

Sunday, Sept. 23:

Memory Verse: "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" -John 14:6

Message Title: Join the Rebellion: The Real Star Wars! "You Can Make a Difference"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Message Blurb: There is a galactic struggle going on, and you can make a difference! God has a plan and a role for you, important work to do. Come this Sunday to hear how you have a specific role in "the resistance." It gives your life meaning and purpose. "It is your destiny!" God is counting on you!

Opening Song: *Beautiful Things* - Sanctify

Welcome: -Pastor David

Memory Verse:

"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" -John 14:6

Worship Music Set: - Sanctify

Rescue the Perishing

All I Have Is Christ

Invitation Fountain

Worship Prayer - Andrew

Offering: *Overcome the World* -Sanctify

Serve Moment: Youth Mission Trip

Kid's Lesson

Supplies: pitchers of water, wash bins, drinking glasses

Invite the kids up.

Show them baptismal font. Explain in Baptism, use water.

Why? It helps us remember 2 things:

1. Do you do things that get you dirty? Play in the dirt?

Do you sometimes do things w/your hands you shouldn't do?

Like hit someone?

Take a cookie when you aren't supposed to?

Like color on them? [Mark hands with Crayola marker.]

You can get your hands dirty.

What do you do with dirty hands? (*Wash them!*)

Here is where water comes in! Water washes dirt off!

[Have kids wash hands in the water.]

We use water in baptism because it reminds us that Jesus washes our sins away! It's a cleaning that God does.

2. When you are hot, and running, do you get thirsty?

Here's where water comes in! Water fuels our body!

If you didn't drink water, you would die!

[Have kids take a drink.]

We use water in baptism because it reminds us that Jesus refreshes us, renews us, and gives us life!

Invite kids to put hands on baptism font and pray over the water.

Baptism: Nora Anne Klemmensen -David

Prayers -Andrew

Message Bumper (30 seconds)

PP1#1: Join the Rebellion: The Real Star Wars

You Can Make a Difference

"So a person should think about us this way: as servants of Christ and managers of God's secrets." -1 Corinthians 4:1

Join the Rebellion: The Real Star Wars. You Can Make a Difference. 1 Corinthians 4:1, "So a person should think about us this way: as servants of Christ and managers of God's secrets."

PP1#2: *Still image of Darth Vader when he says, "Luke, it is your destiny!"*

Darth Vader is challenging Luke Skywalker. "Come to the Dark Side," he says.

Luke is struggling with the battle between good and evil, in the inside. The Dark Side is so attractive. His own father has turned to it, and calls him to come over, too. But Luke resists. "No!" he says, "I will not!"

And then, Darth Vader makes this weighty argument. He says, "Luke, it is your desstiny!"

Wow, now that's hefty! Your destiny! That means it's what you were born for. That is your life's purpose, your reason for living, you mission.

Luke had to sort that out. What was his destiny? What was his purpose?

We're using Star Wars this fall to help us see examples of biblical principles, so that we can be pushed to grow spiritually ourselves, and so we can have ways to share our faith with others.

Star Wars is huge! When Disney took the franchise over, they've started releasing a blockbuster every year. This year it is *Han Solo*. Last year it was *The Last Jedi*. In 2016 it was *Rogue I*, and 2015 it was *The Force Awakens*. Who here has seen all of these? Show of hands.

Well, they've slated more annual released for the next three years!

I discovered just how much a part of our culture Star Wars was when I was typing my message this week, and my spell checker accepted the words Darth and Vader. They are now normal English words!

"Luke, it is your desstiny!"

Think about you. What is *your* destiny? Do you have a purpose? What is it?

PP1#3: *Image of Nora Anne Klemmensen, from email I sent you.*

Today we baptized cute Nora Anne. She's only three months old. Think about her life, her future. What will she be doing when she is in high school? What will her interests be? How about college? What will she think her purpose is? How about when she is your age. How will she understand her life?

Today we proclaimed that God made her. We proclaimed that God loves her, that God chose her, that Jesus died for her. We proclaimed that her life is not really her own. God has a claim on her. We proclaim that Nora has a future, a destiny in God's resistance here on earth. We see in Nora another glimpse of God's unfolding plan. The God who made her, made her for a reason, made her with purpose. And one of our greatest joys in life, be we parents, family, or church family, is to watch her grow up into her purpose.

It is so fun and exciting to think about all this for cute Nora here, not yet four months breathing air. But don't miss the other part we proclaimed here today. God just doesn't have a plan for Nora. God has a purpose and a plan for each one of His children!

PP1#4: You Can Make A Difference!

1. God has a destiny for you!

That means that you, too, have a destiny! God has a calling on your life. It's first and foremost to love God and love each other. It is also to grow in Christ, in holiness of heart and life. But it is also to push back the darkness, and witness for Jesus. 1 Corinthians 4:1, "So folks should see us this way: as servants of Christ and handlers of God's secrets." You are not a seat warmer in God's church! You have a position. When we join with Jesus, we join the resistance. When through Jesus you join God's family, you also join in the family business. God has special work just for you to do!

PP1#5: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (CEB)

26 Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. 27 But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. 28 And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. 29 So no human being can brag in God's presence.

