

Awana teaching: October 7th

Begin with prayer:

1.4 - God is our Strength - Verse Breakdown

So far we have been on a journey of discovery, over the last four sections of our book we have come to understand some very important characteristics of who God is to us - do you remember each one?

God is our savior - he died on the cross for our sins

God is our hope - he makes promises and keeps them

God is our advocate - he will always protect us and defend us.

Today we will talk about God being our strength - and this is an exciting adventure, are you ready?

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Okay clubbers, so more big bible words - we know advocate, covenant, regeneration, renewing, abound, refuge

So now you can say sentences like this right?

When the messy advocate signed a special covenant to protect his broccoli castle, he felt a total regeneration of his energy, renewing his quest to make cheese sauce abound everywhere while using a giant taco as a safe refuge!

- Advocate (The Helper): The person speaking up or helping out.
- Covenant (The Promise): A super-strong, unbreakable promise.
- Regeneration (The Fresh Start): Being made brand new (just like the clear cup in our science trick!).
- Renewing (The Recharge): Fixing up and making something fresh again.
- Abound (The Overflow): Over-the-top, bubbling-over plenty of something.
- Refuge (The Safe Zone): A fortress or hiding place from trouble.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1

- Refuge: A place of safety, like a fortress or a solid castle. When the "spaghetti storms" of life hit, God is our safe zone.
- Strength: God gives us the power to stand firm when we feel weak or messy.
- Very Present Help: He isn't far away or hiding. He is right next to us.

The Spaghetti Stained Shirt:

So we have been talking about sin, and we are using a spaghetti stained shirt to represent sin and Ashton, you were helping us understand that Jesus is the ultimate stain remover right?

Someone recite Romans 3:23

God is greater and stronger than anything: and I think you guys are looking for some proof - not only proof that god is bigger and greater and stronger than anything, but also proof that what I have been saying about Jesus has been true all along, that the Bible is exciting, it is all about Him from genesis to revelation and it is my favorite book, it is so fun to read and I encourage you to all read it too - action bible presentation

God is Greater

The Story: Moses and the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."
- ☐ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.
- ☐ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on

dry ground.

- I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.
- The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."
- Then 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 from in front and stood behind them,
- coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.
- Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,
- and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.
- The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion.
- He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."
- Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen."
- Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea.

God is Greater than Fire and Super-Powerful Kings!

The Story: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3)

- Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"
- They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."
- He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."
- Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"
- So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,
- and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.
- Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."

The Story: Gideon Defeats the Midianites (Judges 7:17-22) Gideon has received a message from the Lord about an army that he must face, it's bigger and stronger than his army.

- When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands."
- Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.
- "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do."
- When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.'"

- Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.
- The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"
- While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.
- When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled

Verse Breakdown:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

- What does Refuge mean?: A place of safety, like a fortress or a solid castle. When the "spaghetti storms" of life hit, God is our safe zone.
- Who is our Strength? God gives us the power to stand firm when we feel weak or messy.
- What does a Very Present Help mean?: He isn't far away or hiding. He is right next to us.

The Spaghetti Stained Shirt:

So we have been talking about sin, and we are using a spaghetti stained shirt to represent sin and Ashton, you were helping us understand that Jesus is the ultimate stain remover right?

Help from Miss Brittany - can we say a big thank you to all of our table leaders and tell them we love them!

Okay we are going to use these 3 cups of liquid to show us how Jesus is our strength:

you see Jesus Jesus came to take the punishment of our sin the sin

and see you this cup of water miss Brittany has, that represents all of us, we look pretty good, nice and clean just the way you were meant to be

but we've all done stuff that we shouldn't do we've all sinned in different ways and the problem is is when we sin and we bring sin into our lives it changes us it changes who we are and suddenly there's elements in us that weren't meant to be there maybe it's maybe it's bad attitudes or you you yelled at your parents or you lied to a friend or you cheated on a test or or you hurt someone or you hurt yourself whatever it might be it's not the way

Well, now that water isn't clean and clear, it's stained by sin this is the way you entered the world kids, you were not clean and clear when you were born, this is the stain of sin we are born into because what happened in the garden of eden? Yes, sin entered the world - all of creation is touched by sin.

When he made Adam and Eve, they were pure, but now we have this sin, and God God saw this sin and he didn't want it to be this way he said this was not how I intended you to be so God had a perfect Rescue plan and that rescue plan was Jesus now

Here is Jesus in this cup that miss Brittany is showing us - Jesus was perfect he he came and he lived a perfect life he was without sin so the question was what would happen if Jesus Took the sin of the whole world all of the sin and put it in

himself - wow.

and so he went to the cross and he took our sin and Jesus took all that sin and put it in himself but that's the thing is Jesus

took our sin to the grave but then he left it there he left that sin in the grave and he came back with new life for all of us and he was still perfect and pure and blameless and everything that we needed and so

All of us, with all of our sin, and with all that's inside of us we have the ability to say yes to Jesus because we don't want to be in sin anymore sin has been defeated by the power of the Cross and what Jesus did and the power of his resurrection

and so when you say yes to Jesus and you ask him to fill you with his power it changes Everything

Jesus brings Freedom you couldn't have taken this out on your own you could not remove the sin from yourself only Jesus could do that because he died and rose again to defeat the power of sin and bring us true freedom and now clubbers, now you can see how much stronger Jesus is than sin, and stains - he defeated them already, now all you have to do is love him back because he first loved you.

Close in Prayer: now if you have never asked Jesus to come save you from your sins, and tell him how much you love him, you can say this prayer with me now -

**Dear Lord,
Thank You for taking away
the sin in my life.
I have sinned
and made bad choices
that break Your heart.
Thank You for dying on the cross
to take the punishment for my mistakes.
I believe you rose from the dead,
and I love you
Please wash my heart
completely clean,
just like the clear water.
In Jesus' name, Amen."**

Materials Needed

- Three clear cups or jars
- Labels or stickers ("Me" or "Us", "Sin", and "Jesus")
- Plain tap water
- Liquid iodine (approx. a few drops to a small ratio)
- Household bleach (*keep safely out of reach of children*)
- Safety gear (gloves for the adult handling the bleach)

Step-by-Step Setup (Do this before club starts)

1. Prepare the "Me" Cup: Label a clear plastic cup "Me" (or "Us"). Fill it halfway with plain, clear water to represent how God originally created us to be pure and clean.
2. Prepare the "Sin" Cup: Label a second clear cup "Sin". Fill it mostly with water and add a few drops of iodine until the liquid turns a dark brownish-yellow color. This represents bad choices, disobedience, and sin.
3. Prepare the "Jesus" Cup: Label a third clear cup "Jesus". Fill it with a mixture of water and a small amount of household bleach. This represents Jesus, who is completely pure and has the power to cleanse us.