

HEROES

PART 4: LOSING IS THE NEW WINNING

INTRODUCTION

A hero sees what everyone sees, but is not content to do what everyone does. A hero doesn't let his or her fear stand in the way of saving the day. One of the things we most admire about heroes is their willingness to sacrifice on behalf of others. But that's also one of the biggest things that gets in the way of us seizing opportunities to be heroes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the last heroic thing you did? What moved you to take action and save the day?
2. Talk about a time when someone gave up part of his or her life for your life. In what ways did that person shape your definition of what it means to be a hero?
3. Think back on the heroic thing you talked about in the first question. What did you have to give up in order to save the day?
4. Read Matthew 16:24-26. What have you sacrificed in order to follow Jesus? Has the benefit been worth the sacrifice? Why or why not?
5. "Human concerns tend to be short-term. They sacrifice what we want for what we want *right now*." What do you want *right now* that is getting in the way of something you really want? What are some things that get in the way of you sacrificing that "right now" want?
6. What do you want to save—your marriage, your finances, your future, a relationship? What will you sacrifice in order to save it? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

We love stories of sacrifice . . . as long as those stories are about someone else. We admire heroes who are willing to give something up in order to save the day for someone else. But the thought of making that kind of sacrifice ourselves is scary. Trust that what Jesus said and did is true. Trust it in every area of your life. Take up your cross every day and in every relationship and trust him.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:25