

BATTLE CRY

WEEK 4 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. Although we serve a good God, evil exists and bad things happen. As followers of Jesus, we face a choice: let our tragedy shut us down or let Jesus' triumph spur us on.

Scripture:

Isaiah 43:1-3 - "But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior"

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced anything this week that didn't quite go according to plan? How did it turn out?
2. In this passage in Isaiah 43, God makes no promises that life will be easy, in fact, he uses phrases like "when you walk through the fire." What role do trials & tough times play in developing our faith?
3. This passage gives us a glimpse at a few of the many roles God may play in your life: it says he creates, forms, redeems, calls you by name, is with you, and saves you. Is there one of these that is especially meaningful to you right now?
4. In the message this weekend, we discussed the idea that crucifixion leads to resurrection and that God does not punish his children, but he does prepare them.
 - Is there experience in your past that might have felt like punishment at the time, but turned out to be preparation?
 - Do you see an area in your life right now where God may be bringing about resurrection or preparing you for something greater?
5. We all deal with tragedy, we all hurt, we all suffer, but sometimes it seems like dealing with other people's tragedy is even more difficult. How can you love someone well when they are in the midst of a tragedy?

Take the Next Step:

We each get to make the choice every day to be defined by either tragedy or triumph. Are you letting yourself be defined by tragedy? If so, what is one step you could take towards claiming the triumph that is yours in Jesus? If you're not in the midst of tragedy, who do you know who might be? What can you do to love them this week?