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# The Lord Is My Banner

Key References: Exodus 17:8-16; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 26, pp. 298-300; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 146-150; Our Beliefs nos. 11, 22, 12



## powertext

"May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests" (Psalm 20:5).

power**point**

We worship God by giving thanks for the victories in our lives.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 60.

*When was the last time anyone tried to pick on you for no reason? Have you ever seen a bully picking on someone just because they were weaker? When has anyone made fun of you because you love and serve God?*

The Israelites were still camped at Rephidim. Throughout their journey in the desert they had witnessed a series of miracles—signs of God's protection and care for them. God had parted the sea for them. The quail had settled in their camp to provide them with supper. The manna had started appearing every morning—double on Friday. God had provided water from a rock. Still they asked, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7).

Their latest challenge was an attack by their fierce desert cousins, the Amalekites. These warlike descendants of Esau enjoyed raiding and killing anyone who wandered near them. One morning Moses summoned Joshua, one of the young Israelite generals: "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands" (verse 9).

Joshua left, trustingly, and went to collect the men he would take with him to fight the Amalekites the next day.

As the sun began to brighten the desert, Joshua and his men were ready for the expected Amalekite raid. Joshua looked up at the hill that overlooked the valley where they waited. He could see Moses; Moses' brother, Aaron; and Hur reaching the top of the hill. He watched as Moses lifted his arms in prayer to God. Joshua smiled confidently. With Moses on the hilltop, he felt that he was connected with God and that he and his men would be victorious. The fighting began.

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**Sunday**

**READ** Read Exodus 17:7 and this week's story, "The Lord Is My Banner."

**CHOOSE** Choose a quiet place in your room or home where you can come to God for prayer and Bible study.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Ask God to show you clearly that He is in your life. Then watch for the evidence of it throughout the week.

**Monday**

**READ** Read Exodus 17:8, 9.

**THINK** How could a difficulty, such as the Amalekite attack, help to strengthen the Israelites' faith?

**WRITE** In your Bible study journal, write ways God has proved to you that He can give you the victory.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Ask God to help you trust Him when bad things happen.

**Tuesday**

**READ** Read Exodus 17:10, 11.

**NOTICE** When Moses' hands were lifted toward heaven, the Israelites won.

**DISCOVER** Read Psalm 63:4, Lamentations 3:41, and 1 Timothy 2:8. What did lifting one's hands symbolize in Bible times?

**CONNECT** Remember that no person or thing can defeat you as long as you are connected to God.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

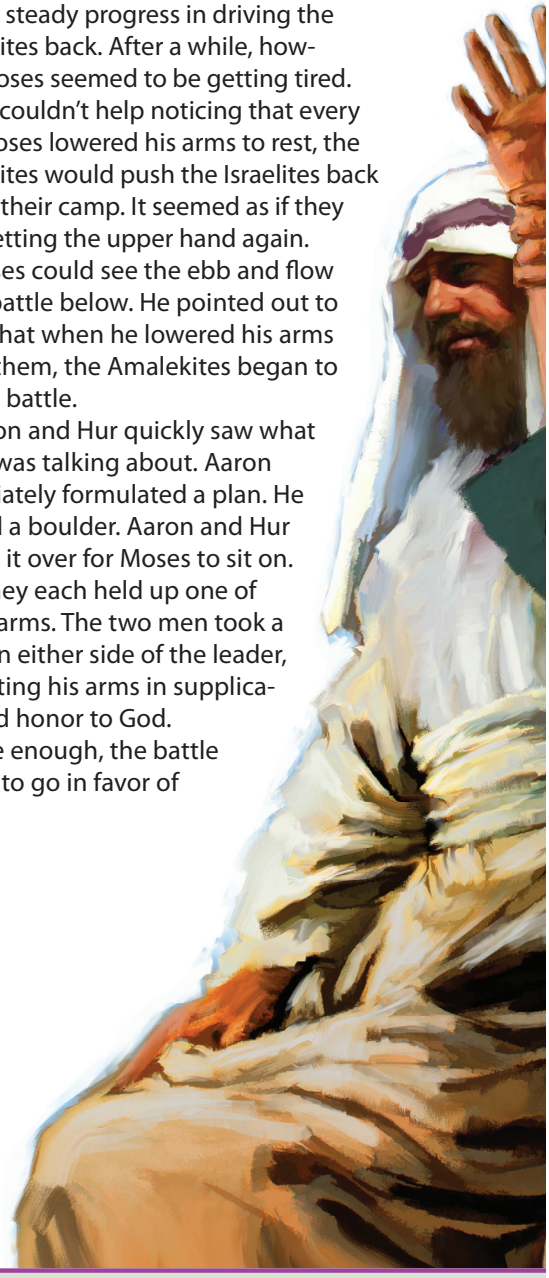
**PRAY** Ask God to help you stay connected to Him this week.

