**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