



Welcome

Message: This is How I Fight My Battles
Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Victorious God, as we gather together today, we invite Your presence and wisdom. Open our eyes to see the battles in our lives through your perspective and teach us to pause and seek your guidance before we react in our own strength. Grant us the courage to surrender our self-reliance, the faith to trust you as our God of breakthrough, and the conviction to remove anything that takes your place in our hearts. Unite us as a group in honesty and grace as we study your Word together and let the truth of this Scripture transform the way we walk out our daily lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: When you face a sudden challenge, are you more likely to jump into action immediately using your instincts, or pause and plan first?

INTRODUCTION: After years of exile, running from Saul, and seven years of reigning over only the southern tribe of Judah, David is finally anointed king over a fully united Israel and establishes Jerusalem as his capital. Recognizing that a newly unified kingdom under a strong leader poses an existential threat to their dominance, the neighboring Philistines immediately mobilize their full military forces to capture David before his rule can consolidate. Instead of relying on his seasoned military instincts or reacting in panic, David retreats to a stronghold, seeks direct counsel from the Lord, and obeys God's battle strategy—resulting in a decisive victory where the Lord breaks through the enemy forces and the Israelites destroy the idols left behind on the battlefield. This is how he fought his battle and how we should fight ours.

BIBLE STUDY: Read 2 Samuel 5:17-21 (NLT): ¹⁷ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he went into the stronghold. ¹⁸ The Philistines arrived and spread out across the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁹ So David asked the Lord, “Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The Lord replied to David, “Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you.” ²⁰ So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. “The Lord did it!” David exclaimed. “He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!” So, he named that place Baal-perazim (which means “the Lord who bursts through”). ²¹ The Philistines had abandoned their idols there, so David and his men confiscated them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. When David stepped into his new level of calling as king, his victory immediately attracted intense opposition. Have you ever experienced a season where stepping into a new victory, blessing, or spiritual growth was met with unexpected friction or opposition? How did you react in the moment?
3. David was an experienced military commander, yet he didn't rely on his instincts or past success—he stopped to ask God for direction first. In your daily decisions (career moves, family dynamics, conflicts), what makes it difficult to pause and inquire of the Lord before reacting? What does “inquiring of God” look like for you practically during a busy week?

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4. David marked his victory by giving God credit for breaking through the obstacle. Where in your life right now do you need the Lord to be your “Baal Perazim”—the God of the Breakthrough? If He has brought you through a “raging flood” in the past, how can remembering that testimony strengthen your faith for today?
5. Even after the battle was won, the enemy left behind false gods in the valley. David didn't keep them as trophies or ignore them; he removed them. What “idols” or toxic habits tend to get left behind after a crisis or difficult season passes (e.g., self-reliance, bitterness, fear, modern distractions)? What step do you need to take this week to remove them completely?

LIVE IT OUT: Before you react to this week's battles using your own strength or past strategies, pause to ask God for His direction—and trust Him to break through where you cannot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications. Remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel!

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR: CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial by Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)