From time to time Joshua would glance toward the hilltop where Moses stood. The fighting went on steadily. Joshua's Israelite forces seemed to be making steady progress in driving the Amalekites back. After a while, however, Moses seemed to be getting tired. Joshua couldn't help noticing that every time Moses lowered his arms to rest, the Amalekites would push the Israelites back toward their camp. It seemed as if they were getting the upper hand again.

Moses could see the ebb and flow of the battle below. He pointed out to Aaron that when he lowered his arms to rest them, the Amalekites began to win the battle.

Aaron and Hur quickly saw what Moses was talking about. Aaron immediately formulated a plan. He spotted a boulder. Aaron and Hur pushed it over for Moses to sit on. Then they each held up one of Moses' arms. The two men took a place on either side of the leader, supporting his arms in supplication and honor to God.

Sure enough, the battle started to go in favor of



the Israelites. Joshua's men regained their advantage in pushing back the Amalekites. The three leaders on the hill remained in that position until the desert darkness approached. By that time Joshua had completely defeated the Amalekites, as God had commanded.

That night there was much rejoicing in the camp. As Moses had stood with his arms raised in worship, the people had seen that the Lord truly was a banner over them.

Sometimes they tended to



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## Wednesday

**READ** Read Exodus 17:12, 13.

**THINK** Who are the people in your life who support you? Think of a way to thank these people.

**LIST** In your Bible study journal, list three ways that you can be supportive of someone else.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Ask God to show you ways you can support others of His children today.

## Thursday

**READ** Read Exodus 17:14-16.

**SING** Sing a victory song or create a victory poem to celebrate a time God gave you the victory.

**WRITE** Record your victory just as God told Moses to record the Israelites' victory. Put it where it will remind you that you are a winner when you stay connected to God.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Pray for strength and courage to stand up for the right and to fight on God's side.

## Friday

**READ** Read 1 Samuel 15:2, 3.

**THINK** What was God's command to Saul concerning the Amalekites? How does this show that God's words about future events can be trusted to be fulfilled in His time?

**PLAN** Plan a praise worship for your family tonight. Sing praise songs and read Psalm 95 together. Thank God for the rest of His Sabbath.

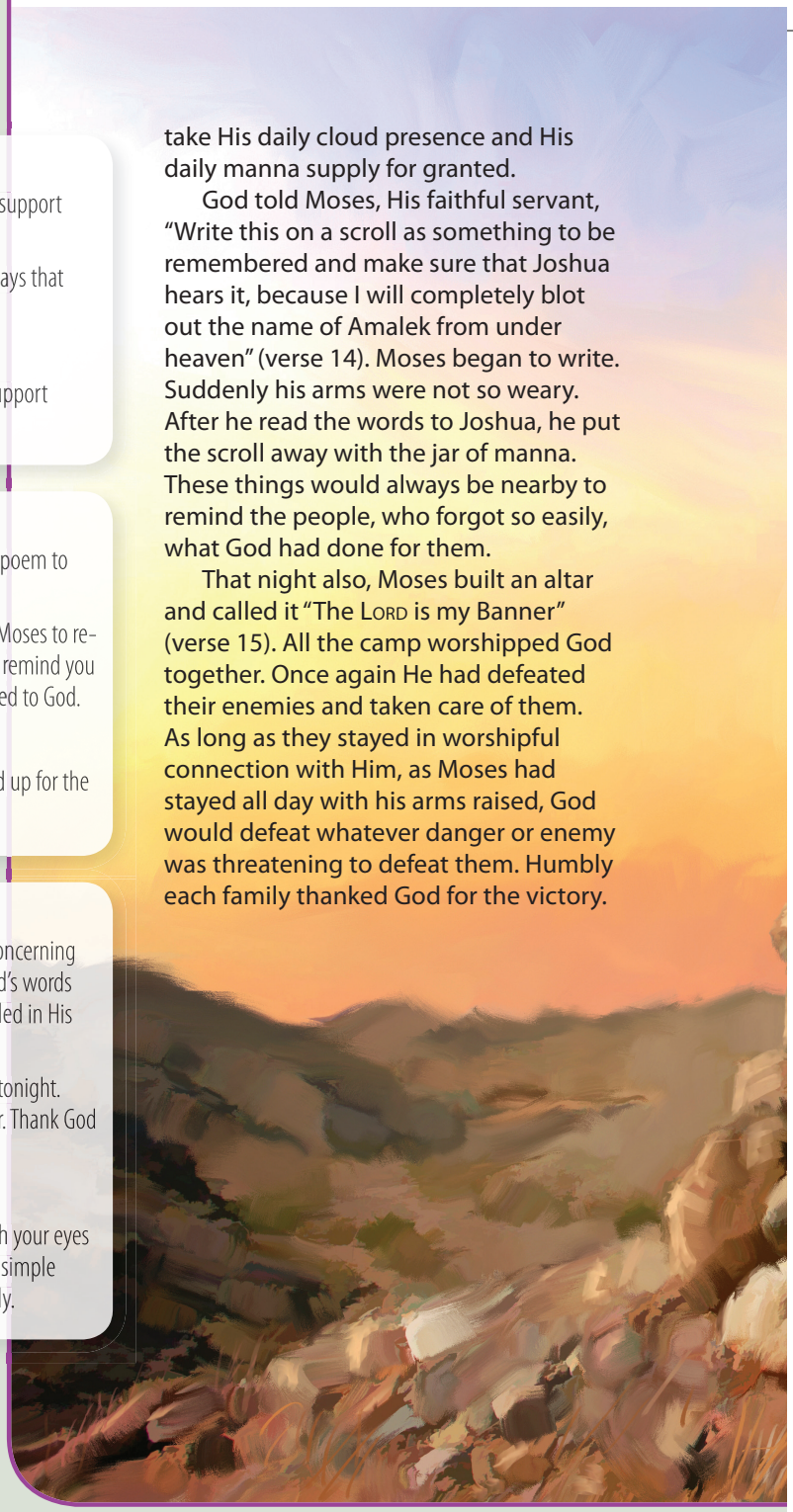
**SAY** Share the power text with your family.

