

Characteristics of a Kingdom Revolutionary

Session #8 - Seizes Impact Moments

Session Objective: “You can talk all day about what God has promised to do through his people, but you will never live in those promises until you act on them. And if you act on the promises of God, if you choose to seize your divine moments, it will eventually happen. It is unavoidable. There will come a moment of impact when your insistence will meet the world’s resistance.” (McManus, pg. 178/9)

Session Intro: This week is all about action and impact. McManus gives the definition of Impact as “a forcible contact between two or more things.” Often we talk about living a life of impact, but as we reflect on the definition given by McManus...are we really desiring a life of forcible contact?

The truth is that when a Kingdom revolutionary seizes impact moments, there will be sparks. It will at times get messy, and there will be a price to pay. We must help our young people to realize that the life of a follower of Jesus is not one without pain, or without sacrifice, but in fact, is one where we will walk towards pain, sacrifice, suffering and even danger.

Minimum Prep: The foundation for this week’s material can be found in McManus’ 7th chapter, entitled...“impact”. I strongly recommend that you read this chapter, because it speaks so powerfully to Christian leaders, and the role of risk and sacrifice in our own lives and ministries...it will be a tale the ministers to your soul! You must also read through the questions and have a white board ready. You will note that it would be helpful to have the Lord’s Prayer ready to project, or place in front of your students.

Extended Prep: See Basic Prep and - The movie “**Saving Private Ryan**” (4:30 – 9:15). This is a gory scene, so use discretion in your local setting. This second scene from Private Ryan is a re-enactment of the D-Day battle on the beaches of Normandy. This is a long scene, and it increases in intensity, I recommend that you can “get the idea” in the first 4 minutes, until slow motion occurs with Tom Hanks.

Session Outline

Small Group Questions (EXTENDED PREP Starts Here):

Play the clip from “Saving Private Ryan”.

- 1. From the perspective of the men storming the beach that day...How do you think they thought the battle was going?**
- 2. Was there anyone else on the battlefield that day who may have had a different perspective?**

Leader Say: *On D-Day, the beaches were crowded with the bodies of dead soldiers. In the movie it struck me that the beach invasion was almost futile, men were killed before they ever left their troop carriers, and the beach was an open killing ground for the German bunker positions. But high above the beaches were reconnaissance pilots who were taking pictures for the Generals and strategists back in England. They saw a very different picture. Certainly they saw the carnage on the beaches, but they also saw the damage that was inflicted by the barrage of fire from the big guns on the destroyers just off the beach, and the damage inflicted by bombers, and the advance paratroopers who were simultaneously fighting their way towards the beaches from behind the lines. From the perspective of the soldier on the beach, the battle must have looked disastrous, but from 30,000 feet, the pilot had a much different perspective – one with a true sense of hope!*

- 3. The outcome of the battle was the establishment of a beachhead for the Allied forces, and today, D-Day is truly seen as the turning point of the war – it was the beginning of the end. In your opinion was the difficulty of that day worth it?**

Leader Note: If you do not use the extended prep – begin your group study here.

- 4. Looking back on your life, can you think of a time when you really applied yourself to something, and it really cost you a lot – maybe in time, or energy, or discipline or money. Did that effort pay off for you? Why or why not? What did you learn through that experience?**
- 5. How do you react to the sentence: “our religious integration of Christianity with capitalism and consumerism has resulted in a view of life that says if God is in it, it comes easily”?**
 - a. Have you heard this kind of sentiment talked about by Christian people?**
 - b. How is this a very dangerous kind of teaching?**
 - c. What does the Bible have to say about this kind of thinking?**

Read the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel:
I Kings 18:16-46

6. Why did Elijah need to stand up against King Ahab?
7. How were the odds of the confrontation between the lonely Elijah and the king? How many prophets of Baal did Ahab gather?
8. If you were inside Elijah's head, how do you think he felt – a. confronting the powerful and wicked King Ahab? b. Going head to head with 450 prophets of Baal?
9. What was at stake in this "impact moment"? (Impact is defined as "a forcible contact between two or more things")
10. How confident was Elijah that God was going to move in power, and that Baal was going to do nothing?

Read I Kings 19:1-4

11. How did Elijah re-act, just after the amazing Mount Carmel encounter to the news that Jezebel had put a death wish on him?
12. Why do you think he reacted that way?
13. What do you think will be some of the consequences of you standing up for God – deciding to be a kingdom revolutionary in your world?

Leader Note: It's time for the whiteboard or blank overhead again...brainstorm with the students some of the consequences of standing up for God? These should both be negative and positive, so to help that, make two columns – negative consequences, positive consequences: Positive consequences may include – increased faith, see the hand of God in my life, kingdom growth, honour to God's name, deepening of my relationship with God. Negative consequences may include: loss of friends, bad reputation, laughter or other persecution, relational conflict, sacrifice – financial, reputation, time, direction...etc.

14. "God paves the way through the willing sacrifice of individuals"
Think back to the opening scene from "Saving Private Ryan" What are you willing to sacrifice to be a part of what God is paving?

Application: *In conclusion this week, why not pray the Lord's Prayer together. The Lord's Prayer is a revolutionary treatise isn't it...?*

"Your kingdom come, your will be done..." – we are asking to be a part of what God is doing in heaven and on earth. Explain this to your young people – have them stand with you – be demonstrative – hold hands above your heads, stand at attention, come up with an appropriate action for the young people in your group as you prepare them for the prayer and then together pray it...put it on a powerpoint slide, or on the overhead, or on a piece of butcher paper...no mumbling, lets say it with determination!

Comments and Feedback

Leader Note: This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.