

REACHING YOUR DESTINY



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REACHING YOUR DESTINY

Session 1 *Fulfilling Your Destiny*

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. What are your hopes, dreams, and desires for your future? What are some of the dreams that you've had in the past, but given up on?
- B. What are some of your dreams in serving God and reaching the destiny that He has for you? Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- C. Brick Cliff has struggled to reach his own dreams and desires in the past. Even when the Cliffs were convinced that they were doing the will of God in the Congo, they had to leave. Brick's work, his dreams, and his destiny seemed to end in failure.

II. NEVER GIVE UP, EVER!!!

(4 REASONS - BECAUSE:) JUDGES 20:18-33

- A. God's purposes aren't always easy.
 1. Just because you don't succeed immediately doesn't mean it wasn't God's plan.
 - Before they went into battle, the Israelites asked God if they should fight and He said yes. Despite being in God's will, 10% of the Israelites died in battle and twice in a row they were defeated by the Benjamites. It was not until the third time that the Israelites went into battle, that God gave them victory over the Benjamites.
 2. Christians often think that when they believe God wants them to do something, and it goes well, this shows that they heard God correctly; but, if it goes poorly or there are significant problems, that they must have misheard God and missed His will.

3. In Matthew 14:28-29 Peter started walking on the water and then began to sink. Does this show that he was out of God's will when he tried to walk on water?
 4. Have you given up on a dream because it was too hard? Never give up, ever!
- B. Permanent victory often follows temporary defeat.
1. We serve a God who brings good out of bad.
 2. Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
 3. In the story of the King and his friend, we see that positive outcomes are not always readily visible, or quick in coming.
 4. The failure and defeat that seems so bad today is often followed by success tomorrow.
- C. Seeming failure is often God's foundation for true victory.
1. The Israelites won using an ambush. The ambush only worked because the two previous defeats had given the Benjamites a false confidence. God had a plan from before the first battle. The plan was that the Israelites failure would be the foundation for their victory.
 2. Salvation comes through the seeming defeat of God's plan. When Christ was on the cross, God's victory was not visible to the disciples. What would end as incredible victory over death seemed to be an utter failure to the disciples.

John.12:24 Unless a grain of wheat die and fall into the ground it abides...
 3. When Thomas Edison was trying to create a working light bulb he had thousands of failures before he found the right material and the right way to make a bulb work.
 4. Albert Einstein once said that genius is "1% intelligence and 99% hard work"

- D. Persevering puts you in the center of God's will.
1. The Cliff's failure to meet the needs of the pastors in the Congo made them look for a new ministry which could work when missionaries were not present.
 2. After having left the Congo, the Cliffs ended up working in many countries which they never expected to work in. This gave them many contacts in difference languages.
 3. As a result of not being able to work in the Congo, the Cliffs gained much knowledge and experience, as well as credibility, working in a variety of other types of ministry.
 4. The result of what first seemed like a failure in the Cliff's ministry, turned out to be an incredible success with over 900 Bible schools started around the world. Thousands of lives have now been changed as a result of initial defeat and failure.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. When we are in a hole, like the story of the donkey, we need to remember to give thanks and worship to God. We can shake off all the "dirt" that the enemy would throw at us; we can "stomp" and "dance" our way to victory.
- B. Never, never give up. God's ways are not always easy, but He will always keep His promises.
- C. Persevere in your dreams, in your call, and in your work. Dream big dreams for God and persevere in them.
- D. Gal. 6:9 "Do not grow weary in well doing, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up."

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have one or two people share about a dream that they have reached by persevering.
2. Discuss the idea "obstacles can either make you bitter or better."
3. Is every "dream" we have for our lives from God?
4. What are some ways a person can work towards a dream?

