

START

Take a moment, go around the circle and introduce yourself. Each person needs to share two things about themselves that someone may not know; one thing true and one thing false, then let the group guess which one is true about you.

SHARE

The Lord Appears to Solomon // 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace, the Lord appeared to him at night and said:

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

When things start going bad for you, what tends to be your natural tendency?

What does God promise to us in this passage?

God asks us to humble ourselves, pray, seek his face and turn from our wicked ways. Why do you think it is in this order?

Read Proverbs 15:33, 1 Peter 5:5-6 & Joshua 3:5. What is God saying to you through these scriptures?

GROW

As Shawn mentioned in the message, we can often try to fight our own battles in life only to find ourselves in a losing battle. As we grow in faith and pray, we begin to see God intervene in our lives by providing, guiding and directing our steps. Take a look at the story of Joshua and Moses:

Exodus 17:10-14

So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it."

Why was the battle won in this case?

What is the importance of Moses' friends holding his hands up? What does that say about our relationships?

Why did God tell Moses to specifically "make sure that Joshua hears" the story?

Have you ever had an experience where you thought you were in control and won a battle, only to realize it was God at work behind the scenes?

 **MOVE**

Now that we have taken some time to reflect on how God wants to be involved in our lives. We need to humble ourselves, pray, seek his face and turn from our wicked ways. It is not easy to admit we need to humble ourselves, but it is clear that all of us can fall into the trap of believing we are "self-sufficient." Pick one of the questions below and share what step you are going to take toward God this week:

In what way do you think you need to humble yourself?

*How are you going to make time and space for yourself to pray this week?**

*As a suggestion, if your mind tends to wander when you pray, get a blank journal and write down your prayers and concerns to God. Then when He answers those prayers, write down how He answered your prayers and watch your faith grow stronger.

 **PRAY**

Celebrate the growth you have experienced this session together – spiritually and relationally. Take a moment and see how you could pray for each other this week or if anyone has an important need to be met. Let's put into practice what we have been learning by praying for each other.

James 4:2

You do not have because you do not ask God.

How can we pray for you this week? Specifically, what battle are you in that you need God to intervene for you?