

Small Group notes: 7/10/18. GOD ANSWERS (Exodus 17 verse 8-16)

Welcome

Share with the group a time in your life when you have had to depend on God for something.

Worship

Psalm 33:20-22

We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.

In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we put our hope in you.

In today's passage we read about Moses lifting his hands in prayer before God, utterly depending on him for deliverance. Sing or reflect on the song 'Waiting Here for You', remembering our dependence on God which is so easy to forget day-to-day.

Waiting Here For You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF5i3Z7M5Vo>

Word

- What is Moses' first response when the Amalekites attack the Israelites? What would your response have been?
- Why do you think he leaves the battle and 'stands on the top of the hill'? How easy do we find it to take a step back from the situations we are in and seek God? How can we find practical ways of doing this?
- Why do you think it is that the battle is only won when Moses keeps his hands raised in prayer? God could have won the battle without Moses doing this. Why does he choose to use Moses in this way?
- What reasons do you think Moses had for taking Aaron and Hur with him up the hill? What are the advantages of praying with others? How do you think we could better support one another in prayer and also intercede for the situations around us?
- Why do think Moses gave his altar the name 'The Lord is My Banner'? (A banner is a rallying point for troops and a way of identifying and unifying a particular group of people)

Witness

What do you think it means to say 'the Lord is my banner' and identify ourselves as followers of Jesus in our particular context?

Spend some time interceding, as Moses Aaron and Hur did, for situations bigger than ourselves: for the building the church is hoping to acquire on

the high street, for our local communities, for the church nationwide –
thanking God that, in giving us the gift of prayer, God gives us ‘the dignity
of causality’ (Pascal)