QUIZ

1. God can use failure as a foundation for true victory. TRUE OR FALSE
2. Permanent victory often follows temporary defeat. TRUE OR FALSE
3. Which tribe had committed a serious sin in Judges 20?
 - a. The tribe of Israel
 - b. The tribe of Philistines
 - c. The tribe of Judah
 - d. The tribe of Benjamin
4. What did the tribe of Israel do before they went to battle?
 - a. They took a vote to decide what to do
 - b. They asked God what to do
 - c. They didn't ask anyone what to do
 - d. They consulted with the Philistines
5. What does the opposition that we experience show?
 - a. We are out of God's will
 - b. We have an enemy who works against us
 - c. We should give up and find something else to do
 - d. We are not spiritual enough

SELF STUDY

1. Write down some dreams you've had in the past and given up on.
2. Write down some dreams you currently have.
3. Spend time in prayer and seeking God about these dreams. Share them with a trusted friend who has a good walk with God and discuss them.
4. Talk together about some steps you can take towards reaching the dreams you believe are from God.
5. Memorize Galatians 6:9
"Do not grow weary in well doing, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up."

REACHING YOUR DESTINY

Session 2

Hindrances to Reaching Your Destiny

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Genesis 25:29-34** (NIV) 29 Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. 30 He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) 31 Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." 32 "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" 33 But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.
- B. According to Hebrew tradition, it was the right of the firstborn (in this case, Esau) to inherit everything of significance from his father.
- C. We read the story of Esau and judge him, wondering how anyone could be so stupid?
- **Hebrews 12:16-17** (NIV) 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.
- D. We need to understand the story more and how we are tempted to behave the same way.
- E. Many people in the Bible trade their destinies for "beans," including Adam and Eve, and David with Bathsheba. Many celebrities today give up their good lives for the temporary pleasures of alcohol, drugs, and sexual sins, and then find themselves addicted and their lives ruined.
- F. What are the "beans" of our lives? Sometimes our beans are not even necessarily "bad" things, but even too much TV, too many movies, and too much recreation can take our time away from God, and can hinder our destinies.

II. GOD HAS CREATED YOU FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE AND DESTINY

- A. As the First born, Esau should have inherited physical and spiritual blessings.
1. He should have inherited the most property.
 2. He should have inherited the primary blessing for his descendants.
 3. He should have ended up in the line of the Messiah.
 4. He should have been named in "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." By right of birth, people should have said "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Esau", but Esau gave up that birth right for beans.
- B. Instead, Esau made a trade: beans for blessing, beans for destiny.
1. He traded temporary pleasure for long term success.
 2. He gave into today's temptation and destroyed tomorrow's destiny.
 3. He shunned self-control and chose temporary fulfillment of a bodily pleasure (food).
 4. He didn't think or care about the future.
- C. Many of us, to greater and lesser degrees, trade our destiny and future for temporary pleasure. Even something as simple as eating too much and being overweight could potentially keep us from the destiny that God has for us. Realizing this, it is up to each of us to make a decision to trade the temporal pleasures, for long term gain.
- D. You must work out your own salvation, because God is working in you. When we decide to get serious about our destiny, God does too. God will meet us half-way, but he requires us to take the initiative, and requires us to exercise our own will.

- In the story of the prodigal son, the father permitted the son to be a “person of beans”. The father did not force his will on the son, but gave the son the freedom to make choices on his own. When the son realized that he was no longer in position to reach his destiny, but instead was eating with pigs, he made the choice to return to the father. As soon as the father saw that the son had decided to repent and return, he came running out to meet him. (Luke 15:18-20)
- E. How do we get back on track? Begin with obedience. What has God’s Word and Spirit been saying to you? You have your own destiny to reach, and God will partner with you to reach it.
- F. God has a destiny for each of us. It includes:
1. A significant contribution to others during this life.
 2. Leading others to Christ and populating heaven.
 3. Our own blessings and our own significance.
 4. Giving from our overflow into the greatest harvest in earth’s history.
 5. **Romans 12:6-8** (NIV) We have different gifts...if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously..”
- G. Keys to reaching our destiny:
1. We must know we have a destiny.
 2. We must develop our relationship with God to learn our destiny.
 3. We must keep our eye on our destiny.
 4. We must learn to practice self-denial by saying “no” to our fleshly desires.
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2** (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
 - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...”

