

BATTLE CRY

WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

There is a war raging all around us, whether we acknowledge it or not. The forces of evil are at work in the world, and we have to decide where we stand. In our new series, Battle Cry, we'll talk through the story of David and what it means to fight the battles we face every day.

Scripture:

1 Samuel 17:1-3 — “Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.”

Matthew 12:30 - “Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.” - Jesus

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have a strong allegiance to a single side of any contentious rivalry?
 - Where do you stand on Coke v. Pepsi? Mac v. PC? Dunkin Donuts v. Krispy Kreme?
2. When you read Jesus’ words in Matthew 12:30, what do you think the implications are for the so-called “cultural Christianity”: when we identify ourselves as Christians but do not actually follow Jesus?
3. The picture 1 Samuel gives us makes it obvious which side any single Israelite or Philistine is on, but in our world, the separation between Children of God & Enemies of God is not always that obvious. Going to church or reading the Bible aren’t necessarily reliable indicators.
 - How can you be sure of where you stand?
4. If you are standing on the side of the Children of God, what steps can you take to make sure you stay there? If you are standing on the side of Enemies of God, do you desire to change sides? What is one step you can take today to do that?
5. What are you doing right now that is going to matter 100 years from now?

Take the Next Step:

Think about that area of your life where you find yourself powerlessly doing things you do not want to do, the relationship you wish was peaceful, but which you refuse to remedy, or the habit you despise but continue to enjoy. There is nothing you cannot overcome with Jesus. What step do you need to take to let Jesus into that area? Who do you need to have a conversation with to get some help?