

BATTLE CRY

WEEK 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

In our current series, Battle Cry, we have focused on the truth that we have an enemy who wants to disrupt and distract us from our walk with Jesus. This week, we begin a conversation about why bad things happen to good people. We serve a good God, but evil exists. This conversation can be delicate & emotional. It can be frustrating and upsetting to wrestle with the ways an imperfect world impacts our lives. Whether you are reading as an individual or as a group, be ready to offer a little extra grace this week & do not miss next week's message.

Scripture:

Matthew 7:7-11 — “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.”

Philippians 4:12-13 — “I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever received an especially great or especially awful gift?
2. In Matthew 7, Jesus tells us to “keep on asking,” “keep on seeking”.
 - What is it about following Jesus that requires this sort of persistence on our part?
 - Why do you think Jesus includes the contrast between us as sinful people and God as a good father?
3. When have you been rewarded for persistently seeking Jesus in a particular season or circumstance?
4. Is there a situation or hardship that makes it difficult for you to focus on anything outside of that situation, much less the satisfaction & strength that is yours in Jesus? What can you do today to seek the strength of Jesus, to “learn the secret of living in every situation”?
5. When you choose not to persistently seek Jesus, why do you make that choice? Are you in a rush? Afraid of where it might lead? Unwilling to give up control?

Take the Next Step:

Paul's focus in Philippians 4 is one to aspire to. Where do you fall short of finding your purpose, worth, and status--not in what you have or what you are experiencing--but in the fact you belong to God? What step could you take this week to shift your perspective away from your achievements & strength and instead focus on the strength Jesus offers you?