5. We need to know and believe we have the power from God to resist temptation.
1 Corinthians 10:13
6. We need to know and believe God provides all the help we need.
(2 Peter 1:3-4)

III. CONCLUSION

- A. The experiment with the children and the marshmallows shows that people who are willing to postpone temporal pleasure for long term gain, achieve that gain, and reach a greater level of success than those who are not willing.
- B. You must make your own choice between “Beans” and “Destiny.”
- C. **Ezekiel 37:1-6** God can breath life into dry, dead bones. God can breathe life back into our lost dreams, hopes, and destiny.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the “beans” that you see people around you struggling with?
2. What are some of the “beans” in your own life?
3. Why is it so easy to settle for “beans” over destiny?
4. What are some steps that you can personally take to overcome the “beans”?

QUIZ

1. "Beans" or "selling our birthright" is giving into temporary pleasure. TRUE OR FALSE
2. "Beans" is anything that is less than the inheritance and blessing that God has planned for us. TRUE OR FALSE
3. According to Rev. Cliff, which one of the following choices will help us reach our destiny?
 - a. Giving into temporary pleasure
 - b. Giving into today's temptation
 - c. Refusing the hard work of self-control and choosing temporary bodily pleasures
 - d. Choosing hard work today and putting off pleasure until the future
4. According to Hebrew tradition, what was the right of the firstborn?
 - a. To have control over his siblings
 - b. To be treated better than his brothers and sisters
 - c. To inherit everything of significance from his father
 - d. To take the best of all the animals when he moves out
5. Which of the following is NOT a key to reaching your destiny?
 - a. Developing your relationship with God to learn your destiny
 - b. Knowing that you have a destiny
 - c. Keeping your eye on your destiny
 - d. Choosing to do everything that others ask you to do

SELF STUDY

1. Memorize 2 Peter 1:3-4
2. Write down a list of the "beans" you personally struggle with.
3. Write down a list of your goals that are being derailed by "beans."
4. Make a "game plan" to overcome the "beans." Share it with a trusted friend and pray over it together.

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Session 3 Growing into Your Destiny

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **1 Peter 2:2** "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow in your salvation."
- B. When we are growing, we are growing towards some final purpose, plan, and destiny.
- C. While we seek peace, prosperity, and pleasure, God allows pain and preparation for a purpose. This is very evident in the life of Joseph in **Genesis chapters 37 through 45.**

II. GOD IS COMMITTED TO YOUR GROWTH.

- A. Growth always comes with growing pains. **Genesis 37:2-36**
1. Joseph went through many hardships; hardships that many of us cannot even come close to relating to. He was thrown into a cistern, sold as a slave, falsely accused, then thrown into prison.
 2. Physically, we often have muscle cramps and pains during our childhood as we grow. Spiritually, we can expect the same. As we grow spiritually we will often encounter "growing pains" as we develop into maturity.
- B. Growth happens slowly over time. **Genesis 39:1-23**
1. Growth does not happen overnight. Our growth is so slow that we cannot even see it. Just as we cannot see how much a child grows in a day, we will never be able to watch ourselves grow. We can feel the pain of the growth, but we do not see the purpose. It will often not be until later in our lives that we can look back and see our progress.

2. Genesis records Joseph's growth: from the time when he was a young, naive boy who shared with his brothers, his dreams of ruling over them, to when he becomes Prime Minister over all of Egypt. Reading Genesis, we can't see any one specific time when Joseph matured; it was a gradual process.

- C. Growth happens in mysterious ways, at unexpected times.

1. We would like all of God's workings in our lives to be easy, painless and fun. We would like to plan out our times of difficulty and growth. We would like to have a map in advance so that we can see what God is doing, and when he is going to do it.
2. The reality of life is that the pain, the trials, and the growth happen unexpectedly, and not according to our plans or preferences.

- D. Growth comes through testing

1. Just like we were tested to gauge our growth in school as a child, God tests our character. God will not advance us to another level, He will not "promote" us, if we are unable to handle it. He tests us to see if we are ready.
2. God does not test how we act when things are going well, but how we act when we are overworked, when we are stressed, and when we are off-guard. Character is about who we are under pressure. "If you fail under pressure, your strength is not very great." **(Proverbs 24:10)**

- E. Growth is helped by our cooperation and hindered by our complaining.

