

The Battle Begins

The Story Ch.7 p.p. 89-102

VIDEO:

Go to <http://vimeo.com/album/1514042>

When prompted for a password enter: **TheStory** (case sensitive)

Find and watch the video titled "The Story For Groups Chapter 7"

Summary:

God called for the total destruction of the inhabitants of the Promised Land and through it all God promised that he would be with his people.

Think about:

- God instructed the Israelites to destroy all the current inhabitants of their Promised Land. Do you find this instruction a bit excessive?
- Why do you think God called for such a drastic action?
- Read Exodus 20:1-3
- God had already told the Israelites that he wanted to be their only God. In order to make sure his chosen people did not get tangled up in the pagan gods, he wanted the land free of that influence. God has said the same thing to us. But our battle is not for land and our enemy is not people.
- Read Ephesians 6:10-13
- Who is our enemy? In what ways does Satan try to take our focus away from our devotion to God? In other words, what things in our life get in the way of our devotion to God?
- Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- Our battle is not against men, and the battleground is not a field of grass. Satan is subtle and sneaky. Where does Satan wage the battle for our devotion to God?

Take away:

Satan still entices us to serve other gods- power, position, profit, pleasure, but Jesus has assured us that he is with us always and he continues to come all the way to us in His Word and in the sacraments. Even when we fall and serve other "gods," Jesus peruses us and sends His Holy Spirit to call us to repentance and find courage in the very presence of God.

Prayer:

Father we are so thankful that the battles we face every day are not fought alone. Since we belong to you, you fight the battle for us. We thank you for your Word which gives us plenty of ammunition. Father, we ask that this week you would give us the needed grace and strength found in your Son our Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.