**PRAY** Quietly sing or hum a praise song with your eyes closed. Think of the words of the song. Pray a simple prayer, praising God for His love for your family.

take His daily cloud presence and His daily manna supply for granted.

God told Moses, His faithful servant, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven" (verse 14). Moses began to write. Suddenly his arms were not so weary. After he read the words to Joshua, he put the scroll away with the jar of manna. These things would always be nearby to remind the people, who forgot so easily, what God had done for them.

That night also, Moses built an altar and called it "The LORD is my Banner" (verse 15). All the camp worshipped God together. Once again He had defeated their enemies and taken care of them. As long as they stayed in worshipful connection with Him, as Moses had stayed all day with his arms raised, God would defeat whatever danger or enemy was threatening to defeat them. Humbly each family thanked God for the victory.





PUZZLE
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# THE VICTORY IS AT HAND

Words are from Exodus 17:8-16.

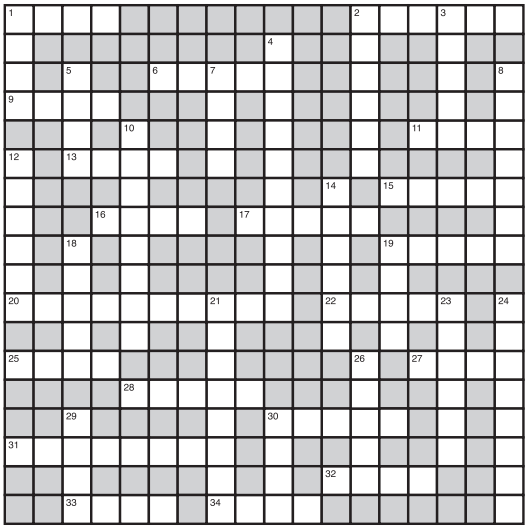
**Word Bank**

*4 Letters*:
Grew
Side
Sure
That
They
Went
Will

*5 Letters:*
Hands
Stand

*6 Letters:*
Fought

*8 Letters:*
Overcame
Whenever



**Across**

1 "They _____ a stone and put it under him" (verse 12)
2 When the battle ended (verse 12)
6 Built an altar (verse 15)
9 "The _____ is my Banner" (verse 15)
11 "Moses _____ up his hands" (verse 11)
13 "I will stand on top of the hill _____ the staff of God" (verse 9)
15 "One on one side, one on the _____" (verse 12)
16 "_____ sure that Joshua hears it" (verse 14)
17 "Go out to _____ the Amalekites" (verse 9)
19 "Moses' hands grew _____" (verse 12)
20 When Moses lowered his hands, the _____ were winning (verse 11)
22 "I will stand . . . with the _____ of God in my hands" (verse 9)
25 See word bank
27 See word bank
28 Held up Moses' hands (verse 12)
30 See word bank
31 See word bank
32 The Amalekite _____ (verse 13)
33 See word bank
34 See word bank

**Down**

1 Shorten "until"
2 Moses' hands remained _____ till sunset (verse 12)
3 Moses sat on a _____ (verse 12)
4 When Moses held up his hands, the _____ were winning (verse 11)
5 See word bank
7 "Moses _____ to Joshua, 'Choose some of our men . . . '" (verse 9)
8 Moses had _____ Joshua to fight the Amalekites (verse 10)
10 The Amalekites _____ the Israelites (verse 8)
12 "So _____ overcame the Amalekite army" (verse 13)
14 "_____ some of our men and go out to fight" (verse 9)
18 See word bank
19 See word bank
21 "_____ I will stand on top of the hill" (verse 9)
23 See word bank
24 See word bank
26 "I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from _____ heaven" (verse 14)
29 See word bank
30 "Aaron and Hur went to the top of the _____" (verse 10)