

# BATTLE CRY

## WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Introduction:

If there is anything our *Battle Cry* series has taught us, it's that a life spent following Jesus will not be free of obstacles. Those obstacles may take the form of active opposition, or they may look much less sinister: like the input of a well-meaning acquaintance or even our own laziness. No matter what form it comes in, anything that keeps us stuck and stagnant is not our friend. We have to take Next Steps.

### Scripture:

1 Samuel 17:38-40 — “Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. ‘I can’t go in these,’ he protested to Saul. ‘I’m not used to them.’ So David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.”

Hebrews 12:1-2a — “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.”

### Discussion Questions:

1. What excites you most about spring? What are you looking forward to?
2. In the 1 Samuel passage, why do you think Saul gave David his armor?
  - Why did David choose to leave the armor behind?
3. Hebrews 12 draws a comparison between following Jesus & running a race. Where do you see the most similarity between these two pursuits?
4. When have you received advice or direction from someone who, like Saul, had your best interest at heart but actually distracted or delayed you from accomplishing what God had for you?
5. When you think of your relationship with Jesus as a race, what are the weights you have had to strip off in the past? How did that change your relationship with Jesus and with other people?
6. What do you think God is calling you to next?
  - If you're not sure, is it because you haven't asked?
  - What is stopping you from taking that Next Step?

### Take the Next Step:

God's not through with you. If you find yourself stuck, it's not because that's where he wants you. What's keeping you where you are? Have you made excuses? You have a Next Step. Yours may not be the same as your neighbor's or your child's or your friend's, but you have one; we all do. Ask God what it is, listen, strip off some weights and go run the race.

