**The Battle with the Amalekites**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 17:8-16**

**Bible Story Number: 1010580**

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**The Battle with the Amalekites**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This promise (covenant) was passed on to Isaac and Jacob. God reconfirmed His promise to the descendents of Abraham. The nation of Israel continued to be God’s chosen people.

The Israelites (descendents of Jacob) moved to Egypt as a part of God’s plan. God used what Joseph’s brothers intended as evil as a way to bless Joseph and rescue the entire family.

After the tenth plague that God sent on the Egyptian people, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave. They had been in Egypt 430 years. The day they left, there were approximately 600,000 foot soldiers in the Israelites army. The total number of people was much larger because this did not include their families.

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 17:8-16**

This is what the Bible says.

While the Israelites were camped at Rephidim, Amalek and his army came to fight against the Israelites. Moses told Joshua to select some men to fight as an army against Amalek. Moses told him that he would stand on the hilltop the next day and hold up God’s staff.

Joshua did what Moses asked of him. The next day he led an Israelite army against Amalek and his army. Moses went to the top of the hill, along with Aaron and Hur.

While Moses held up his hand, Israel was winning. But whenever he put his hand down the Amalekites would prevail. So when Moses’ hands got tired, they put a stone in place for him to sit on. Then Aaron and Hur stood on each side and supported his arms and hands. They stayed in place until the sun went down. That way, Joshua and the Israelites were able to defeat Amalek and his army.

After the battle, God spoke to Moses and told him to write down what He was going to say and be sure to communicate it to Joshua. God said, “I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek under heaven.”

Moses built an altar there and gave it the name, “The Lord Is My Banner.” He said his hand was lifted up toward the throne of God and God would always be at war with Amalek.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Why did Israel fight against Amalek and his army?
* Who led the Israelite army and why?
* What did Moses do during the battle?
* How did Aaron and Hur help?
* Who won?
* What message did Moses have for Joshua after the battle?
* What did Moses build after the battle?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.