

**OVERVIEW:** *"We stand better when we stand together." "There's strength in numbers." We generally agree with those statements, but sometimes life can feel so insurmountable that no amount of help and support makes a difference. Thankfully, God stands over the world, and He stands over every single issue we face. As the Israelites discovered, God is a banner over us, covering us with His protecting presence.*

**Directions:** *As you begin your event, consider using the following engage options before starting the message.*

## ATMOSPHERE

Decorate the room using objects that represent safety or security (military and police uniforms, locks, safes, etc.). Say, **"We surround ourselves with different safety measures, but Jesus is the only way to have eternal security."**

## MEDIA

Search the Internet for "Service Dog protects my head during Seizure." Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **"God cares for and protects His people. We can depend on Him to keep us safe."**

## TEACH (MAKE YOUR NOTES BELOW)

**The Point:** We are always covered by God's protection.

## PREPARE

Earthly values, strategies, and powers will fail, but God, according to His power and protection, provides victory.

### 1. RAISE THE BANNER OF GOD

*Psalm 20:5*

- A.** When we make requests of God in pursuing His purposes, He answers.
- B.** When God answers our prayers, we're to declare before others that our success is by God's power.
- C.** We enjoy the benefits of aligning ourselves with God's purposes, and this is a cause to celebrate.

### 2. THE LORD GIVES VICTORY

*Psalm 20:6*

- A.** We are powerless to accomplish victories apart from God—all successes are the result of His power.
- B.** When we pray, God hears and gives victory to His children.
- C.** Anointing refers to our being set apart and empowered to accomplish a task for the sake of God's glory—God anoints us for victory for the sake of His name.

### 3. TRUST IN GOD ALONE

*Psalm 20:7-9*

- A.** Worldly people trust in the world's ways.
- B.** When it's all said and done, these will always fail.
- C.** Believers trust in God, and He will raise us up. We will experience eternal victory because of His power and protection.

**THE POINT:***We are always covered by  
God's protection.*

**Directions:** Use the following outline as a guide for a message based on the passages from this session of Bible Studies for Life: Students. Additionally, use the suggested illustrations and activities to customize your midweek event.

**OVERVIEW:** "We stand better when we stand together." "There's strength in numbers." We generally agree with those statements, but sometimes life can feel so insurmountable that no amount of help and support makes a difference. Thankfully, God stands over the world, and He stands over every single issue we face. As the Israelites discovered, God is a banner over us, covering us with His protecting presence.

**INTRO**

- ▶ **How does the world define success or victory?**
- ▶ **Who do they trust to achieve success or victory?**
- ▶ **How is the Christian faith different?**

**PSALM 20:5**

- ▶ **What kind of requests to God would be in line with His purposes?**
- ▶ **How can we know if God has answered our prayers?**
- ▶ **What does it look like to share our successes in God with others?**

**PSALM 20:6**

- ▶ **Why can't we achieve victories apart from God?**
- ▶ **How does God anoint His people?**
- ▶ **What does victory look like in the life of a believer?**

**PSALM 20:7-9**

- ▶ **Why shouldn't we trust in the world to achieve victory?**
- ▶ **How can we trust that God won't fail?**
- ▶ **What will eternal victory look like?**

**LIVE IT OUT**

**Discuss:** Ask students to briefly discuss ideas that may have challenged them during the session.

**Ask:** How can you grow in your trust that God will help you achieve victory?

**Pray:** Ask God to empower the students to accomplish His purposes as they seek to depend on Him.