

A Hero is Defined by the Choices He Makes

Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

The "HERO" Choice Series: Lesson #4 | Thursday, September 28, 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: *Obedience and observation.*

This is our last week together in this series. I've thoroughly enjoyed our time together and the fruitful small group discussions we've had. **Whether you realize it or not – you are a hero.** Like every other hero we've seen in the movies or heard about, we have a mission. As followers of Jesus, we have the ultimate mission!

Mark Twain once said, "The two most important days in our lives are the day we were born and the day we figure out why." This is extremely powerful when combined with the thought that *we're placed here on earth to either meet Jesus or lead others to meet Jesus.* This week's theme is **observation and obedience.** Ironically, they work together as a powerful combination. Our observation of the world around us defines our mission and our mission defines the obedience against which will be tested.

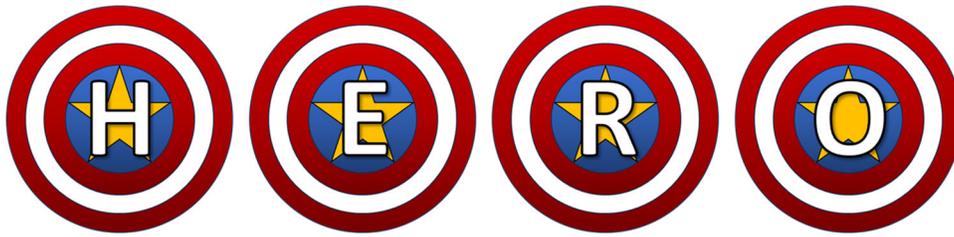
As we wrap up this series, let's revisit the role that help and honor (H), enthusiasm and encouragement (E), relationships and responsibility (R), and obedience and observation (O) contribute to our impacting the world for Jesus.

Tonight's Opening Story



James Earl Rudder (May 6, 1910 – March 23, 1970) was a United States Army major general. As a Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded the historic D-Day Pointe du Hoc battle during the Invasion of Normandy. He also commanded the U.S. troops at the Battle of the Hürtgen Forest, and led a series of delaying actions and ambushes during the Battle of the Bulge. General Rudder also at various times served as Texas Land Commissioner, the 16th president of Texas A&M, mayor of Brady, Texas, and a high school and college teacher and coach. During tonight's lesson we'll talk about the events of D-Day, the statistics, and the critical role that obedience and following orders played in this critically important battle for the men of WWII.

APPLICATION FROM LAST WEEK: Write down the person with whom you sought to improve your **relationship** with last week. If you are willing, please share with the group what you did.



A Hero is Defined by the Choices He Makes

1. As followers of Jesus, the great battle against which we all fight is temptation and sin. Answer the following questions. It's recognized these are personal questions, so please answer as you feel comfortable.
 - a. In what areas of your life have you experienced the greatest victory over sin?
 - b. In what areas of your life have you experienced the greatest frustration in dealing with sin?
 - c. What has contributed to the success you've had in overcoming sin? Think in terms of how you're motivated to honor the Lord with your life.
2. Read James 1:13-15. What is the "sin" progression James outlines for us in this passage? What insights are provided that might help us overcome sin?
3. Most of us have lived a long time, long enough to see the consequences of sin in our own lives and the lives of others. If you were to advise a young man about your observations on the consequences of sin from your life and the lives of others, what could you tell him? Think in terms of advice you'd provide based on stories in relation to a particular sin.
4. Some of the men in our group who have served in the military have been in combat. Observation is often the difference between life and death. As followers of Jesus, what role does observation play in terms of the choices we make and the people we impact?
5. Read Daniel 9, specifically verses 20 and 23. How was Daniel rewarded because of his obedience and what observations was he allowed to make?
6. **APPLICATION FOR 2023:** With this week's theme being "observation", identify at least one person (or perhaps a family) with whom you'd like to share the Gospel before the end of the year. One idea would be to identify a family in your neighborhood and have Bibles imprinted for them as Christmas presents. Maybe you can accompany the Bible gifts with dinner, cookies, or another gift.