1. In the midst of great suffering, Joseph believed there was a purpose for the pain, never complaining, or taking the attitude of a victim. (Genesis 50:20)
2. Over and over again in Genesis we read "The Lord was with Joseph".
3. As we trust and praise God, He will work in us and for us.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. What are the struggles that you are going through? Where does it hurt?
- B. Like a baby eagle learning to fly, it is in the terrifying moment when we are pushed out of the nest, when we are confronted with great pain and difficulty, that we learn to stretch our wings and grow.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the priorities that you have for your life, that may not be the same as the priorities that God has for you?
2. Why do you suppose that our priorities and God's priorities are not always the same?
3. Is suffering easier when you understand some of God's purposes in it?
4. How often have you understood exactly what God was trying to accomplish in your life, at the time it was happening?

QUIZ

1. Growth is helped by our cooperation and hindered by our complaining. TRUE OR FALSE
2. Growth comes quickly, sometimes overnight. TRUE OR FALSE
3. When we are growing, what are we aiming to grow towards?
 - a. Being more prepared for the next trial
 - b. A final purpose, plan and destiny
 - c. More peace and prosperity
 - d. The top position in our group
4. According to this course, as we grow spiritually, what will we often encounter?
 - a. Spiritual peace
 - b. Prosperity
 - c. Growing pains
 - d. Deeper relationship with God
5. In the midst of great suffering, what did Joseph believe about the pain?
 - a. There was a purpose for the pain
 - b. It proved he was a victim
 - c. It would end quickly
 - d. It showed he was still alive

SELF-STUDY

1. Read **Genesis 37:2-36** and **39:1-23**. How much was Joseph aware of all that God was planning for his life?
2. If you were Joseph, would you have expected God to use the circumstances He did to bring you to the place where you became a ruler.
3. Write down some of the hardships you have faced over the last couple of years. Pray about them and ask God to show you at least part of what He has been doing in your life.
4. Read and memorize Roman 8:28

REACHING YOUR DESTINY

Session 4: Reaching Your Destiny During Difficult Times

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It is very easy to have a strong desire to make a change in our lives, but it is much more difficult to actually make that change. Many obstacles including our own attitude, emotions, and dispositions can stand in our way.
- B. The story of the Israelites sending spies into the Promised Land is a good illustration of principles for reaching our destiny. Read Numbers chapters 13 and 14.

II. SEVEN IMPORTANT FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT REACHING YOUR DESTINY

- A. You must understand that God has an incredible Purpose for your life.
 - 1. The spies saw the land as their destiny. God's plan for us and our destiny includes fulfilling our potential, it includes serving God and loving others, and many other things; our promised land.
 - 2. According to Proverbs 29:18, where there is no vision, the people perish, or "dwell carelessly". We must keep God's plan and purpose for us in sight, and we must begin walking towards it. Without vision, our lives won't move forward.
- B. Reaching your full Destiny will always be impossible without God.
 - 1. God's dreams and plans for our lives are bigger than our own. Any destiny carried out under our own strength is a dull destiny; incomplete, or even completely misguided.
 - 2. We must grow into our destiny. God will permit difficulties and trials that strengthen us. Like the story of the butterfly struggling to emerge from its cocoon, God allows us time to develop and grow into the destiny that He has for us.
- C. There will always be Giants along the way.
 - 1. There will always be obstacles, strongholds, and seemingly unassailable fortresses in our way. There will be debts to pay, relationships to heal, and new skills and training which will need to be completed.
 - 2. The more significant our destiny is, the bigger the "giants" will be.
- D. You will be tempted to believe "Faith destroying Lies".
 - 1. We will be told: "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." (Numbers 13:31) "God isn't real. God does these miracles for others, not you." "You are unworthy. You are too sinful for God to help. You are a worm!!" "It is impossible. You are not smart enough, strong enough, pretty enough, etc."
 - 2. Satan will point out everything negative in your life, and try to convince you that those things will never change, and that there will be no divine intervention.
- E. You will be tempted to give up.
 - 1. Like the Israelites were tempted to give up and go back to Egypt (Numbers 14:4), we will be tempted to give up on our dreams, our destiny, and on our faith in God.
 - 2. We must never give up or give in to the lies of Satan.
- F. You will be tempted to give into self-pity.
 - 1. The Israelites wallowed in self-pity saying "If only we had died in the land of Egypt!" (Numbers 14:2) It is very easy to fall into the trap of self-pity and negativism, and to be distracted from the destiny that God has for us.
 - 2. To give in to self-pity is to put faith into the lies of Satan, instead of faith in the promises of God.
- G. Your Victory is guaranteed if you refuse to give up your faith in God.

