

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

This week, Brigette shared with us about the next powerful weapon that God has given to His army. For some, it may seem strange to think of worship in a militant way, but there is so much power in the revelation that **worship is a weapon!** (Remember our definition of worship? It's "reverent honor, adoring honor, full of admiration, to have or express feelings of profound adoration.") Here are 2 specific things that happen when we utilize this awesome weapon in the battle:

1. **Battles are won when we worship:** In 2 Chronicles 20:1-30, God's people were facing a battle against an enemy that seems too powerful, but God gave them a unique battle plan for winning: send the worshippers out first (v. 21). When they were obedient, something amazing happened in verse 22: as they worshipped, God won the battle! It's no different with us today. Battles are won in worship!
2. **Others are released when we worship:** I love the story found in Acts 16:16-40! Paul and Silas find themselves in prison, and the Bible says that not even the worst conditions could keep them from worshipping! But that's not the WHOLE story!! About midnight, as they were singing and praising, not only did their prison door open, but verse 26 says that ALL THE PRISON DOORS were opened! Our worship has the power to set others free!!!

Discuss

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

- Remember that it's not enough to simply learn about the weapons that we've been given; God wants us to **engage** the battle with them (use them in the fight!). So, before you go any further in this guide, engage in worship by picking out, playing and worshipping to 2 worship songs.
- At The Gathering, we value the **unexplainable worship** of Jesus. "We value **passionate worship** and expect His presence to overwhelm us with awe of Him and acceptance by Him." Take the time to read these scriptures and discuss what we learn about worship from them. (Psalm 89:15; Psalm 114:7; Acts 2:28; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18)
- Have you ever thought about worship as a weapon for overcoming the enemy? Have you ever worshipped at home with your family? By yourself? Why or why not? According to Deuteronomy 6:4-9, where are some places that we should be engaged in worship through the word? What is the promise that accompanies this act of obedience (hint: see Deut. 6:2-3)?
- Sometimes we can fall prey to the lie that worship has to always look the same, but 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 reveals all kinds of different ways that the Israelites worshipped. Take turns reading these verses and share the different types of worship mentioned. How has worship taken on different forms for you throughout the various seasons of your life? As our styles of worship change, how can we make sure that the OBJECT of our worship (that's Jesus!) doesn't?
- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- There is SO MUCH in the Bible about worship and how God fights for us in worship, and far too much for one week or Growth Guide. Here are some passages you can use **FOR FURTHER STUDY:** John 4:23-24; Psalm 100; Exodus 14:13-14; Deuteronomy 3:22; Psalm 35:1.