

Kensington Goes to the Movies: Hero Edition

Week 2 | Captain Marvel (In Christ)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus has already won the battle over evil, and because of who we are in Christ, we have all the power we need through the Holy Spirit to overcome sin in our lives.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

We will look at what it means to know who we are "in Christ". In the Bible, Paul writes to people who need to understand who they are, because they are behaving like everything is "backwards" – like sin has the power over their lives.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:1-7; 11-12 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-18

Note: Scenes from the movie "Captain Marvel" were played in the weekend service to show that Captain Marvel does not know who she is, yet she is being trained by her enemies to fight her allies. Everything she knows to be true is actually backwards. After realizing how powerful she is and what she could do when tapping into the power she has within, she destroys the enemy with ease.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share: Have you ever found yourself thinking something to be true, only to discover the truth was completely the opposite? How did you feel?
2. Sometimes we make bad assumptions. Sometimes we are given bad information. Sometimes we are even lied to. We all do it – we waste time, money, and energy moving in one direction only to find out it was the wrong direction. Consider these two scenarios. How can you relate?
 - a. Pursuing the wrong things to find happiness
 - b. Aligning our choices with the wrong beliefs
3. Life can be a constant struggle in trying to do the right thing, but when we become followers of Jesus we assume a new identity. Paul pleads with the people to stop being confused, to stop acting like their "old self" and realize they are now "someone new". **Read Romans 6:1-7; 11-12 and Discuss:**
 - a. "go on sinning" = Paul is addressing a perpetual problem with not only the wrong way of behavior, but a wrong way of thinking. How can backwards thinking leave space for the enemy to move in?
 - b. "baptized into Christ Jesus" = Paul is using the picture of baptism to explain the sacrifice of Christ and how it gives us victory over sin. What role does baptism play in assuming a new identity?
4. Christ died so that we can have our relationship restored with God the Father. To be "in Christ" means that God no longer sees our imperfections; He sees the righteousness of His own Son. Only "in Christ" is our sin debt cancelled, our relationship with God restored, and our eternity secured. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-18 and Discuss:**
 - a. What do the words "in Christ" mean in your own life?
 - b. What power is available to you that you have yet to fully use?

The best way to have
victory in WHAT YOU
FACE is to understand
WHO YOU ARE.

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TRY THIS

The lies of the enemy can firmly grasp a person. Some of us have horrible pasts filled with pain and shame. But God is victorious and you are a Child of God! "In Christ" you can find strength to live in victory. If you have never been baptized, pray and ask God if now is the time. Ask God to reveal if you are to declare victory over sin by publicly declaring He is your Lord and Savior! And then tell your group! If you have already been baptized, recommit yourself to your Lord and Savior. Ask God to reveal to you how you can live each day in victory.

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Week 1 | Incredibles 2 (Jesus Elevates Women)

BOTTOM LINE

Throughout the Bible God defines the value of women as equal partnership with men.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

God created women to be equal with men, yet they are often treated poorly. During Jesus ministry on earth, He elevated women at every turn. We will look at how the church and us as individuals can model God's views of women.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:18-22, Genesis 1:27, Galatians 3:26-29

Note: Scenes from the movie "Incredibles 2" were played in the weekend service to show one of the strongest themes of this movie was the choice to use Elastigirl over Mr. Incredible as the "poster super hero" to win the public over.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** In our culture today, the equity of women is a strong rising value getting a lot of attention. The movie Incredibles 2 takes it a step further and explores the idea that the female superhero is a better choice over the male superhero for the job. Can you think of a real life woman who is a "better choice for the job" over a man? Share who comes to mind.
- Women were held in high regard during Old Testament times, but by the time of the New Testament their rights had declined. Women could no longer testify in court, be involved in commerce or hold positions of leadership. A woman was rarely seen outside the home. Consider these women from the Old Testament. Does this shifting view of women throughout history surprise you? Why or why not?
 - Women engaged in commerce and real estate (Proverbs)
 - Women engaged in manual labor (Exodus and Ruth)
 - Women played music and lead worship (Exodus and Psalms)
 - Women held leadership roles (Deuteronomy)
 - Women were prophetesses (Judges and Kings 2)
 - A woman (Deborah) was a judge (Judges)
 - Women influenced King David to change the law (2 Samuel)
- Jesus respected women just as much as men by addressing them directly in public when he taught or interacted, which went against culture. In John 4:27 it says, "His disciples were amazed he was talking with a woman".
 - a. How well can you love and respect ALL people equally?
 - b. The way we respond to those who are different than we are has great impact on the people in our lives that we have influence over – friends, spouses, children, co-workers. Discuss how changing how you view and treat women can change the impact on the people that you influence.
- Read Genesis 1:27 and 2:18-22 and Discuss:** God created man and woman to join forces to align themselves with Him and serve Him together. God made BOTH man and woman to reflect His image. Man and woman are equal, a perfect match.
 - a. How do we prepare today's young people to live out their God-given design as men and women?
 - b. How is the church helping to equip the current generation?
- Read Galatians 3:26-29 and Discuss:** We are all one in Christ. Though we each have roles to fill, there is no difference in value, worth, or potential impact.
 - a. How can the church elevate the status of women in the world?
 - b. How can we each model this in our own area of influence?
 - c. What could the world look like if everybody who followed Jesus lived this way?

God views women as warrior heroes and so should the church.

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TRY THIS

We must fight for the value of women in the church and around the world. The church should be seen, within the culture in which it operates, as the organization that pushes the envelope when it comes to the value of women and the role they play in the Kingdom of God. Whether you are a woman or a man, pray about your role in this fight. Ask God to reveal one opportunity this week to model God's views of women to those around you. Come back next week ready to share your experience with your group.