





ICE BREAKER: If you made a flag for your family or Life Group, what colors would it be? What image would you include in it?

BACKGROUND

Banners are flown for many reasons. They can show recognition, support, or unity. The presence of a banner can also show that the people and area around it are joined together under a particular cause or belief. Banners are mentioned in many places throughout the Bible with many different uses, but only once is it used in a name. This is Jehovah-Nissi, or "The LORD is my banner."

In Exodus 17:8-16, we see the account of Israel's first battle with the Amalekites. These descendants of Esau served pagan gods and had a history of standing against Israel. The Amalekites were a direct representation of evil, so much so that even throughout the Old Testament we see God's will to remove them from the face of the earth. They fought hard against Joshua and his men, but the only clear advantage in this battle was God. Moses, Aaron, and Hur stood atop the hill and whenever Moses held up the Staff of God, the Israelites would advance. With the help of Aaron and Hur, he managed to keep his hands steady until dark, and Joshua overcame the Amalekites. Moses then built an altar named Jehovah-Nissi, The LORD is my banner, recognizing God's provision.

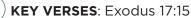
God provided for them in battle, but this coverage goes back to the day that Israel left Egypt. They were led by God in the form of cloud and fire (Exodus 13:21-22). The banner of the LORD covered Israel when escaping through the Red Sea (vv. 14:21-29), when they had no water (vv. 15:22-27), when they complained about food (vv. 16:1-12), and water again (vv. 17:1-7). Through all this the chosen people of God would doubt, complain, and fail to follow His direction, yet His banner over them was complete.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

Names[®]God





And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, the Lord Is My Banner.

READ: Exodus 17:8-16

HEAD LEVEL: These help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. As explained in the background section, what does Amalek represent?

2. What kept Moses going when he grew tired during the battle against Amalek?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

What do these passages show about the significance of Moses' staff?

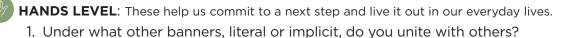
- Exodus 14:14-16
- Exodus 7:3-6
- Exodus 7:17



HEART LEVEL: These help us wrestle with what we believe.

- 1. Why did God want it to be remembered and recited that the memory of Amalek would be blotted out?
- 2. Why did Moses say [t]*he Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation* (v. 16)?
- 3. If we regard the Amalekites as a symbol for evil, by comparison, what might Joshua symbolize?





2. In what ways do you see others under Jehovah-Nissi come around you to fight Amalek (evil)?

MEMORY VERSE: Exodus 17:14b I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)

Next Week's Life Group: New Series: Longing (Hosea 3:5; Isaiah 11:1-7; Matthew 1:16)