

## A Hero is Defined by the Choices He Makes

### Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

The "HERO" Choice Series: Lesson #1 | Thursday, September 7, 2023

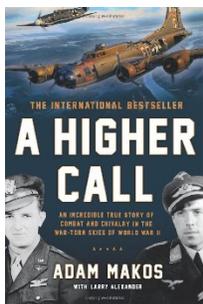
Within every follower of Jesus exists the capacity to become a God-ordained HERO. In this 4-week series we'll explore keys to becoming the man we all want by looking at four specific areas of our lives including **helping** the hurting with **honor**, having **enthusiasm** to accomplish the mission with **encouragement**, building **relationships** with a purpose based on **responsibility**, and **obedience** to God's call on our lives by **observing** those around us. Each week we'll explore a military or business leader hero from American history, as well as parables and stories from the Bible that will bring it all together. Let's "Be the Hero" the Lord has called us to be!

#### Tonight's HERO area: *Help and Honor*

In American culture it's incredible easy to forget the people around us. The busier and the more hectic our lives turn out to be, the more life seems to become a blur, including the lives of those around us. Like a car hurdling down the road at 100 mile per hour, life seems to pass us by along with the opportunities to impact people. Heroes take time to help people and what sets them apart is they focus on helping the hurting people around them in the most honorable way possible.

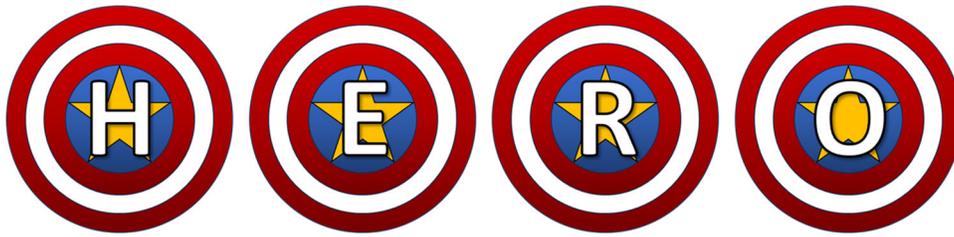
Tonight, we'll explore one of my favorite stories from WWII about an American B-17 bomber and a German Messerschmitt Bf 109. The other is the amazing story of Joseph from Genesis and how God used him by positioning him to be the most powerful and influential man in the world.

#### Tonight's Opening Story



In December 1943 a badly damaged American bomber struggles to fly over wartime Germany. At the controls is twenty-one-year-old Second Lieutenant Charlie Brown. Half his crew lay wounded or dead on this, their first mission. Suddenly, a Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighter pulls up on the bomber's tail. The pilot is German ace Franz Stigler. He can destroy the young American crew with the squeeze of a trigger. What happened next would defy imagination and later be called "the most incredible encounter between enemies in World War II." The U.S. 8th Air Force would later classify what happened between them as "top secret." It was an act that Franz could never mention for fear of facing a firing squad. It was the encounter that would haunt both Charlie and Franz for forty years until, as old men, they would search the world for each other, a last mission that could change their lives forever ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)).

1. What makes a hero? Think about stories and experiences from your own life. What makes a hero different than those around them?
2. Who in your life would you see as a hero? In answering this question, think about your response to Question #1.



## A Hero is Defined by the Choices He Makes

3. Tonight's Bible lesson is on Joseph. Of all the men in the Bible, Joseph is among my "Top 5" favorite. Joseph because he knew what it meant to be loved by a father, dealt with incredible rejection and despair, had a passion to honor God, was extremely intelligent and industrious, and ultimately became the most powerful man in the world.

Choose one of the following passages from Genesis and briefly describe what happened and how God used that experience to make Joseph the future hero he would become. For you over-achievers, feel free to tackle all the sections!

Genesis 37:1-22 (Dreams)  
Genesis 37:12-36 (Sold into slavery)  
Genesis 39:1-6 (The house of Potiphar)  
Genesis 39:7-20 (The house of Potiphar)  
Genesis 39:21-23 (In charge of prison)  
Genesis 40 (Dreams Round #1)  
Genesis 41:1-40 (Dreams Round #2)  
Genesis 41:41-57 (In charge of Egypt)  
Genesis 42 (The brothers' visit)  
Genesis 45:1-15 (The Great Reveal)  
Genesis 50:15-21 (Ending)

Write your response here:

4. How did Joseph embody the characteristics of **help and honor**?
5. Part of being a hero involves servant leadership. Read Philippians 2:3-11 and answer the following.
- What does Paul mean in verse 3 when he says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit"?
  - Do you struggle with being selfish? Why do you think so many men do?

### Philippians 2:3-11 (New International Version)

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

6. **APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK:** Write down one person this week that you can help. Then, commit to doing it. Be prepared to share with the group next week what you did.