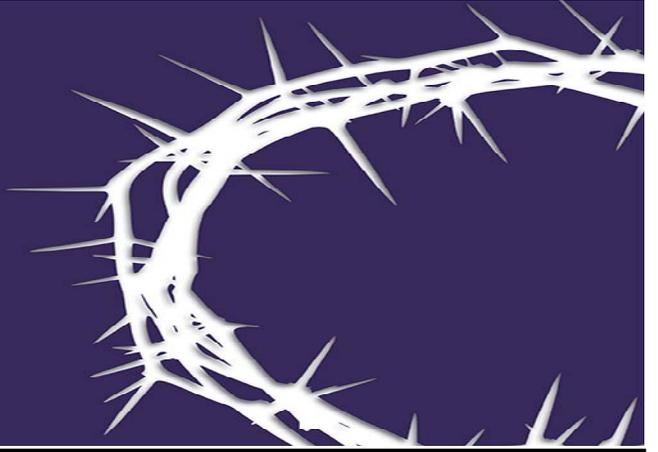


HEROES DEFY THE ODDS



GRAB GATHER GROW

Have, Have-Not, and the Kingdom of God

Grab this study, gather a few people, and grow in faith

SCRIPTURE

(read over the scripture together)

Philippians 4:12-13

¹²I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God—Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit—guide our conversation today as we explore what it means to live life in your Kingdom. Help us to see what we have and to offer you thanks. Strengthen us in using your gifts to bless those who lack. Help us to see what we lack, and give us grace to trust that you will supply us with what we need. Be present with us today and let us be quick to listen and slow to speak, sensitive to your leading. Amen.

DISCUSSION (one or two or ...)

As mentioned in our Philippians text above, do you know what it means to have little? Share your story. Do you know what it means to have plenty? Share your story. Do you believe that you can do all things through Christ? How does faith in Christ give you strength?

In the acclaimed comic book series dubbed, “Demon in a Bottle” there is a heroic moment when Tony Stark, the alter ego of Iron Man, confronts his alcoholism. One night in a drunken rage Tony yells at his butler, who immediately resigns. With the help of a friend, Tony decides to get sober once and for all. He works through withdrawal and addiction, apologizes to his butler, and moves forward into a life without alcohol.

Any times in your life you need to go back and apologize and then more forward into a new/transformed life?

Discuss the following quote, "I see in God in every human being. When I wash the leper's wounds I feel I am nursing the Lord himself. Is it not a beautiful experience?" - Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Author Marr Rawle, *What Makes A Hero? The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus*, cites a homeless shelter as one place that looks like the Kingdom to him. What places look like the Kingdom to you? Why?

How do you define "haves" and "have-nots"? Disparities between the wealthy and the impoverished? How about relationally impoverished because of an addiction to technology? What are other kinds of "haves" and "have-nots"?

SERVE

Change 4 Change - This week and next we will support our Youth Mission Trips to Duluth, MN and Nashville, TN. Middle schoolers will head to Duluth July 15-20th and high schoolers to Nashville July 28-August 4. They have & will be doing several fundraising opportunities to support the trip as well, but if "product" isn't your thing you can give monetarily these two weeks.

March is also Minnesota Food Share. Collect and bring in Food Pantry items for CEAP throughout March to church. Expand your gift, set up Pantry Collection spot at work, or school, or ...and bring the items into the church by the end of March.



FAITH
share read talk pray bless



AT HOME THIS WEEK

Share your High and Low of the day; read the daily scripture; talk about it; pray about each others highs and lows, and at the end of the day, bless each other with the blessing below or one of your own.

SUNDAY: Philippians 4:12-13

MONDAY: Matthew 19:21

TUESDAY: Genesis 2:18

WEDNESDAY: John 1:16

THURSDAY: Luke 6:20-21, 24-25

FRIDAY: Psalm 34:8

SATURDAY: Luke 5:36-39 (3/11/18 sermon Text)

BLESSING: "Be a blessing today and tomorrow, Jesus has work for you to do!"