

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

For the remainder of the Battle Ready series, we'll focus solely on the powerful weapons that we've been given by God to use in the fight. This week, we're looking at the powerful weapon of God's word, and how He uses it to raise up a powerful army that will fight courageously with it. As the Big Idea states, **the WORD of God ACTIVATES the ARMY of God**. Here is how God's word achieves that:

1. **The word of God is ALIVE:** Because the word of God is alive, it brings life TO us and then it brings life THROUGH us. The word of God to Ezekiel brought his hope alive (because God's word said that what was ruined was going to be rebuilt), and then God's word THROUGH Ezekiel brought bones to life as a mighty army.
2. **The word of God is ACTIVE:** When things are alive but not active, they tend to become dead weight, right? A couch potato. A consumer. But God's word isn't a couch potato. It's living AND active, and that means it will accomplish God's purpose by activating God's people. He's raising an army that will PARTNER with His promises by PROPHESYING His word!
3. **The word of God is ACCURATE:** Many of us have heard the Bible compared to a sword, and so we picture a large machete or pirate's sword, but God's word is more precise and personal than that. It's much more like a scalpel than a sword, and when Paul tells the Ephesians to take up the weapon of the Word in Ephesians 6:17, the word for "sword" is a hand-held dagger, and the word for "word" is "rhema," which means His word comes alive in you as a personal weapon given to you for your battle!

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- This week is all about the power of God's word to activate God's army. Why do you think God wants us to be active participants in the battle? Why doesn't He just do it Himself?
- Read Revelation 3:16 and Romans 12:11. How does God feel about apathy? Read Zephaniah 1:12-13 to find out what happens to people who are apathetic (complacent).
- The Greek word in Hebrews 4:12 for "active" is related to our word for "energy" and yet it means "effective" more than "powerful." Effective implies that it is power for DOING or ACCOMPLISHING something. What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tell us the Bible is effective in doing?
- God told Ezekiel to "prophecy to the breath" (Ezekiel 37:9) and tell it to fill the bodies of the dry bones. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, who breathed the Bible? What are some of the ways that God breathes into us with the Bible?
- What are some verses that have "come alive" for you recently? In what ways has that "rhema" word become a weapon that you have activated in the battles you're facing? What "dead" situations are you currently facing that need the life of God? We know that there is power in the SpokenWORD of God, so speak and pray the truth of Proverbs 4:20-22 over one another. God's Word is LIFE to those who find them. Thank Him for Psalm 119:25 as well. His word raises us from the dust (like the dry bones in Ezekiel 37)!