

1. Motivate

What are some things we rely on for protection?

- locks
- fire arms
- security systems
- safety clothing: helmets, gloves, kneepads, chainsaw chaps, steel toed boots
- ear plugs
- breathing masks
- police, firemen
- periodic health checkups
- medicines – vaccinations,
- antibacterial soap, hand cleansers

2. Transition

Today, we look at how the Israelites were protected in a battle

- Believers live with the assurance that we are under the protective watch care of God
- We are always covered by God's protection

3. Bible Study

3.1 Stand Against Harm

Listen for a battle plan.

Exodus 17:8-10 (NIV) The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 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." 10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill.

What was the setting for the incident described in these verses?

- Israelites at Rephidim
- came under attack by Amalekites

What were the elements of the plan Moses offered for addressing this crisis?

- Joshua would gather fighting men
- assemble warriors
- Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to top of a hill
- Moses would take the staff of God in his hands
- this would symbolize God's power and protection as they went into battle

What challenge did Joshua have? What kind of courage did Joshua need to obey Moses?

- he's in charge
- he would have to choose the men
- remember these were a group of people who had been former slaves
- up to now they had not exactly been warriors
- get them together as a fighting force
- he would lead them
- he would determine their strategy

What are some of the daily challenges *you* face?

- we feel like we don't have enough time in the day
- finances are a worry
- kids struggling with their schooling
- worry about the times we live in with pressure of gangs, drug culture, school shootings, teen drinking
- personal struggles with temptation
- how to provide for our kids' education
- anti-Christian attitudes of parts of our culture
- craziness of current political events

How do the challenges we deal with make it seem like we're at war?

- they are ongoing, never ending
- sometimes they seem evil in their source
- we feel worn down
- takes courage, strategy to confront the problems
- we feel we cannot handle things on our own

Moses had the "staff of God". What do we have in our battles?

- guidance of God's Word
- presence and power of God's indwelling Holy Spirit
- God's promises
- power of prayer
- prayer of fellow believers
- the Body of Christ, the church as fellow spiritual warriors

3.2 God's Presence and Power Prevails

Listen for who needed help.

Exodus 17:10-13 (NIV) So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 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. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

What happened when Moses held up his hands?

- when Moses held up his hands (presumably with the staff of God), the battle went in favor of the Israelites
- when he tired and lowered his hands to rest, the Joshua and his fighting men began to lose
- a direct correlation between hands up ⇔ winning and hands down ⇔ losing

Aaron and Hur had courage to help Moses in what way?

- when he tired, they got him a place to sit
- when his arms tired, they helped hold them up
- one on either side

How had the “staff of God” previously been a symbol of God’s presence and power?

- to initially reassure Moses, God turned it into a snake, then back to a walking staff
- did the same thing before Pharaoh
- Moses used it when he held it out over the Red Sea and God parted the waters
- Moses struck a rock with the staff and water came out of the rock

What are some ways we may understand the significance of Moses holding his hands aloft?

- seems like a symbol of trusting God
- he had to demonstrate their faith in God in a tangible way
- we presume the Staff of God was maybe what he was holding in his hands
- it demonstrated God’s power once again
- it was God’s tool for Moses and the people

In what ways does God protect us in our battles?

- provision of finances
- provide fellow believers to support in prayer
- presence of God’s Spirit living within us
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Spiritual armor and weapons (look up Ephesians 6:13-18) – like seat belts ... no good if we don’t put them on
- God intervenes as we declare our trust and faith
- obedience of God’s commands and trust in His power and authority

1. Helmet of salvation – guards our minds
2. Breastplate of righteousness – guards our hearts, our emotions
3. Belt of Truth – God’s Truth (reality) ... web belt that holds our weapons and armor in place
4. Shoes of the Gospel – stand firm, advance against the enemy
5. Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God – used to claim God’s promises, to teach and instruct and witness
6. Shield of Faith – deflect “arrows” of doubt that come at us from Satan

In whose lives can you play the role of Aaron and Hur?

- aging parents
- our kids and grand kids
- fellow believers in our Bible studies, in our churches
- relatives, neighbors who are struggling with their own spiritual battles

3.3 Our Banner of Protection

Listen for what an altar was named.

Exodus 17:14-16 (NIV) 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 memory of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. 16 He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Why do you think He did so?

- write this down
- make sure to record what happened so everyone remembers it
- keep this as a journal of what God has done
- share it with Joshua

Why is it a good thing even for us to keep a written record, a journal of what God has done, is doing in our lives?

- we easily forget ... especially in the middle of a crisis
- over the years we would be able to see the many times where God has rescued, provided, intervened
- similar to a prayer request list ...
 - o write down needs as they occur,
 - o check them off as God answers
 - o include the date – sometimes quick, sometimes long term – but God’s timing is perfect
 - o include *how* God answered ... sometimes different than our initial idea of how we think it should happen

What name was given to the altar Moses built for the Lord?

- “The Lord is my Banner”
- God is the One who gave the victory
- Jehovah-Nissi
- it reminds us of the Power of God demonstrated in our spiritual battles
- we fight in the Name of Jehovah, The God Who IS

How can our actions and attitudes demonstrate that we serve the God who protects us?

- don’t succumb to the temptation to “run in circles scream and shout” response to problems as they occur
- neither do we go into a “blue funk” when facing a problem or a battle
- tell God you are trusting Him for the specific need you face
- be sure to thank God and give Him the credit and glory when He provides, when He gives the victory in the battle
- share with children and grandchildren how God’s power has specifically worked often in your life

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Trust.

- Have you accepted Jesus as your banner of forgiveness?
- If not, commit your life to Him and trust Him for salvation.

Pray.

- Specifically pray for individuals this week to experience the presence and protection of Christ in their lives.
- Pray also that these people would be keenly aware Christ is the One who goes with them.

Be bold.

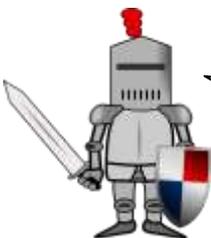
- If you're facing a difficult assignment from God, step out in trust because "Christ goes with You".
- Rest confidently in His presence and protection.

The Lord is Our Banner Word Search



Look at the word list on the right. Find those words in the grid on the left. Be a good soldier and find them even though they go up, down, forwards, backwards and even diagonally.

- JOSHUA
- MOSES
- FIGHT
- HILL
- STAFF
- AARON
- HUR
- HILL
- WINNING
- AMALEKITES
- TIRED
- STONE
- STEADY
- SUNSET
- OVERCAME
- ARMY
- SWORD
- SCROLL
- MEMORY
- HEAVEN
- ALTAR
- BANNER
- LIFTED
- THRONE
- WAR
- GENERATION



Solution and more Family Activities at <https://tinyurl.com/y99obbqt>