

Winter Weekend 2017: ALTER EGO

Room Raps

FRIDAY NIGHT

Alter Ego: The Hero's Dilemma

When Jesus is tempted, He has to decide who He is going to be. Will He rely on His own strength? Will He give in to pride? Will He take the shortcut to fame, popularity, and human worship?

Tonight, we discuss this one very important trait about Jesus: He chose to be just one person. No masks, no games, no giving in to fear of rejection or the draw of popularity—Jesus was *Himself*, all the time. He knew who God created Him to be, and He embraced that.

We all struggle with having an “alter ego.” Batman hides behind Bruce Wayne. Superman hides behind Clark Kent. It’s the age-old dilemma of the fear of being yourself.

Scripture Focus: Matthew 4:1-11

Room Rap Questions:

1. *Do you ever struggle with feeling like you have to act like someone else? Why is that?*
2. *If everyone in here could see the true you, how would they react?*
3. *Think for a moment about the type of person you want to become someday. What is one thing you would need to change or work on to get there?*
4. *Being very real with yourself, what is one thing you want God to help you with or teach you this weekend?*

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SATURDAY MORNING

Love: The Hero's Weapon

When Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well, he rescues an entire town. Maybe even an entire people group. He steps out of the ordinary, crosses over lines that had been drawn with hatred, and loves her.

This morning, we recognize that the love of Jesus is powerful and dangerous. It made Him stand out, and put Him in awkward situations. It made people look at Him funny, and even made people uncomfortable. But He knew that He was called to love. So He broke the pattern that everyone else was following, walked into His enemy's land, and defeated prejudice, judgment, and hate.

We must understand today that God has called His people to love. Period. We are to love all people. Regardless of race, religion, age, lifestyle, or sinful background, every single person is precious and important to God's heart.

Scripture Focus: John 4:1-42

Room Rap Questions:

1. *How do you feel your youth group could do better at being accepting and inviting?*
2. *Why can it be so tempting to join in with others when they are angry or cruel?*
3. *Is there someone you have rejected or ignored who you need apologize to?*
4. *What is one act of kindness, generosity, or acceptance you're going to do TODAY? We'll ask each other about it tonight.*

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SATURDAY NIGHT

Sin: The Hero's Death

When Jesus dies on the cross, He communicates three main truths: (1) He hates sin, and everyone deserves death for it. (2) He loves you enough to take that death upon Himself. (3) He wants to offer you a new life of adventure and fulfillment, to be who God has created you to be.

Tonight, we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and give students an opportunity to respond.

Scripture Focus: Luke 22-23; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 5:8

Room Rap Questions:

1. *Did anyone make any decisions tonight? What happened?*
2. *Let's take a moment and recognize what went on tonight. For every student who received Christ for the first time tonight, what did God do in their life?*
3. *Do you have any questions?*
4. *This morning, we committed to show someone kindness, generosity, or acceptance. Did you follow through?*

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SUNDAY MORNING

Pain: The Hero's Beginning

When Jesus rises from the grave, He shows that for the believer, there is an ultimate end to suffering and pain. Pain, hurt, and loss happen in life, but these things happen in seasons. Jesus shows us that there is always hope, even when it seems like we can't go on.

This morning, we give students a chance to grasp onto hope. Just about every superhero has an origin characterized by suffering. Captain America was bullied and rejected. Daredevil was blinded. Batman's parents were killed. Superman's whole world blew up. Even secular comic book writers know suffering is a huge factor in what makes people great.

We all will experience loss or hurting in our lives. We must recognize that God is not absent when we are hurting; He is there beside us. He is comforting us, urging us on, and giving us strength for the next moment. And on top of all of that, He has plans to use our suffering to make us strong. Our hope is found not in avoiding pain, but in holding onto God's goodness in the middle of it.

Scripture Focus: Luke 24:1-12; Romans 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Room Rap Questions:

1. *Why do you think the majority of superheroes begin their stories with hurt or loss? Why is that significant?*
2. *How might someone's thoughts about God change when they go through times of suffering or major hurt?*
3. *How does God want us to respond when we have seasons of loss or pain?*
4. *Is there something someone here is going through that we can pray for as a group?*

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SUNDAY NIGHT

Support: The Hero's Heroes

When Jesus begins His ministry, He recruits a team. When He sends His disciples out to minister in the villages, He sends them in pairs. When He is looking ahead to His death on the cross, He takes a few of His close friends to a garden and asks them to pray and to keep watch.

Tonight, we are talking about the example Jesus gives us of the church body. He makes it clear that we can't make it on our own, and that every single person needs support. Even superheroes have heroes they rely on. Is the Church putting enough emphasis on our need for each other? We need to be encouraged, prayed for, and reminded of Scriptural truths. We need someone to safely confess our mess-ups to.

We will give students a chance to drop their masks, get right with God, and ask for support from the Church body. This is a night of repentance and restoration.

Scripture Focus: Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 10:1; Hebrews 10:23-25

Room Rap Questions:

- 1. What is one thing that stuck out to you in tonight's message?*
- 2. Did anything significant happen with any of you? What happened?*
- 3. What does it look like for us to support each other better?*
- 4. How can we encourage each other tonight? Let's try right now.*
- 5. How about when we go home tomorrow? How will we be a better picture of how Jesus wants us to support each other when we go home?*

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MONDAY MORNING

Mission: The Hero's Calling

In His ascension, Jesus passes the baton on to His disciples. He gives His disciples assurances and instructions, and then vanishes. He gives them His Holy Spirit to empower them so they can go forward into the world with a specific mission.

This morning, we want students to feel the pull of the Great Commission on their hearts. If Jesus didn't ascend into Heaven, He would have just kept walking around the world and His disciples would have continued to follow Him around and watch Him work. But through His ascension, Jesus makes it very clear to all of us that He has a job for us. Our hearts will never feel fulfilled or satisfied until we step into this movement.

We are called to take the hopeful message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. It starts in our own homes, leaks out into our streets, neighborhood, and city, and reaches across the globe.

Scripture Focus: Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 28:18-20

Room Rap Questions:

- 1. What is the most significant thing God taught you this weekend?*
- 2. Who is one person you could encourage with that when you go home?*
- 3. Why do you think so many Christians are silent about their belief in Jesus? What is holding us back?*
- 4. What happens to this world if we all stop telling people about Christ?*
- 5. Take a moment of silence and ask God for one person (or maybe even one place in town or even a mission trip) where He wants to use you. Where do you think God wants you to step out when you go home?*

