

Weekly Study

Undefeated | Ryan Wekenman | June 12, 2022

**A note to leaders: there have been two additional questions added to the “grow” and “move” portions of the Weekly entitled ‘Dive Deeper’. This is designed for you to help guide your group into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other, and take an additional step for owning their relationship with Jesus throughout their week.*

START

Go around and check in with your group with the following questions:

- What is one way you saw God move in your life this week? It could be something small or big — all of it is worth celebrating!
- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday’s sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God?

SHARE

This weekend Ryan continued our Grit series with a message about how God is undefeated in every battle. We have doubled down on the idea of grit over the last three weeks and how it helps us step out and press on in difficult situations. He shared five stories from scripture to demonstrate how God wins our battles for us as we focus on worshipping Him.

GROW

Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-22.

Do you ever feel as though you are fighting three enemies at once? The people of Judah felt this struggle tangibly. If you read this full chapter, you find that the people did everything they felt made sense to do when faced with an impossible battle. Finally, King Jehoshaphat instructs the people to praise the Lord, giving thanks in the middle of the battle — and then we see in verse 22 that the Lord set ambushes against their enemies and they were defeated.

As you study scripture you will find that every detail is intentional and shows us more about the character of God. The meaning of the name Judah is “praise”, so in this detail we find a piece of insight: they were literally a people of praise! In the same way, we were created to be a people of praise in every situation. God is consistent in his character, so we can learn to trust that the same One who set ambushes for His peoples’ enemies is the same one who knows exactly what to do to win the battle in front of you.

- What is the battle you are currently facing that you've done all you know to do to resolve, but now need to lift your hands in praise and surrender to God to secure your victory?
- What is the most challenging part of surrendering that battle to the Lord? How can your group best support you?
- *Dive Deeper*: challenge each person in your group to pick their own "fight" song to worship to when faced with a battle this week. Come back next week ready to share that song with each other and the ways you saw God move in the midst of that battle, whether it's with an answer to prayer, a resolution to the problem or something you learned about God and/or yourself as a follower of Jesus.

M O V E

Read Acts 16:23-26.

Paul took Jesus' message to the ends of the earth and he ended up in prison for it. Before he saw the fruit of a church being planted, he was chained up. The battle that Paul and Silas faced was intense and extreme: they are fastened to the floor with heavy chains around their feet, but they are confident that God will still prove himself faithful and undefeated. Despite being chained up, they know they can still raise their hands in worship because they understand what we often forget — that worship is a weapon and when we fix our attention on Him, chains are broken.

When you read this passage, you see that at about midnight, Paul and Silas were singing praises to God. Midnight is often thought to be the darkest time of night. In the same way, we can learn from Paul and Silas and how they worshipped so powerfully — when things seemed like they were at their darkest, both on the clock and in their lives — that the foundations of the prison were shaken to the point of not only Paul and Silas being freed from their chains, but the other prisoners were freed as well.

- What about this passage challenges your understanding about God's faithfulness in your life? What about it encourages your faith?
- If you don't feel like you are in a season of feeling chained, who in your life can you encourage as they worship in anticipation of the victory that God will bring about in their lives?
- *Dive Deeper*: find one person in your group that you can commit to worshipping alongside this week, whether it's a spouse, family member or friend. Keep track of both the big and

small ways you see God go to battle on your behalf to break chains and let it boost your faith this week.

P R A Y

Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.