



SESSION 8: FROM DENIER TO DEFENDER

1—IN YOUR WEAKNESS, HE IS STRONG

Exodus 4:10-12 is sweet! So hurry up and check it out.

Moses was not a good public speaker. (I bet he used to break out in hives!) He knew that doing what God wanted him to do would be hard for him to pull off—and so he had to learn to trust God for everything.

The same thing happened to Heidi. Heidi was not a very good dancer, but when the church play needed dancers, Heidi was asked to dance. After thinking about it, she said yes, but she asked God to help her. She ended up being one of the best dancers in the whole play.

Many of us think that we are bad at telling people about Jesus. That is right where God wants us! He wants us to leave plenty of room for Him to work so that when we do tell people about Jesus, we know that He helped us. So let God know what is hard for you when it comes to telling people about Him, and then ask Him to give you a chance today to share anyway!

2—NO MORE HEART OF STONE

Have you ever read anything in Ezekiel? Go check out Ezekiel 36:25-28. It rips.

Check the boxes that apply to you. Have you ever . . .

- ☐ cheated on a test?
- ☐ taken something that wasn't yours?
- ☐ locked your little brother in a closet with only graham crackers and water (or maybe that's just me)?
- ☐ been ashamed of the way you represented God?

Most of us have done things that were not the best things to do. Sometimes we think that because of those things, God must be mad at us and therefore does not want to use us. This is not true. God uses even the most messed-up people to accomplish huge things for Him. Tell God that you're sorry for the times you have messed up—you can be specific—and that you are grateful that He still wants to use you.

3—WIMPS ALLOWED

Flip to Acts 7:55-59 today. Thank you!

Carl was wearing his WWJD bracelet when a group of people on the bus started throwing things at him and yelling, "What would Jesus do now?" Carl didn't know what to do so he

tried to ignore them, but it only got worse. When he got off the bus, they chased him as he ran home. When he got home, he felt like he had failed God. He wanted to be strong and stand up to them, but instead he just ran and hid.

What do you think Carl should do now? Here's an idea: He can pray to God, asking God to help him be stronger next time. No one is perfect—we all wimp out at times (undoubtedly, even Stephen had his wimpy days). The goal is to learn from those times when we are wimps and pray even more that God will use us in the future.

When have you failed to share about God, even when you had the chance? What does that tell you about yourself? What would you like to tell God about what happened, and how you felt afterwards? How should that guide the way you pray right now?

4—REPRIORITIZE!

Friends, Romans and teens, lend me your ears. Oh, and look up Romans 12:1-2 to see what God wants you to hear.

What are some things that take up your time? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> sports | <input type="checkbox"/> friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> phone/texting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> church | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> homework (yuck) | <input type="checkbox"/> reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV/video games | <input type="checkbox"/> chores (double yuck) |

All too often, other things take up our time and God loses out. It is easy to think that we are in too deep to get out of some patterns we have set. But God is always there for us when we want to change those habits. In fact, He will help us do so.

Just because you may have made God a low priority in the past doesn't mean that He loves you any less, or that you can't make changes today. Ask God to help you make Him a larger priority right now. Ask Him to use you as a bold witness! Be careful—you might just change the world.