WEEK OF

JULY 18, 2010

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE DISCUSSION

TOPIC: NEW GENERATION WARRIORS

Key Scriptures:
Judges 2:1 – 3:8; 1 Timothy 6:3-12

Points to Make

- God sent His angel with a word to Israel:
- *"I* am the One who brought you up out of Egypt. *I* am the One who made a covenant with your fathers. *I* delivered them, protected them and brought them into the land I promised them.
- "Now, I want you—this new generation—to enter into the same covenant with Me, NOT with the inhabitants of the lands you've conquered."
- Israel chose to disobey God and the gods of these nations became thorns and snares to them.
- When we follow after the things the world has to offer, we may think it'll make our lives easier. In fact, for God's people, it makes life a whole lot harder!
- We're no longer a part of the existing world system. We've been called out and separated unto God. It's simply impossible for us to be just like everybody else.
- When the people received this message, they wept in sorrow and brought sacrifices to the Lord, but they did not change their actions!
- God requires obedience before sacrifice. Sacrifice never replaces covenant.
- The Israelites followed the Lord only as long as they had Joshua pushing them—they never got to the place where they developed their own will, desire, determination, or the "want-to" to serve God.
- God sets a test for each new generation to see if they will learn to fight for what they have received and whether they will follow the instructions of God, which was delivered to them through their fathers (Judges 3:1-2, 4).
- God has always sought to teach us by His Word, and have us obey by a simple act of our will.
- Human beings tend to devalue things they didn't have to work or fight for.

Sermon in a Sentence: Every generation of Christians must learn spiritual warfare–there is no other option.

- This is the reality behind God's decision not to have Joshua conquer Canaan in its totality. He left something for the next generation to do.
- With His knowledge of our make-up, our temperament and how easily we take things for granted, God puts us in situations where we'll have to fight.
- We must fight to maintain our covenant of salvation. Our prayer life. Our worship and praise in our daily devotion to God. Our holiness and separation from the world and its systems.
- Let us not anger God by failing to keep covenant with Him. Instead, let us honour Him through our faithful adherence to His Word and His will for our lives and our church!
- New Generation – let's learn to fight!

Discussion Tools

- Humans tend to take things for granted. Do you value things more when you obtain them easily or when you have to work hard for them?
- Looking at the ice-breaker once again, in which you discussed the freedoms that people have fought for, what type of weapons were used in these struggles?
- 2 Corinthians 10:4 says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." Name some of the strongholds that may exist today and what type of weapons we as Christians can use to pull them down.

Prayer Time

Lord, thank You for Your presence in our lives. Please help us in our fight to keep hold of that good thing which was committed unto us.

ICE-BREAKER: Throughout history, people have fought to gain a particular freedom. Name and discuss some of these events. What freedoms were people fighting for?

NOTES