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Teen Titans Go! To the Movies (2018) | *Being a Real Hero* | 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 Teen Titans struggled all through this film to discover what it meant to be a hero. They had all the cool outfits, superpowers and skills, catch phrases, and even a theme song. These are all fun things, but super villains have these too. **What makes someone a real hero?**

EQUIP

The Teen Titans are often seen as a joke; both among fans and in the movie itself. They look like heroes, but they seldom do anything heroic. Their attention instead is on food, jokes, and sweet dance moves that make them look cool. After realizing what everyone thought about them, Robin convinced himself the only way to be a real superhero was to have his own movie, because all of the superheroes he knew had their own movie. Instead of focusing on doing something heroic, Robin focused his attention on getting a movie. Even his attempts to stop Slade were motivated by the desire to prove he should have his own movie. His obsession with appearances even led him to abandon his friends for a while. In the end, Robin had to realize he didn't have to look like all the other heroes. He had to trust his friends, be loyal, and work hard to help people - that is what would make him a real hero instead of a joke.

Christianity can sometimes be a tricky thing. What is a Christian? What do they look like? The easy answer is a Christian is someone who trusts in God and does what he instructs them to, but you can't always tell if someone is a Christian just from a glance. Sometimes people look like good Christians and say all the right things, but then they turn and renounce Christ. Sometimes people claim they are Christians and may even show up to church on Sundays, but during the week do things Christians shouldn't do. Just like Robin had to learn what being a real hero meant, it is our job to learn what being a real Christian means.

LEVEL UP

In **Luke 18**, we find Jesus addressing a similar situation. He was speaking to some people who trusted in their own self righteousness and looked down on others. They were worried about appearances and how they looked in front of others, but they did not care about anyone other than themselves. Read the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in **Luke 18:9-14**.

"I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Pride is a sin many struggle with. We want everyone to see how well we are doing and what good Christians we are. We make sure we go to church and know all the answers. Maybe even during the week, outside of church, we do good deeds and live a good life, just like we know a good Christian is supposed to. So did the Pharisee. He followed every single law God gave in the Old Testament and

made sure everyone could see him doing it, but he did not do it out of a love for God. He did it out of pride, thinking his good actions were enough to make God happy with him. He even praised God that he was not a sinner like other people!

The tax collector came to God in the opposite way. Tax collectors were people who were hated in that time. They had turned their back on their country to work for Rome, their enemy, and they cheated people out of as much money as they could get away with so they could be rich. This tax collector knew what he was doing was wrong and came to God for deliverance. He knew he could not save himself because he was a sinner, but that God could save him. His simple prayer, *"O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."* shows he knew who he was and who God was. There was no pride, only repentance.

Both of the men in Jesus parable got exactly what they were looking for. The pharisee was looking for the attention of others and to be recognized for all his good works. When others saw his prayer, he got the attention he wanted, but that was the end of his reward. The sinner was looking for much more than that. He was looking for repentance. He wanted God to help him turn from his evil ways so he could follow and love God like he was supposed to. He did not care if anyone else saw him because he was ashamed of who he was. The only attention he cared about was God's, and that's the attention he got. God is not looking for us to be perfect people and always do the right things. He is looking for us to be ourselves, love him, and trust in His plan - even if that means no one sees the good things we do.

MOD

What does it mean to be a real Christian? Look at Galatians 2:20, Romans 10:9, and John 1:12 for some ideas.

Are you more like the Pharisee or the Tax Collector in the story? Who do you seek approval from? What are some areas in your life where you seek approval from others instead of from God?

Think about your recent prayers to God and then look at the prayers of the two men from the story. Is there anything we need to change about the way we talk to God?

PRAY

Does anyone have anything we need to pray about?

Pray and thank God for taking us just as we are, imperfections and all. Ask Him to help us live with humility and a focus on his Kingdom instead of our own accomplishments.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Ephesians 2:8 *"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."*

1 Samuel 15:22 *"But Samuel replied, 'What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.'"*

Hosea 6:6 *"I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings."*

James 4:6-7, 9 *“And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.”*

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