1. We must not give up our faith in God's love, and the destiny and purpose that He has for us. Our faith must be a process of simply putting one foot in front of the other, always moving forward.
2. The Christian life is like a game where God changes the rules to our advantage. With God setting the rules, we can never lose as long as we do not forfeit the game.

III. FOUR KEYS TO VICTORY FROM THE LIVES OF JOSHUA AND CALEB.

- A. Don't get locked into "Group Think" or trapped by Peer pressure. Where Joshua and Caleb held on to their faith in the promises of God, the rest of the Israelites saw only impossibilities, and gave up on destiny.
- B. Remember your Destiny and remind yourself of it daily.
 1. Joshua and Caleb said "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land." (**Numbers 14:7**) They recognized it was worth the risk, it was worth the effort, worth facing the giants and all other obstacles.
 2. Seek God to know His plans for you. He may reveal all, or only a step at a time. Remember that whether He reveals a lot or a little, know that His plans are good. (**Jeremiah 29:11**)
- C. With God on your side, every Giant is made of gingerbread. They will be our bread; our lunch. Caleb and Joshua recognized this of the giants in the promised land saying "Their protection has departed". (Numbers 14:9) With God, things that would otherwise overcome us will be like gingerbread.
- D. Be Strong and Courageous; only be strong and courageous (**Joshua 1:5-7**)
 1. Ask God for vision and goals, and take them step by step. (**Exodus 23:30**)

2. Along each step we must decide whether we will be strong and courageous and face the giants, or whether we will be weak and cowardly and run from them. We must decide whether we want to put our faith in the promises and purposes of God, or in the lies of the enemy.

IV. CONCLUSION

God has a plan and a purpose for us. If we are strong and courageous, if we never give up, and if we put faith in the promises of God, we are guaranteed to have victory. Like the story of the Olympic runner, God did not plan on us just starting the race; he has ordained it that we should finish the race.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Do you believe that God has a plan and destiny for each person's life?
2. How can a person know God's plan for them?
3. What are some of the reasons that God allows obstacles in the way of reaching our destiny?
4. What are some of the obstacles and challenges that you have had to face?
5. How can you encourage others in reaching their destiny?

QUIZ

1. According to Rev. Cliff, the more significant your destiny, the greater the obstacles along the way. TRUE OR FALSE
2. Without vision, our lives won't move forward. TRUE OR FALSE
3. What do we usually find to be true as we pursue our destiny?
 - a. It will always be easy
 - b. It will always be impossible without God
 - c. It is simply a matter of waiting for God to bring you to it
 - d. It requires a lot of faith and a little patience
4. On the way to reaching your destiny, which of the following is unlikely to happen?
 - a. There will be giants along the way
 - b. You will have a temptation to believe lies
 - c. You will move from victory to victory with no obstacles
 - d. You will have a desire to feel sorry for yourself
5. According to Rev. Cliff, what do you need to do to guarantee your victory?
 - a. Fast and pray every day
 - b. Get good advice
 - c. Live a good moral life
 - d. Refuse to give up and keep trying

SELF-STUDY

1. Memorize Jeremiah 29:11
2. Spend a day in prayer and fasting, seeking to know God's present will for you, and any part of your destiny that He will reveal.
3. Write out the dreams you have for your life. Pray over them regularly. Ask God for a plan to reach the dreams that He has given you.
4. Write down the key points that God shows you.

