

## Message Discussion Guide THE DIVINE WARRIOR

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. Bart Box*

*August 8, 2010*

*Nahum*

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

### **Connect . . .**

*Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.*

#### **Option 1**

Invite learners to share what comes to mind when they think of a warrior. Lead them to describe characteristics that a warrior possesses. Explain that today we will discover the picture of the Divine Warrior, not based on our understanding of soldiers and wars, but rather upon the character of God.

#### **Option 2**

Ask learners to consider why we often focus on pictures of God as a father rather than a warrior. Lead them to compare and contrast characteristics of God that might fall into one or both descriptions. Explain that today we will discover how we can find comfort and encouragement in understanding God as the Divine Warrior.

### **Review the Message . . .**

#### **The Divine Warrior in Nahum**

- The idea of God as a warrior is...
  - Rooted in the character of God.
    - God is jealous.
    - God is just.
    - God is good.
  - Expressive of the sovereignty of God.
    - Nineveh's power was unrivaled in Nahum's day.
    - God's power is unparalleled in any age.
  - Critical in the judgment of God.
    - This judgment is terrifying for the enemies of God.
    - This judgment is liberating for the people of God.
- The bottom line from Nahum: our God reigns.

### **Discussion**

- Read Nahum 1:1. To what nation and people was the prophecy of Nahum given?
- Enlist learners to read Nahum 1:2, 1:3 and 1:7. What characteristics of a warrior are ascribed to God in these verses?
- Considering Nahum 1:3, what does knowing that God is both slow to anger and that He does not clear the guilty tell us about His justice?
- Read Nahum 1:12. According to this verse, how does God's power stand in relation

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to man's power?

- Enlist learners to read Nahum 1:14 and 2:13. How are the messages in these verses terrifying for the enemies of God but liberating for the people of God?
- What is the overall point of the book of Nahum?

### Application . . .

- What does our world today have in common with the Ninevite recipients of Nahum's prophecy?
- How does our perspective of God as a warrior change when we consider it from the vantage point of His character as opposed to our own ideas about warriors?
- How does an understanding of God's power over His enemies affect the way we live as His people in a hostile world?
- In what ways can knowing the terror of God's judgment that unredeemed sinners face motivate us to make His salvation known to them?

## The Divine Warrior in the New Testament

- We are born in the context of war.
  - Because of sin, we are in captivity to the Adversary.
  - Indeed, all of creation lies in the power of the Evil One.
- But we are not abandoned to the control of Satan.
  - Christ overcame the forces of evil during His life.
  - Christ triumphed over all enemies in His death.
  - Christ extends His kingdom even now through His church.
  - Christ will reign on the earth upon His return.

### Discussion

- Read Ephesians 6:11-12. With whom are the people of God at war?
- Enlist learners to read Romans 7:14-23 and 8:18-23. What do these verses tell us about the power sin has over the lives of unbelievers and all creation?
- Read 1 Peter 5:8. What picture of the Adversary does this verse present? What does he seek to do with us?
- What examples from Jesus' life demonstrate how He overcame the forces of evil?
- Read Colossians 2:13-15. How do the people of God benefit from his triumph over evil in His death?
- Enlist a learner to read Revelation 19:11-16. According to these verses, what type of king will Jesus be upon His return?

### Application . . .

- How does understanding that our struggle is with spiritual forces of evil affect the way we interact with people enslaved to that evil?
- As Christ-followers what power or control does sin have over our lives?

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- How does Christ's triumph over evil affect the way we live today? How does it affect our future?
- How does Christ extend His kingdom through the Church?

### The Divine Warrior in Our Lives

- Be trusting in the cross of Christ for forgiveness.
- Be thankful for the victory of Christ over evil.
- Be encouraged in the mission of Christ to the world.
- Be confident in the reign of Christ both now and forever.

### Discussion

- Read John 8:31-47. What does it mean to be set free in Jesus? What are the results of this freedom?
- Enlist learners to read 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 and 1 John 5:1-5. What is the victory described in these two passages?
- Enlist a learner to read Romans 1:16. According to this verse, what is the gospel?
- Read Romans 8:31-39. What does this passage have to say about Jesus' reign in the present and not just the future?

### Application . . .

- How does a right understanding of our freedom in Christ affect the way we live?
- In what ways does Christ's victory over evil enable us to live as His warriors?
- How are we equipped to join Christ in His war against the spiritual forces of the evil one?
- How does knowing Jesus as the Divine Warrior who reigns as King encourage us to live for Him boldly and confidently?