

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

The LORD is my Banner – Feb. 27, 2022

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 – Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- The Context
- The Main Point
- The Application

I. The Context

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 17:8-10.
- Why do you think Moses sent Joshua to the front lines of the battle? Why do you think Moses went to a hill with the staff of God in his hand? What was Moses doing?
- How is verse 9 a perfect picture of human responsibility and divine sovereignty?

II. The Main Point

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 17:11-16.
- What was God teaching the Israelites in verse 11?
- What does the title “The LORD is My Banner” mean in verse 15? Read the following quote to help answer this question.
 - *A banner is a military standard, a piece of cloth bearing an army insignia and raised on a pole. Soldiers always look to their banner. It established their identity; it helps them know who they are. On the battlefield it also helps them*

keep their bearings and gives them courage and hope. As long as their banner is still flying they know that the battle is not lost.

The Israelites had some practical experience with this. From time to time during the battle [with the Amalekites] they would look up on the hillside. There they would see Moses holding up the staff that symbolized God's power. It was their banner, their military standard. Now Moses was pointing them to the real source of their courage and strength, which was not simply the staff but God Himself. This was to be their rallying cry: "The Lord is My Banner" – Philip Ryken

- How is the LORD your banner in your personal life?
- Why do you think Joshua became the focal point of this story in verse 14?
- **Read and discuss** Joshua 1:1-9.
 - Why did Joshua need to be strong and courageous (verses 1-2)?
 - Where was Joshua's strength found? Read verses 3-5 to help answer this question.
 - How do faith and Godly strength go hand in hand?
 - How does the battle of Jericho show that Godly strength and faith go hand and hand?
 - What role does God's word play in being strong and courageous? Read verses 7 and 8 to help answer this question.
- How do the following verses relate?
 - Joshua 1:9
 - 1 Cor. 16:13
 - Eph. 6:10
- What are ways we can teach the younger generation to be strong and courageous?

III. The Application

- What are the differences between Israel's battle against the Egyptians in Egypt and the battle against the Amalekites in the wilderness?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.

- *The Children of Israel were not under the power of Amalek – they were free men; and so we are not under the power of sin any longer. The yoke of sin has been broken by God’s grace from off our necks, and now we have to fight not as slaves against a master, but as freemen against a foe. Moses never said to the children of Israel while they were in Egypt, “Go, fight with Pharaoh.” Not at all; it is God’s work to bring us out of Egypt and make us his people, but when we are delivered from bondage, although it is God’s work to help us, we must be active in our cause. Now that we are alive from the dead we must wrestle with principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness if we are to overcome. – Charles Spurgeon.*

- **Read and discuss** Eph. 6:10-13.
- What is sobering about the fact that we need armor as Christians?
- Does it feel like your Christian walk is a battle or a war? Why or why not?
- **Read Ephesians 6:13.** What does “withstand” (ESV) or “resist” mean in this verse?
- The same word (resist) in Ephesians 6:13 is use in James 4:7. How do these two verses relate?
- **Read and Discuss** Eph. 6:14-19.
- Why is prayer so important when it comes to spiritual warfare?
- What are some practical ways you can be more intentional in praying for the saints at Country Oaks?

Final Payer –

- *We pray that you will be to us a Father of mercies and a God of consolation, so that you will make us followers of God as dear children, ever jealous over our hearts, and watchful over our ways; continually fearing to offend, and endeavoring to please you. You know, O Lord, all our temptations, and the sin that does so easily beset us. You know the devices of the enemy, and the deceitfulness of our own hearts. We pray you, good Lord, that you will arm us with the whole armor of God. Uphold us with your free Spirit, and watch over us for good evermore. – John Wesley 1703-1791*