



When you are committed to using God's gifts you are empowered to fight through any obstacle.

1

Encourage:

In this week's message Pastor Miles uses the movie Hidden Figures to demonstrate how we all face obstacles. But we must face them courageously having faith in God despite the opposition from culture, the world and the spiritual world.

Hidden Figures follows the interwoven accounts of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden, four African American women who participated in some of NASA's greatest successes. It chronicles their careers as they faced challenges and used their intellect to change their own lives, and this country's future. They helped blaze a trail for mathematicians and engineers of all races and genders to follow.

Genesis 1:26-28 tells us we are made in God's image. Pastor Miles goes on to tell us that because we are made in His image we too can do things like God. We can love, fight, have compassion like God; even do math like God. Pastor Miles knows his desire for knowledge and love of numbers comes from God.

Ice Breaker: What abilities or talents do you have that come from God? How do you allow God to shine through these abilities and talents? Provide an example.

2

Scripture:

God knows the Christian life is not easy. And it never will get easy, no matter how long we live. **John 16:33** tells us we will have troubles. So then how do we live out the Christian life if it's so hard? Let's read **Hebrews 12:1** to learn some keys to enduring opposition.

What does the writer of Hebrews 12:1 encourage us to do? Who is the great cloud of witnesses? What can you learn from the "great cloud of witness"?

In the movie, who are the "cloud of witnesses"? How do you think you would have responded if you had been in each of those three women's shoes? How about if you were in the shoes of the Great cloud of witnesses from Heb. 11?

Some of the examples in Hebrews chapter 11, the people did not receive the promise they had hoped for. Discuss why? Does this change your view of God? People? What is our part versus God's part?

Have you ever suffered injustice and prejudice for anything, been overlooked for something you were qualified for? How did you respond?

What does the Hebrews writer mean when he talks about things that entangle us? Can you identify some things that could slow you down? How do entanglements affect your faith in the midst of obstacles? Could the obstacle be a result of the entanglement?

Hebrews 12:1 ends by telling us, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." What does it mean to have endurance? How does this apply to your faith? How did these women model endurance? (Did you know this movie spans 3 decades)? When has your faith required you to hang on like these women?

When the going gets rough, we don't run away. We can't be quitters. Rather, we continue on in confident trust, and the longer we persevere, the stronger our faith in Him becomes.

3

Prayer:

The picture of faith does not fit into a formula. Sometimes faith leads to overcoming. Sometimes it requires us to hang on at any cost. Spend some group time asking God:

Am I prepared for any obstacle? What does my preparation show me about who God is personally to me? What is holding me back from my BOM moment? What can I change in my life today that will increase my faith? Who can help hold me accountable?

"God's help is near and always available, but it is only given to those who seek it. Nothing results from apathy". Max Lucado.

4

Next Steps:

The Hidden Figures movie encouraged you by telling about the bravery and discipline of three women. Hebrew's 11 can encourage you by helping you see the people's faith in the Old Testament.

Now that you have been encouraged, what are you going to do to encourage others? Who will you tell about your faith this week?

What will you do to demonstrate faith this week? Write a letter, ask for forgiveness, or Get baptized? Go to LIFE Class? Serve on Sundays? Who can help hold you accountable?

How far are you willing to step outside your comfort zone to allow God to use you? How can you push through oppressive challenges? How can you open the door for others?

"Faith is spelled RISK. Without risk there is no faith." Unknown.

The True Story of "Hidden Figures," the Forgotten Women Who Helped Win the Space Race <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/forgotten-black-women-mathematicians-who-helped-win-wars-and-send-astronauts-space-180960393/>