

Contagion
C.I.Y. Edition

Shelly

Jessica

Rachel

Peggy

Will

Allie – insert rap

Monique

Faith

Ben

Tim

Night 1:

Young Samuel

Young Samuel had been placed in a position by his mom to hear God ... after some confusion; he finally realized that God WAS speaking to Him ... and His reply eventually was, “Speak Lord Your servant is listening.”

What did we learn from this? God IS speaking to all of us ... but you have to position yourself to be able to hear Him... and then you have to be quiet to hear Him ... and you have to be ready to surrender like Samuel ... “Speak Lord Your servant is listening.”

Day 2:

We were asked **THE** question of the Conference ... **“Do we have what it takes to be a part of something BIGGER?”**

Why? Because we serve a BIG God who desires to do BIG things. He has never stopped doing BIG things ... The Bible is the history of God ... but it doesn't mean that He's not STILL at work ... and desiring to use US to do MORE Big Things.

The Bible hero we looked at on this day was a “lady of the night;” she was a “prostitute;” she was a “hooker;” she was a hoar. I used all of those terms, because I hope one of them kind of offends you ... because what **Rahab** did to earn money WAS offensive.

I am guessing that she was broken; she was at the end of her rope; and she found a way to survive by selling her body for sex.

But here is the cool part ... God is up to something BIG!

She lives in Jericho. Jericho is about to be attacked by God's people, the nation of Israel.

Israelite spies sneak into Jericho ... and somehow they end up at the prostitute's house. She knows who they are ... and instead of turning them in, potentially for a cash reward ... she instead believes in THEIR GOD ... and wants to join HIS team.

So here is where it gets GOOD for us. If an Old Testament hoar can join God's team and be used greatly by Him ... HE's got to be able to use us, right?

Rahab is known for her FAITH. As imperfect as her life was, she is still known for her faith. God took her and totally turned her life around.

She is saved when Jericho crumbles to the ground. She ends up marrying an Israelite man, and has a great, great, great grandson named David ... and a great, great, great, great, great grandson named Jesus Christ.

See ... it doesn't matter who you are, or what you have done ... what matters is what are you going to do in THIS moment? Do you have enough faith in God to give Him your life? Because if you do ... He is going to totally re-shape it.

Rahab got out of her little life & got into something much bigger.

Day 3:

On this day we learned about **King Josiah**.

Josiah was **8 years old** when he became King.

Sounds like a recipe for disaster, right? Sponge Bob is going to be his prime minister, all of the school classes are going to be how to build cool Lego creations; Ice Cream and Pizza are going to be the national diet.

No those things didn't really happen ... but that's what we expect with an 8 year old king isn't it. Especially since his dad & his grand dad were both kings before him and they were both jerks.

But somehow Josiah desired to live to please God. He must have had someone speaking godly things into his life.

They were remodeling the Temple during his reign (around age 20), and they found something. Something that had been lost and forgotten ... God's Law.

Josiah had someone read it ... and after he heard it ... he tore his clothes in humility.

In 2 Kings 22 we see his FOLLOW THROUGH after hearing God's Word (Follow Thru is always the key after hearing God's Word). We see that he tore down; demolished; burned & smashed the false idols of his grandfather and father.

THEN he got the nation together and had God's Word read to everyone. And as a nation they renewed their covenant with God.

We see a cool pattern in all of this that **we** can follow: WE read God's Word. We renew our commitment to Him & then we obey. Read / Renew / Obey

2 Kings 23:25 sums up Josiah's life: ***Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.***

What will they say about us? How will our lives be summed up?

Day 4: Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah

Hananiah = The Lord shows grace

Mishael = Who is what the Lord is?

Azariah = The Lord helps

The sad part is we don't really know them by their God-given names. We only know them by their slave driven pagan names.

Shadrach = The command of AKU

Meshach = Who is what AKU is?

Abednego = Servant of Nabu

Why are they slaves? Their nation has been attacked and overcome. Many have been killed. But these young men were seen as the best of the best ... so they went recruited into new government's brain washing program.

For 3 years, they were to be indoctrinated into all things Babylon ... and then they would go into service to the king.

And so, we have our first question; will these godly young men stay faithful?

Were they still going to be free to be part of God's SOMETHING BIGGER? Or would they give into their surroundings?

They wanted God's something bigger!

