

HEROES

PART 3: DISQUALIFIED TO DISCIPLE

INTRODUCTION

As kids, we have dreams of becoming a hero like the ones we see in movies and read about in books. Somewhere along the way, we trade our magical dreams for mundane reality. Rather than believing we can be heroes, we reserve the title for other people. But what if we have been invited to be heroes? What if it's up to us to accept the invitation?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is someone you look up to and has been a hero to you? What qualities did they demonstrate that made them a hero in your life?
2. What comes to your mind when you think about God? What do you think comes to God's mind when he thinks about you?
3. Read Matthew 9:9. In Matthew's culture were a unique category of sinner. Others thought of him as disqualified from being a hero. What person or group have you disqualified from hero status? What is it about this person or group that disqualifies them?
4. Do you feel (or have you ever felt) disqualified from following Jesus? Jesus invites you to follow him in spite of your past. Do you think it's possible for you to forgive your past and follow him?
5. "Following Jesus makes your life better and makes you better at life." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
6. What can you do this week to follow Jesus? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

No one is disqualified from being a hero. In spite of his past, Matthew became a hero when he accepted Jesus' invitation to follow him. Jesus also invites you to follow him, despite what may be in your past. When you move beyond your past and accept Jesus' invitation to follow him, you become a hero, too.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him."

Matthew 9:9