

## A Hero is Defined by the Choices He Makes

### Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

The "HERO" Choice Series: Lesson #2 | Thursday, September 14, 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!

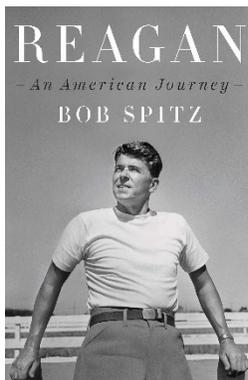
#### **Tonight's HERO area:** *Encouragement with enthusiasm*

As followers of Jesus, we need to be both encouraging and enthusiastic. Interestingly, the word "enthusiasm" comes from the Greek word "enthousiasmos" (ενθουσιασμός) which means "divinely inspired, possessed by a god." According to [vocabulary.com](http://vocabulary.com) it was originally used in a derogatory sense to describe excessive religious zeal.

Even as Believers it's OK to be discouraged from time to time; however, there is something fundamentally wrong when a Believer is constantly negative and discouraging to others. The leaders (and heroes) of tomorrow are going to be men who inspire others by being enthusiastic about things they value. For you and me, our love for Jesus and desire to live for Him should drive how we interact with others.

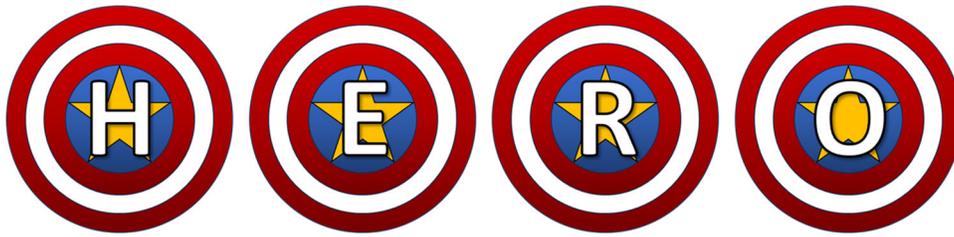
Tonight, from history we'll explore the life of Ronald Regan. From the Bible we'll explore Jesus and how encouragement and enthusiasm played a central role in making Him mankind's greatest hero.

#### **Tonight's Opening Story**



Ronald Reagan (1911 to 2005) was the 40<sup>th</sup> (1980 to 1988) President of the United States. Many have argued he's the greatest communicator of any president who's ever served our country. I remember as a young man listening to him and being inspired about what it meant to be an American. He had an active time in office that included the Iran hostage crisis resolution, he was shot, the Berlin wall came down, our F-111s bombed Libya, and the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded during launch. His presidency had some challenges and he seemed to struggle with basic Christian Biblical principles, but he came to know Jesus in June 1923 (Spitz, page 65). What made him such an inspirational leader was his ability to effectively communicate with enthusiasm and encouragement; important traits for men who want to be heroes at homes, business, church, and their communities.

**APPLICATION FROM LAST WEEK:** Write down the person you helped last week. If you are willing, please share with the group what you did.



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1. How does being around people who are encouraging and enthusiastic make you feel?
2. In contrast, have you ever been discouraged by someone? If so, what did they do that discouraged you? Be specific.
3. Tonight's Bible lesson focuses on Jesus. We could talk all night about what makes Jesus a hero, especially in light of future events. Read John 4:1-42 about the *Woman at the Well*. In what ways did this woman need a hero and how was Jesus the answer?
4. In His life how did Jesus embody the characteristics of **encouragement and enthusiasm**? Think about some specific interactions He had with people.
5. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and answer the following.
  - a. Write down the nine attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit (try to memorize the list).
  - b. From the above list, which attributes are associated with a Believer who is both encouraging and enthusiastic?

### Galatians 5:22-23 (New English Translation)

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

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