And God showed up in big ways in their lives ... and at times it took Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah standing up against everyone else!

Will WE stand up or sit down?

Can I show you an addictive picture? **Picture of Charity Grace.**

I love THIS time in Charity's life. But I am looking forward also to the time when we will be able to have real conversations.

I will get to explain her name to her. Charity, meaning to sharing God's love. Grace, meaning gift from God.

Charity what does your middle name mean? Gift from God.

She may go to school some day, and some jerk boy is going to make fun of her because of her Down Syndrome, or simply because she is a girl. And she is going to come home, and I am simply going to remind her what her name is. Charity, what does your middle name mean? Gift from God.

That's who you are Charity. You are a gift from God ... do NOT let any jerk boy or anyone else ever try to tell you different.

And YOU are a gift from God. There will be times when you have to go through struggles ... and I pray that you remember, or someone helps you to remember that you are a gift from God. And because of that you will choose to STAND for God, right there in the middle of your struggle.

And we will remember that our job was never to just sit and listen but it has ALWAYS been about GOING and making disciples.

Day 5:

Was **John the Baptist**. We had already learned to put ourselves in a place we can listen like Samuel. WE already learned that it just takes a small amount of faith to

do something BIG for God like Rahab. WE had already learned that we need to find God's Word and immerse ourselves in it like Josiah. We had already learned that there will be many times that we will need to STAND for God like Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

I don't know if you have noticed but there is a discipleship model hidden in there. Listen. Have faith. Dive into God's Word. Stand for God.

And on this last day we learned of something that is required of all believers in their discipleship process. We learned that we are to prepare the way for Jesus.

John was a UNIQUE guy. Lived in the wilderness and preached that Jesus the Messiah was coming soon.

We also live in a wilderness of sorts: A sin wilderness. And within OUR wilderness we are also to prepare the way for Jesus.

The speaker kept repeating something over and over on this night:

What you look for is what you live for; and what you live for is what you die for.

So we need to look for Jesus; live for Jesus; die in Jesus; and then one day **we** will rise in Jesus!

My favorite song of the week was called "Revolution." Here are some of the lyrics:

If I'm left behind / If they spit in my face / If they hate my kind

I will rise above / I will live for love / I will answer to the call

For the bond between / For the depth unseen / For my God forsake it all

'Cause I'm a fire / I'm a flood / I'm a revolution

I am a war / Already won / I'm a revolution

I get excited thinking about our week ... to remember the life change that we experienced ... it makes me want to shout!

But ... I couldn't do that at church could I ... oh, why not? "My name is Tim and I am a Revolution!!!" (Other shouts)

This Revolution group would like to share with you one of our other favorite songs of the week. It will be on the screen and we hope you join with us.

Song: Arms open Wide

VERSE 1:

*Take my life I lay it down
At the cross where I am found
All I have I give to You oh God*

VERSE 2:

*Take my hands and make them clean
Keep my heart in purity
That I may walk in all You have for me*

CHORUS:

*Ohoooooooooh here I stand
Arms open wide
Ohoooooooooh I am Yours
And You are mine ... Jesus*

VERSE 3:

*Take my moments and my days
Let each breath that I take
Be ever only for You oh God*

CHORUS:

*Ohoooooooooh here I stand
Arms open wide
Ohoooooooooh I am Yours
And You are mine*

*Ohoooooooooh here I stand
Arms open wide
Ohoooooooooh I am Yours
And You are mine*

*Ohoooooooooh
Ohoooooooooh*

BRIDGE:

*My whole life is Yours
I give it all
Surrendered to Your Name
And forever I will pray
Have Your way
Have Your way*

*My whole life is Yours
I give it all
Surrendered to Your Name
And forever I will pray
Have Your way
Have Your way Jesus*

CHORUS:

*Ohoooooooooh here I stand
Arms open wide
Ohoooooooooh I am Yours
And You are mine*

*Ohoooooooooh here I stand
Arms open wide
Ohoooooooooh I am Yours
And You are mine*

*Ohoooooooooh
Ohoooooooooh*

BRIDGE:

*My whole life is Yours
I give it all
Surrendered to Your Name
And forever I will pray
Have Your way
Have Your way*

*My whole life is Yours
I give it all
Surrendered to Your Name
And forever I will pray
Have Your way
Have Your way*