

WHEN GOD MOVES

WEEK 4 GROUP GUIDE

Prayer That Changes Outcomes

MESSAGE RECAP

ISAIAH 36-37

In life, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and knocked down by challenges. Hezekiah faced this when the king of Assyria tried to discourage him through lies and intimidation, hoping to make the people doubt both Hezekiah and God. Instead of giving in to fear, Hezekiah surrendered the battle to the Lord in prayer, and God fought for him. In the same way, God calls us to trust Him with our battles. Jesus came to win the battle for us, and we can rest in knowing He is fighting on our behalf.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- How did your battle plan go this past week?
- Read Isaiah 36:13-15
 - How can the enemy use words to knock us down?
- If you feel comfortable, what are some lies the enemy has been telling you?
- Read Isaiah 37: 5-7 together.
 - "Don't be afraid because of the words you have heard..."
Why is it often so easy to let the words of others shape our fears and influence how we think?
- Hezekiah gave the Lord his problems, and God gave him peace. What area of your life do you need to give to God?
- Read Colossians 2:13-15 together
 - How does it feel knowing that Jesus fought the battle and defeated death for your sake?
 - What are ways you are able to walk in this freedom?
- End your time in prayer

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GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 11:28-30 together.

Jesus not only fights the battle for us, but he invites us into rest.

In the times of Jesus, a "Yoke" was a heavy wooden harness to be placed on two animals together to pull a plow or cart. One animal couldn't move faster or take on more weight than the other, but rather they had an equal amount of weight to carry.

When Jesus invites us to take up his yoke, He is offering us into partnership with him. He offers to carry our burdens alongside us and lead us into freedom. Just as the animals walked together- Jesus desires for us to walk closely with him. He wants us to learn His way of living- through grace, peace, and dependence on the Father.

It's also important to understand the context of Jesus' words. Many people in that time believed they had to earn God's favor through religious knowledge, good works, and strict obedience to the law. The weight of trying to achieve salvation left them burdened by guilt, shame, and the fear of failure. But, Jesus offers a different way.

Jesus' yoke is easy and his burden is light; His yoke is the load of repentance and faith.

He did what we could not do- a sinless existence and obedience through faith. We are no longer striving to earn our salvation- we receive it as a gift of grace. He offers us his yoke because its not held down by sin and shame, but rather freedom and grace.

We were never meant to carry life's burdens alone. Give him your burdens- your failures, your heartaches, and your temptations. He wants to carry them with you- and lead you to true rest.

We don't have to do it all alone. In fact, we aren't meant to.

So, come to Jesus. Cling to Him. Trust Him with your burdens, and allow Him to lead you into His peace.

- What burdens are you still carrying on your own that Jesus is inviting you to lay down and walk with Him instead?