

HERO-Bible Study #3

Theme Verse: Hebrews 1:2-4

Theme: God Speaks Now Through Jesus



Supplies Needed:

1. Bibles
2. Paper for all students
3. An index card for each student AND adult
4. Pen or pencil for all students

Watch: *The Last Samurai* – 13:13-15:05 (where Captain Algren first meets the Emperor)

****Note: Be sure to stop the video promptly. There is some inappropriate language in the next scene.**

Discuss:

1. At the beginning of the scene, what did you notice about the men's mannerisms when they are talking to the Emperor's representative?
2. How did the whole room change when the Emperor stood up and spoke to them directly?
3. Why do you think everyone's reactions were so different, even though the representative was directly sharing the words of the Emperor?

Say Something Like: As you learned at the DYG and in our last post-event Bible study, God used prophets from the Old Testament, like David, Ester, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to speak to us about His plan of salvation to come. But these prophets, despite their fame in the church today, were only poor shadows of the savior to come. The representative in the film, speaking for the emperor, did not have the impact of the actual Emperor speaking directly to the Americans. In the same way, God wanted to speak more directly to us.

At this point, break into small group circles for deeper discussion. Small groups should comprise three students at minimum, guided by an adult or student leader if possible. If you group is small, feel free to continue as one group.

Reading Activity: Job 38-39

1. For this activity, make sure the lights are dimmed.
2. Hand out some paper and pens/pencils to all the students.
3. Have the students shut their eyes, setting aside all distractions to focus in on the words of these passages.
4. Encourage the students to imagine the creatures and objects and events referenced in the passage, to really see them in their mind. If anything really stands out to them, tell them to write it down on the piece of paper you provided. Encourage your artistic types to express themselves through drawing or writing if they feel prompted to.

5. Read the above passages aloud. Try to not rush through it or read it monotone, but read in such a way that helps the students really tune in.
6. When you have finished reading, don't move on right away. Settle into the darkness and silence, letting the words of the Scriptures absorb into the students, then move on.

Discuss:

1. As you listened to God describe His creative majesty to Job, what stood out to you? What thoughts or questions came to mind?
2. What did this reading reveal to you about God? *(Remind them that according to Genesis 1, God created all this with a simple word.)*
3. How do you think humans and all their work compared to the God revealed in these passages? How do you feel in comparison to all this?

Read: Hebrews 1:1-4

Discuss:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in these verses? *(God spoke through Him, He is heir of all things, God made the universe through Him, Jesus is an exact representation of God, Jesus sustains all things through His power, He provided purification for sin, He sits at the right hand of God in heaven – that is – the seat of power, He is superior to angels in every way.)*
2. The list describes Jesus in many ways. Which descriptor stands out to you the most? Why? What does it mean to you, personally?
3. Think back on the Job reading and all the things attributed to God's creative power. What do you think about the Hebrew passage stating, "through [Jesus] [God] made the universe" and that Jesus is "sustaining all things by his powerful word"?
4. Look back at the first half of verse two. What did God "speak" through Jesus? *(salvation through faith in Jesus, not by our works but by His grace.)*
5. This passage means the one who created everything we read about in Job 38-39 is the same Jesus who set aside His power to come to earth and rescue you. What thoughts come to mind when you hear that?

Wrap up any discussion that comes out of this in your small group, then join up in one large group with the other small groups to wrap up. During the following, have one volunteer hand out an index card to everyone.

Say Something Like: In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul wrote: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." It wasn't just "some guy" who came to earth to speak God's word to us. Through Jesus, we have met the creative majesty, power, and glory of God Himself, who chose to live the life of "some guy" here among us. He didn't stop at prophets. He came in person. And that same God, who set aside all His power, also made us His ambassadors to this earth and appeals, through us, to a

fallen and broken world in need of the healing only God can provide. *You* carry Christ out of these doors and into your schools and gyms and coffee shops and sports teams and musical groups.

Each of you has received an index card. On that card, I want you to write these words:

“How is Christ calling me to be His representative in every day?”

(Pause to give them time to write, repeating yourself a few times until everyone has it.)

I want you to take these cards home and put them somewhere you'll see them every day: a bathroom mirror, your bedside table, your locker, whatever works. Each day, when you see that card, ask God to open your eyes to the opportunities He is putting in front of you to represent Him, and then take advantage of those opportunities! It's in little steps, every day, that God uses us to impact our world for Him. Let's pray.

Close in Prayer, asking God to open your hearts over the coming weeks to how He is calling each of you to be His representatives in every day. Then, ask Him to give each one of you the courage to take advantage of those opportunities. If you like, give your students a chance to add to this prayer.