

## God Promises to Fight for You

**Opener:** When you think about fighting battles what comes to mind?

**Scripture:** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Tell the Israelites to encamp by the sea. <sup>3</sup>Pharaoh will think they are confused and hemmed in by the desert.” <sup>4</sup>And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

<sup>5</sup>When Pharaoh was told they had fled he said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and lost their services!” <sup>8</sup>The Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, so he pursued the Israelites. <sup>9</sup>and overtook them. <sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites were terrified and cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? <sup>12</sup>Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians?’ It would have been better than dying in the desert!”

<sup>13</sup>Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>**The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.**”

<sup>15</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to move on. <sup>16</sup>Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so they can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. <sup>18</sup>Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup>coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. <sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup>and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup>The Lord confused them and <sup>25</sup>jammed their chariot wheels. They said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

<sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters flow back over the Egyptians.” <sup>27</sup>Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The water flowed back and covered the entire Egyptian army. Not one survived. <sup>30</sup>That day the Lord saved Israel from the Egyptians. <sup>31</sup>When the Israelites saw the Lord’s mighty hand displayed against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses. Exodus 14 (condensed)

**Trust God & Humble Yourself.** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. I Peter 5:6-10

**Fear Not.** The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? Psalm 118:6

**He Fights For Us By Giving Us What We Need To Win.** If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31-39

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. I Corinthians 10:13

## Discussion Questions

- Exodus 14 is about a nation (Egypt) pursuing a nation (Israel). It's not about God solving all our problems or fighting all our battles in a way that we never suffer or have to be active in the fight against whatever is working against us. So how does it apply to our lives? When have you been aware that God was fighting for you or for His people?
- Why would God squeeze His people into a corner where they were stuck between the Egyptians and the Red Sea? How have you seen the Lord take someone on a more difficult route so that they have to be still and completely trust him? Exodus 14:1-4
- The power to live life in a way that trusts God even when things look bleak begins with humbling ourselves before Him. Why is humility hard to come by when we're suffering? How does I Peter 5:6-10 describe what that entails?
- We will experience God's power when we refuse to be afraid and trust that God's got it under control, but sometimes what we see detracts from what we know. When has what you've seen happening kept you from trusting in what you know to be true? How can fear keep us from trusting that the Lord is fighting for us? Exodus 14:10-13; Psalm 118:6
- Romans 8:31-39 asks, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Then Paul describes a myriad of things that do come against us. What's his answer for how to view these enemies and deal with them?
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that God will give us a way of escape from temptation. But when God opens up that way to escape, why don't we automatically take it? When have you realized that God was giving you a way out of trouble or sin, but you didn't want to take it? Exodus 14:29-30
- How does this dramatic rescue at the Red Sea foreshadow what Jesus did for us on the cross? Romans 8:31-39



**Wrap Up:** When Moses said, "The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still," the Israelites were standing between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. They were in a seemingly impossible situation, but it was a situation brought on by the Lord Himself when He hardened Pharaoh's heart to pursue them. Why would He do such a thing? Maybe because He wanted to make it crystal clear to Egypt that He is Lord overall and because He wanted to teach Israel that He alone is their Deliverer. There was no way they could escape on their own—they had to wait for God to fight for them.

These days we can find ourselves standing at our own "Red Sea," confronted by everything from health issues to financial difficulties to relationship troubles. While it's crucial to take action and make wise decisions, we often forget that it's also essential to surrender our battles to the Lord and to be still. To be still is to surrender control and to place our trust in God. Exodus 14:14 doesn't promise that we won't face challenges. But it does assure us that God will fight for us and with us.