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Session 5 Fighting for Your Destiny

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. How do we deal with very bad days? What is going on during these bad days?
- B. When things are going wrong, God desires for us to fight back.
- C. David and his men had a really bad day when they returned home and found their families gone and everything destroyed. They had no reason to believe they would ever see their loved ones again or get any of their possessions back. (1 Samuel 30:1-13)
- D. We have an enemy who attacks:
 1. Our families
 2. Our lives, health and well-being
 3. Our property and wealth

II. WE CAN DEFEAT THE ENEMY AND GET EVERYTHING BACK

- A. What is God's plan for our victory?
 1. Cry out to God. Let God know your emotions and needs. Express them in prayer, psalms, singing, and communication.
 2. Identify the REAL enemy – the enemy of our soul. The enemy is not your spouse, boss, neighbor or any other person.
 - Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
 3. Strengthen yourself in the Lord. Encourage yourself. Lift up your faith.
 4. Seek God for wisdom for a plan on how to fight the enemy. It is different every time.

5. Take action – fight back. God has created you for victory and not for defeat.
 6. Do not give up along the way. In 1 Samuel 30, one-third of the men gave up because they did not have enough faith. They made a choice to give up.
 7. Remember God is with you to destroy the enemy.
- B. How did David strengthen himself in the LORD his God?
 1. He woke up – He remembered who he was in the Lord. We are people of covenant, of promises and of power!
 - Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...”
 2. He stood up – He reminded himself of God's promises and stood on them. David depended on and declared those promises.
 - Isaiah 35:4 (NIV) “...say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.””
 - Psalms 112:1-2 (NIV) “Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.”
 3. He looked up – David moved from the flesh to a place in his spirit, from physical eyes to spiritual eyes.
 4. He spoke up – David praised God and made faith declarations.
 - Psalm 3:6 (NIV) “I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side.”
 - Psalm 23:4 (KJV) “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me...”
 - Psalm 56:3 (NIV) “When I am afraid, I will trust in you.”

- Psalm 118:17 (NIV) "I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done."
5. He stopped talking – He quieted his spirit and meditated on who God is and on His acts. He meditated on God's promises, faithfulness, power, and how God had rescued him in the past.
- Psalm 77:1 and 11-15 (NIV) "I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me...I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds...You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah."

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Our God is here and is powerful to save.
- B. We have an enemy and we must choose to fight and not to grow weary or give up.
- C. We must encourage ourselves in the LORD so that our faith can rise-up and we can fight against the enemy.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How have you normally handled a very bad day? What did you think was the reason for those bad days? After viewing this session, how has your perspective of having a really bad day changed?
2. How have you seen the enemy attack you? In your family? In your health? Name a few ways you have seen the enemy attacking you.
3. How do you encourage yourself in the Lord? Do you sing worship songs? Do you speak the Word of God? What scriptures help you?
4. Take a few moments and encourage each other to fight against the enemy. Encourage each other's faith. Take time to pray for one another and stand with each other in their fight against the enemy.

QUIZ

1. The real enemy is your spouse, boss, neighbor, or other people. TRUE OR FALSE
2. We are people of covenant, promise and of power! TRUE OR FALSE
3. Which of the following was NOT one of the keys David used to strengthen himself in the Lord?
 - a. He looked up
 - b. He stopped talking
 - c. He gave up
 - d. He woke up
4. What did David do when he praised God and made faith declarations?
 - a. He stood up
 - b. He spoke up
 - c. He woke up
 - d. He stopped talking
5. How did David move from the flesh to a place in his spirit?
 - a. He looked up
 - b. He woke up
 - c. He stood up
 - d. He spoke up

SELF-STUDY

1. How is the enemy attacking you right now? Begin to work through God's plan of victory for you and fight back.
2. Make a list of scripture verses that encourage you to fight against the enemy and begin to work on memorizing them.
3. Meditate on the works that God has done in your life.
4. Memorize Psalm 77:1, 11-15.