

## Aug 27 – “YHWH Nissi” – Leader’s Guide

### Read Exodus 17:8-16

1. Moses names the war memorial against Amalek "YHWH Nissi" meaning YHWH is my banner. Banner in this sense is a military signal. What would it mean to you if you were to consider God as a military signal?

*It can mean that God is your victory, your conquest, your mission accomplished, implying that life is a battle that is waged, a struggle of combat or warfare, and that God fights with us, and that God has won the fight for us.*

2. God placed a holy ban on Amalek meaning that they were marked as a people devoted to utter destruction because of their unprovoked aggression against Israel. How do we as Christians reckon with the military history of Israel in connection to the Christian understanding of spiritual warfare?

*The topic is very complicated, but the early Church Fathers interpreted the Old Testament warfare narratives to be spiritual, connecting the military experience of Israel as the spiritual recapitulation of the Church's warfare against satanic forces and sin within ourselves. This does not diminish the descriptive significance of Israel's history, but as a continuation of their struggle in time against all foes, whether politically or spiritually.*

### Read Matthew 12:22-29

1. Jesus said that it is by God's Spirit that He exorcises the spirit of darkness from the world, meaning that God's kingdom has indeed come to besiege the gates of hell. What does it look like today for the Church to "lay siege" against the kingdom of darkness?

*The Church is called to push back against the darkness as light dispelling the shadows. This looks like every human attempt to fight against injustice, falsehoods, corruption, poverty, evil, and destruction, whenever and wherever truth, love, and grace are promoted and embodied without the use of violence.*

2. Christians are mobilized to besiege hell under the banner of the cross. What does it mean for God's people to rally under the banner of the cross, and what does it look like in day-to-day living?

*The military strategy of the Church is to die to herself, to her sins, to her ego, to her want for power, just as Jesus died by giving His Life for everyone. Every human attempt to sacrifice oneself for the sake of others follows after the banner of the cross.*