passed through the area

After the victory, the Lord instructed Moses, "Write this down on a scroll as a permanent reminder and read it aloud to Joshua: 'I will erase the memory of Amalek from under heaven'" ... 'They have raised their fist against the Lord's throne, so now the Lord will be at war with Amalek generation after generation.'" (vss. 14, 16)

Have you ever experienced an injustice that opened your eyes to that injustice and caused you to do something about it?

5. How hard was it for Israel to decide to act? They had other options.
6. Why don't people get more involved in their local communities to make them better places to live? Why don't people get involved in order to make right clear wrongs?
7. React to this statement: "Jesus didn't say, 'Go into all the world and criticize it.' He said, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'" Mark 16:15
8. Do you know of churches that remained siloed and who are merely holding on until Jesus returns instead of being active in the redemption of their community?
9. What is your Amalekite? What do you wish for when it comes to your community? Is there something your small group can do to make a difference? You may not be able to get rid of the problem, but you can make a dent.
10. What do you think about the church's involvement with Narcotics Anonymous? With Safe Families? With partner CityServe? With Youth for Christ?
11. When it comes to making decisions, do you think Christians pray too little or not enough? What about churches? Are there times when we really don't need to pray about a specific decision, we just need to act?
12. Talk about this statement: *"So often we pray for things that won't change or can't change! We try to pray away the situation when we really should be praying for God to help us with the situation. Sometimes we try to pray away our humanity. Other times we try to pray away our emotions. You can't. They are part of your humanity!"*

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13. Pastor Richard mentioned three things we learn about the power of prayer from this story. Discuss each:
- The success of the battle had more to do with the prayer of Moses than the might of Israel's army.
 - Joshua's presence on the field was necessary for the eradication of injustice and evil!
 - Moses grew tired in prayer sooner than Joshua grew tired in battle.
 - The injustice outlasted both Moses and Joshua.
14. Some injustices are hard to overcome. List the injustices we have overcome and the ones we have yet to address. How long did it take us to overcome the injustices you identified? Because they are hard to defeat does that mean we should stop trying?
15. Share a time when God used your wounds to minister to another person.