



JESUS IS GREATER

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Jesus is Greater: *The Hero of the Story*

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation^[g] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. Colossians 1:19-23 (ESV)

Commentary

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

1. Imagine that woven into the fabric of our DNA is the need and the quest for a Hero. Someone larger than life, with superpowers that will defend and protect and rescue us from life's battles and struggles both internal and external.

Question to consider: If you have a hero in your life (other than Jesus), who is that person and what did they do to earn that title?

2. Drawing from the book, *Unbroken*, Brian highlights the fact that stories are powerful. They can alter our routine, open our imagination, and call us to greater things...but only if we ENGAGE the story. This fact is also true of the greatest story ever told – Jesus and the Gospel, a story with a conflict, a climax, a response, and a conclusion.

Questions:

- If Jesus is the hero of the Gospel and God’s great story what are some of His superpowers?

 - When you consider who God is, how do you “see” God in Jesus as you read scripture? Consider where you see Jesus in both Genesis and in the book of John.

 - Where do you see the conflict in God’s great story as you consider the tension of good vs. evil? Where have you experienced the tension of good vs. evil in your life?
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3. Consider that Jesus chose to die for you. In most Marvel style stories and movies, we see the superhero prevail and fight the enemy and win. But we don’t often see anything required of the people who are rescued.
- Questions:
- What steps and actions are we asked to take if we chose to follow Jesus?

- How have you ENGAGED the Story of the Gospel? What would it look like to more deeply engage the truth of Jesus' story in your life?

- How does He direct and influence you in your day to day?

- How does your story reflect the truth of who Jesus is as your Rescuer, Redeemer, Hero?

4. Jesus is the author of your story, and He created you with a purpose and a mission to carry out here during the time that you have been given on earth. In light of today's teaching, how are you doing?

Louis Zamperini once said this...

I shook hands with Hitler, spent more than a month lost at sea, and ended up in a Japanese torture camp. I have seen many days I'd rather not recall but I'll never forget the day I met Jesus Christ.

On that day, Louis finally understood “The Story” and who was the HERO – Jesus