Heroes

March 14, 2020

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Sunday

RESPONDING

» Read Proverbs 14:12.

» Suppose there is an artist whose music is very popular. Everyone you know is listening to him, and he is getting great reviews. You listen to him, and his music is definitely something you enjoy. But the lyrics aren’t anything you’re sure you agree with. Because you like the music so much, however, you feel you can just listen to it and tune the words out. What are the dangers in doing so?

» Now switch from music to people. Is it possible to pick and choose just the specific characteristics of a person (hero) that you would like to emulate? Explain.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIRING SQUAD?

At only 19 years of age, Bruce Olson knew exactly what he was meant to do. God was calling him to become a missionary to Colombia. Despite knowing little about Colombia, Bruce courageously left his home with the faith that God had plans for him.

He began his work in Colombia with the Motilone tribe. For 28 years he worked with these people. Through great struggles and tremendous joy, God was with him. At 47 years of age he was captured by two dozen Communist guerrillas. They accused him of being a CIA agent for the United States and a helicopter pilot who had killed thousands. He was taken to a camp deep in the jungle, where he was tortured and beaten.

But through this ordeal, Bruce’s faith remained strong. He earned the trust of his captors and taught them to read and study the Bible. Every time he was caught evangelicating, he was moved to another location. Bruce was moved 12 times, but during all that he witnessed to around 200 of his captors.

After eight months of captivity he was sentenced to be executed. Tied to a tree, he faced 18 guerrillas—some of whom he had led to Christ. He knew, however, that they would be put to death if they didn’t carry out their orders. Crying for their friend, they lifted their guns and fired.

How do you think this story ends?

(If you haven’t heard, ask your teacher. The teacher’s lesson contains the rest of the story.)

Monday

BIBLE ANSWERS ON GROWING IN CHRIST

» Read Matthew 20:25-28; Matthew 25:31-46; James 1:27.

» Jesus came to “seek and save that which was lost.” He left His Father and home in heaven and came as a “missionary” to earth. He didn’t come seeking comfort and looking for servants. He came to serve, help, and save. He is our example. As children of God we should be looking for opportunities to serve help others.

» How has Jesus’ example and the things He did touched your life?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

As you look around, what types of service can you do for your family, neighborhood, school, church, and community.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Below are two verses that have been mixed together. Can you separate them? Hint: The first word belongs to the first verse; the second word belongs to the second verse; and each word will follow the same order. Follow this pattern to separate the verses.

But As grow you in therefore the have grace received and Christ knowl-
edge Jesus of the our Lord Lord so and walk Savior in Jesus Him Christ

Verse 1: ___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Verse 2: ___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Sabbath

FOR STUDY

» Memory Text: “I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will re-
member Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds” (Psalm 77:11, 12, NKJV).

» Our Beliefs, no. 11, Growing in Christ: “In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communicating with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. We are also called to follow Christ’s example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity.”

» Ellen G. White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 82, 83
**Tuesday**

**REFLECTING**

» Read John 13:15.

Like many people surveyed, you may not think you have any heroes. This lesson is not meant to make you feel that if you don’t have a hero, something’s wrong with you!

Whether or not you’ve ever had a hero, what is important is that you see the importance of where you look and whom you look to for guidance. Whose opinions do you value? If you had to imitate someone’s life, whose would it be? Do you really have what it takes within you to be completely sure that you are doing the best thing without guidance?

So even if you’re a person who doesn’t have specific heroes, it is important to be around different people who support you with their knowledge and experience.

Think of instances in the past six months when you relied on feedback from someone else.

**Wednesday**

**BIBLE INSIGHTS**

» Fill in the blanks below. You can go to Biblegateway.com to look up the verses.

1. “The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the _______________ _______________ , but the LORD looks at the _______________ _______________ “ (1 Samuel 16:7, NIV).

2. “There is a _______________ that _______________ to be _______________ but in the _______________ it leads to _______________ ” (Proverbs 14:12, NIV).

3. “Now _______________ from youthful lusts and _______________ , _______________ , _______________ and _______________ , with those who call on the Lord from a _______________ heart” (2 Timothy 2:22, NASB).

4. “I have set you an _______________ that _______________ should _______________ as I have _______________ for you” (John 13:15, NIV).

5. “But select _______________ men from all the _______________ — men who fear God, _______________ _________ who _______________ ____________ ” (Exodus 18:21 NIV).

6. “And _______________ you do, whether in _______________ or _______________ , do it _______________ in the _______________ of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17, NIV).

“Happiness even comes from being treated badly for doing what’s right. Just remember that no matter what happens, your place in heaven is secure” (Matthew 5:10).

“Strangely enough, you’ll find yourself blessed even when people insult you, persecute you and lie about you because you have accepted me” (Matthew 5:11).

This is a description of the kind of heroes that heaven applauds. Make a list of adults in your church that fit one or more of the descriptions. Think of a way to let them know that they are heroes of God’s kingdom, and carry out your plan (e.g., Mr. Lee; thank him for the time he takes to coach soccer).

**Thursday**

**CONNECTING**

» Read Matthew 5:14.

» Review the memory text.

It is important to realize that there is someone you can look to as an example. Christ is a flawless role model. There is nothing in His character that is questionable or undesirable. And just as He sets an example for us to follow, we also should be examples for others. In other words, your role as a citizen of God’s kingdom is to be a hero to someone. You may ask why anyone would consider you a hero. But think about it: you may have a little brother or sister, or a friend who looks up to you. Even an adult may see a reflection of Jesus in you. Being a hero in God’s kingdom is about reflecting Jesus.

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**Friday**

**APPLYING**

» Read Colossians 3:17.

» The Clear Word paraphrases the Beatitudes in a way that helps us understand the qualities considered heroic in God’s kingdom:

“Happiness comes from having a humble attitude. If you feel your need of God and trust Him, you have the kingdom of God within you” (Matthew 5:3).

“Happiness comes from grieving when you sin. Confess your sins and you will be forgiven and peace will spring up in your soul” (Matthew 5:4).

“Happiness comes from being submissive. When you acknowledge God as the source of life and abilities, you will feel heaven’s joy. One day, people like this will fill the whole earth” (Matthew 5:5).

“Happiness comes from longing to do what is right. Those who do right will have an inner satisfaction that nothing else can give” (Matthew 5:6).

“Happiness comes from being compassionate and forgiving. People will remember your loving kindness and return the same to you” (Matthew 5:7).

“Happiness comes to those with pure hearts and motives. Such people will one day have the privilege of seeing God and talking to Him face to face” (Matthew 5:8).

“Happiness comes from being a peacemaker, for such are God’s children” (Matthew 5:9).