

A Hero is Defined by the Choices He Makes

Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

The "HERO" Choice Series: Lesson #3 | Thursday, September 21, 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!

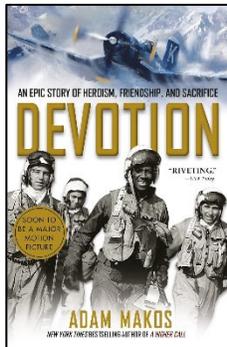
Tonight's HERO area: *Relationships with responsibility.*

Let's be brutally honest – **life is mostly about relationships with other people**. People who experience the greatest joy and fulfillment in life are those with the deepest relationships. It's really that simple. However, sometimes it's not easy for some people building meaningful relationships is actually very difficult.

Our ability to impact and influence people around us is based upon our ability to connect with others through love, care, and kindness. Christian men who "get this" are extremely effective for Jesus and are able to help others through discipleship and investing in their lives. I once heard a quote that sums this up well, "We impress from a distance, but impact up close."

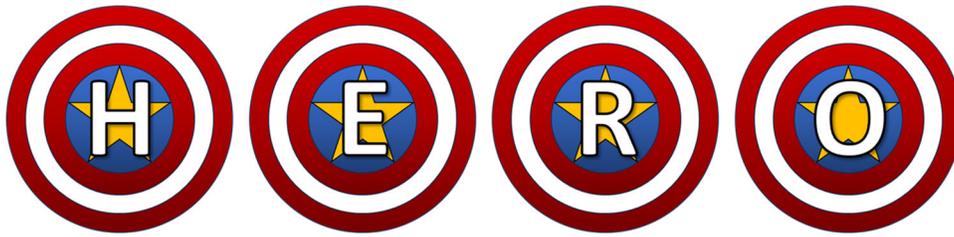
As part of our need for relationships, deep down all men want to feel respected and appreciated. We want people to listen to our ideas and thoughts and appreciate the value we bring to any group of which we're a part, whether it be our families, church, work, our communities. In "God's Realm" this is achieved by modeling the wisdom and love of Jesus. This is very different than the "World's Way" that is often driven by pride, selfishness, and intimidation. When it comes to relationships, we'll have the greatest impact for Jesus when we act like Jesus.

Tonight's Opening Story



Devotion tells the inspirational story from the Korean War of the early 1950s of the U.S. Navy's most famous aviation duo, Lieutenant Tom Hudner and Ensign Jesse Brown, and the Marines they fought to defend. A white New Englander from the country-club scene, Tom passed up Harvard to fly fighters for his country. An African American sharecropper's son from Mississippi, Jesse became the navy's first Black carrier pilot, defending a nation that wouldn't even serve him in a bar. While much of America remained divided by segregation, Jesse and Tom joined forces as wingmen in Fighter Squadron 32. When one of the duo is shot down behind enemy lines and pinned in his burning plane, the other faces an unthinkable choice: watch his friend die or attempt history's most audacious one-man rescue mission.

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



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1. How does being around men with whom you have good relationships make you feel?
2. In tonight's lesson we'll discuss the story of Tom Hudner and Jesse Brown and how they modeled "relationship with responsibility." For this question you might study about this story on the internet and watch the DEVOTION movie trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCDEGP6VjYY>. Considering the deepest relationship's you've had with other men, how have relationship and responsibility worked together for good?
3. Read 2 Samuel 23:8-38 that lists David's "Might Men." These guys were warriors and hardened soldiers, but they also had an extremely deep commitment to David and were willing to die for him.
 - a. Why do you think these men followed David, even before he was anointed king?
 - b. What were the benefits for David in having a group of men like this around him?
 - c. Do you have a group of men in your life you would consider your "Mighty Men." These men can be described as men who love you, are loyal to you, stand up for you, hold you accountable to do your best, and if needed would give their life for you.
4. Studies and surveys of men tell us that most men either have no close relationships or very few relationships with other men. Why do you think this is the case? To "prime the pump" for this discussion I've listed below a few words that might help you come up with some thoughts.

Vulnerability | Pride | Fear | Self-reliance | Previous Wounds | Hurt

5. A big part of being a man involves responsibility. In some regards it is what separates a boy from a man. Most of us started working at a young age, which impacts the way we think and what we expect from others (i.e., the harder your work, the harder you expect others to work). What advice would you give to a young man in terms of taking responsibility and having a strong work ethic? Consider using verses from the "General Electric Power Company" books listed below.
 - a. Galatians 6:5-10
 - b. Ephesians 4:28
 - c. Philippians 4:10-13
 - d. Colossians 3:23
6. In your life how do "relationship and responsibility" work together? Do you find your level of responsibility the greatest for people with whom you have the closest relationship?
7. **APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK:** Write down one person this week with whom you can improve your relationship. Then, commit to doing it. Be prepared to share with the group next week what you did.