**Esther**

Holy War?

8:5-8, 11-12, 17; 9:1-2, 5

Handout

* God’s Holy War is His fight for His people against sin and evil. *(8:11; 9:5)*
* Why did God declare Holy War?
  + Protect His plan to save the world *(Genesis 12:1-3)*
    - His people
    - Their purity (holiness)
  + Exact His required justice
    - No one is born good *(Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12)*
    - God gives grace to those who are too young or mentally incapacitated to be accountable *(2 Samuel 12:23; Romans 1:20; Revelation 20:11-15)*
    - God judged Israel’s enemies AND Israel
* Holy War today?
  + No, Jesus won the war and conquered sin and evil on the Cross *(John 19:30)*
  + Battles remain to apply the victory in our lives and the world
    - Put my faith in Jesus and then live like Him
    - Love my enemies *(Matthew 5:44)*
  + Our weapons: the Gospel, the Bible and the Holy Spirit
* **This Week’s** **ACTIVATE FAITH**:
  + Fight sin in my life
  + Love people enough to tell them about Jesus
  + Make followers/disciples of Jesus