

DEBORAH AND JAEI

WEEK 1

KICKING IT OFF

What is the most epic story you've ever heard?

BIG IDEA

You can leave an unexpected legacy when you follow the One who created you and called you to Himself.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Judges 4 (take out your Bible or Bible app and read all of Judges 4)

2 Corinthians 12:9 *"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

DISCUSSION

1. Read Judges 4 together. What most stands out to you in this story?
2. Which events in the account are miraculous, and why do you think so?
3. Why was Barak not the hero he might have been?
4. What do you believe was the significance in God choosing Deborah and Jael to deliver Israel from the hands of their enemies at this time?
5. Imagine you are Jael. How might you have acted in her circumstance, and what might the consequences have been?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. Why might you not act when clearly prompted to by the Holy Spirit? How does this passage encourage you?
7. How can you be more available to be used by God to act on his behalf in this world?

WRAPPING IT UP

Pray for one another, that even in your weakness, you will let God use you.

MEMORY VERSE

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." **2 Corinthians 12:9**

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for those whom God is calling to step up and lead in our church right now, especially those who may not feel "qualified", but who are greatly needed to fulfill the work of ministry to which God has called us.

UNEXPECTED

LEGACY

ZERUBBABEL (Father's Day)

WEEK 2

KICKING IT OFF

Have you ever been rescued from a dangerous or difficult situation? What happened?

BIG IDEA

God's purpose in our life can be lived out, not by might or by power, but by the Spirit of God.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Zechariah 4 (read the message of God through Zechariah to Zerubbabel)

Matthew 19:26 "Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

DISCUSSION

1. Read Zech. 4:2-6 and Is. 41:10. Tell of a specific time when you were very aware you were not going to accomplish something on your own and needed God's help.
2. Share an experience when it was obvious that God provided as there was NO WAY that happened without God's involvement. How does this impact your faith and trust going forward?
3. Read Zech. 4:7, Matt. 17:20, 19:26 and Eph. 3:20. Do you tend to focus more on the "mountains" in your life or the One who is able to move mountains?
4. What are ways you can focus more on God and His power instead of being stressed, anxious or overwhelmed by the challenges in your life?
5. Read Zech. 4:10. Share an example in your life of a small or seemingly insignificant responsibility or task that God has blessed or may bless with important and maybe even eternal results.
6. Think of someone who seems to faithfully carry out a small task, maybe even daily, and that through God's power may reap important results. How can you encourage that person to carry on?

WRAPPING IT UP

Of three things we can learn from the life of Zerubbabel: 1) God is our provider, 2) God is supremely powerful, 3) the importance of small things, which is most meaningful to you and why?

MEMORY VERSE

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." **Zechariah 4:6b**

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for our Men of Valor groups, that they would encourage and equip fathers to depend on our powerful God and focus on doing the small things well.

UNEXPECTED

LEGACY

ESTHER

WEEK 3

KICKING IT OFF

Imagine someone coming into church and holding those gathered there hostage. Would you be willing to be executed to save them? How about tortured? Rate yourself from 1-10, 1 being a coward, 10 being a hero.

BIG IDEA God can form defiant faith in the most unexpected of people.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Esther 1-10 (take out your Bible or Bible app and read or recount Esther's story in chapters 1-10)

Esther 4:14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

DISCUSSION

1. Even though God is never mentioned in the book of Esther, did you feel his presence in the story as you read it? Explain.
2. In placing Esther in the palace, God gives her an opportunity to be involved in His rescue/salvation plan. Do you see serving God as an obligation, an opportunity, or both?
3. Read Esther 4:6-14. Mordecai tells Esther that if she attempts to save her life through disobedience, she will lose it. Similarly, Jesus states, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it (Mark 8:35). What did Jesus mean by this?"
4. In what way do we put our lives on the line for the sake of the Gospel?
5. Mordecai greatly influenced and encouraged Esther. Who is the spiritual friend or mentor who helps you discern where God is working in your life? If you do not have one, pray and ask God to send you such a friend.
6. What crisis or hardship has God used in your life to form a defiant, courageous faith?
7. Read Esther 4:15-16. In what situations might you consider engaging in fasting and prayer as Esther did?
8. Read Esther 4:14. In light of where God has placed you right now, what opportunities is He giving you to be a witness, to be involved in his rescue/salvation plan?

WRAPPING IT UP

Discuss how God may be at work in your life currently to develop defiant faith in you.

MEMORY VERSE "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" **Esther 4:14b**

PRAYER FOCUS Pray for our missions team who are bringing meals and encouragement to our law enforcement, first responders and hospital personnel during these times.

UNEXPECTED

LEGACY