



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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THOR: RAGNAROK (2017) | *What Heroes Do* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

The tone of **Thor: Ragnarok** greatly differs from the previous **Thor** films. The director, Taika Waititi, gave this third **Thor** movie a light-hearted and humorous feel, as opposed to the more serious films that came before it. **Did you enjoy the new tone? Do you think this shift was good or bad for the Thor franchise? Why or why not?**

EQUIP

Thor's stubbornness is often a source of conflict between him and others, but in this movie, it's this exact trait that makes him a hero. Throughout the film, almost every other character continually urged Thor to give up. Thor's determination to do the right thing and save his people drove him to fight against all odds. His brother, Loki, who at first seemed to be helping him, betrayed him; Valkyrie, who was supposed to be a defender of Asgard, let her fear get the better of her and proclaimed the folly of his mission. Even the Hulk, who was a hero on earth alongside Thor and the Avengers, had grown complacent on a planet where he was praised as a fighter and refused to leave. Thor was discouraged both physically and mentally by those who were closest to him, but still he pushed on towards his goal: The safety of his people. As Thor put, "It's what heroes do."

God has called us to exhibit similar determination in the face of whatever odds come up against us. Followers of God in both the Old and New Testament faced situations where it seemed the whole world was against them. Still, they continued to move towards danger, because they knew what was right.

LEVEL UP

1 Kings 18:21-22 ²¹ *Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.'* But the people did not answer him a word. ²² *Then Elijah said to the people, 'I alone am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.'*

Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, had been rounding up the Lord's prophets and killing them so they could lead the people in the worship of the false god, Baal. Elijah alone stood up to the prophets of Baal in a contest to prove once and for all which god was the one true God. (For the full story, read **1 Kings 18:20-40**).

Why did Elijah stand up to the prophets of Baal when no one else would? There were other followers of God hiding in caves in the desert, giving in to their fear of the king. We also see Elijah is outnumbered by hundreds of Baal's prophets. Still, these seemingly insurmountable odds do not stop him because Elijah knows his strength comes not from himself, but from God. The hundreds against him were depending on a false hope, but his faith was in the living, all-powerful God.

What idol or evil has God called you to stand up or speak out against? God has called us to do incredible things, but often, our path is blocked by numerous obstacles. Once we realize doing right is not about us, but about God, then we can find the courage to do what is right even when everyone and everything stands in our way. Perhaps we fear we will be mocked or persecuted by others for doing right. We can remember it's God's view of us that matters and not others. The creator God, who makes fire fall from heaven, is on our side, so who can stand against us (**Romans 8:31**)? Others can try, but nothing is a match for the creator of the universe.

MOD

Let's look at our second story found in the New Testament (**Read Acts 4:1-22**). This passage tells of the disciples, Peter and John, who were boldly preaching and proclaiming what they had witnessed

Christ do. They were warned against preaching and even beaten by the religious leaders; still, they refused to stop.

(Read Acts 2:41, 2:47, 4:4, and 4:21)

After reading these passages, **what do they have in common?** If the disciples had stopped preaching as demanded, **what effect would that have had on new believers and the church in general? What are some fears or obstacles standing between you and what God is calling you to do? Who are some other people affected by your decision to do the right thing or not?**

When we do the right thing, it often doesn't go unnoticed. Others see our courage and are inspired, just as Loki, Valkyrie, and The Hulk were inspired by Thor's determination to save his people. His courage inspired others to do the right thing alongside him; hopefully, we can inspire the same.

PRAY

Does anyone have anything we need to pray about? Pray God will reveal the areas of our life being ruled by fear. Ask him to show us how to overcome that fear and do the right thing despite all obstacles.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰ *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 ¹³ *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

Matthew 19:26 ²⁶ *But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

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