Let's take a look at our Bible passage today. It's from 1 Corinthians 1, towards the end of the chapter. Paul is talking to the Christians in the church at Corinth, in Greece. And he's reminding them that God has made them, that God loved them, that God chose them, and that God made them a part of His Church. And with that, they have a destiny, a purpose. Let's start with verse 26:

"Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! [Called by God into God's family.] By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. [You didn't have the makings of exceptional people: not brilliant, or geniuses, or extra talented, or from special position or status. By the world's standards, you were typical, average, just a part of the crowd. Verse 27,] But God chose what the world considers foolish [that would be you!] to shame the wise [the "somebodies"]. God chose what the world considers weak [you] to shame the strong [the movers and shakers]. And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing [again, that's you!]-to reduce what is considered to be something [all those who think themselves important] to nothing. So no

human being can brag in God's presence.” It's not because you're so wonderful that you are able to do wonderful things. It's because of God's Spirit in you!

But do you hear God's words? God is using you to do amazing things. Yes! Little old you! The real movers and shakers of the world, the world that lasts into eternity, aren't those in political power, or economic power, or worldly influence. It's the ordinary, average people—you and me!—that God has given small parts to play in the galactic drama He is unfolding. We shame the powers of this world when we, in our small ways, make eternal impact!

A couple of weekends ago we were at a thrashing bee in the town where we used to live. We ran into a young lady with a husband and kids. She was a part of our youth group before. Man, that made us feel old! But she turned to my wife and said, “You were instrumental in my faith journey, in what my faith is today, and I want you to know that my whole family is now active in our church.” Small influence; eternal impact!

PP1#6: You Can Make A Difference!

1. God has a destiny for you!
2. Your role is the next steps in front of you.

How do you know what your role is, what your work is? Some people seem to just know their life's calling. Don't they irritate you?

Well, I fear we make it too complicated, to glamorized. We think it has to be a big deal. But the power of God's Church is not just invested in the big wigs, the Billy Grahams, and other headline makers. In fact, most often, the power of God's church happens in countless, little ways, when average people like you and me, when we look around and see what the next steps are in front of us.

The questions isn't so much, “What *should* I do?” but “What *can* I do?” Ask yourself, “What can I do?” Look around you. What bothers you about our world, about your community? What can you do about it? Look and see what you love doing. What can you do for God in that? Look around. Who has God placed in your life, in your sphere of influence. What can you do with them? Most people, I have found in life, are more impacted—long term, now I'm talking about—more lasting impact by someone caring, someone listening, going out to coffee, inviting to go fishing together, offering a ride, than the big, dramatic, events that we expect make such a difference.

You have tons of options right in front of you. If you just start seeing your next steps as doing God's work, rather than trying to check off your “to do” list, you will find yourself doing God's special task for you. After all, that's why He's positioned you right where you are. God has placed His soldiers, strategically, because of His purpose for you!

PP1#7: Image for “Brighten the corner where you are” or “Bloom where you are planted.”

Velma Brinker came to worship a couple of weeks ago. She's our oldest member, at age 97. She came to the Birchwood worship service the week before. I told her she was really getting around! Well, when I was pushing her back to the Arbors, she said to me, “I just don't know why I'm still here. I can't see, I can't read, I can't hear, I can't walk. I'm no good any more!” But then she decided that maybe instead she would go to the dining room. She explained that she had started talking with some certain residents during meal times, and she thought maybe she could find them. She said that they've had many conversations, and that she was trying to encourage them and cheer them up. Then, a lady in the hallway recognized her, and said, “Velma, do you have a minute? I would love to visit a moment.” The lady then said to me, “Everyone here loves Velma. She always

makes us smile and makes us feel better.” I pushed her over near a chair, and I leaned over and said to her, “I think God still has work for you to do!”

PP1#8: *Image of Obi Wan Knobi with Luke, early on.*

I see this biblical truth represented all over the place in Star Wars. Individual people make such a big difference; or, with the Dark Side, such a big dent! The whole plot—just like life!—is driven by a string of people, each playing their part. Without any one of them, the resistance would not have won. Take the old guy in the very first Star Wars movie. Obi Wan Knobi. His productive years were long ago. He was important then (as we learned in the prequel trilogy!). But now he’s a “has been.” The fight has gone on without him, and he is largely forgotten.

Except by one person. Princess Leia. In her most desperate time, she reaches out to this forgotten help. Tell me, does an old and forgotten “has been” still have a purpose? Take a look.

Video Clip: Princess Leia's hologram message.

[Ep IV: Leia's message to Obi Wan: “You're my only hope.”]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N_Cj3ZS9-A (51 seconds)

“You’re my only hope!” A desperate message, sent in a droid, to a remote area.

And, the story goes, Obi Wan finds a way to get the droid and plans to the resistance headquarters. And along the way, he finds himself mentoring another young person in the way of the Force. That person, a Luke Skywalker, is the one Darth Vader later says has a destiny. Luke eventually finds it is not with the Dark Side, but to be fighting for good! But Obi Wan simply took the next step, with someone who was in his sphere of influence.

PP2#1: *Image of Jyn from Rogue 1.*

There are countless more examples in the movies. But I want to look at one more. It’s the main character in one of the recent anthology movies, *Rogue 1*. Anthology movies are those that offer background to the main characters and events in the main movie storyline. You see, the urgent message that Princess Leia put in the droid R2D2, to get to Obi Wan, so he could get it to the resistance, was the secret plans of a vulnerability in the Evil Empire’s new Death Star weapon. The movie *Rogue 1* tells the story of how those plans got to Princess Leia to start with.

You see, one of the designers of the Death Star was conscripted against his will to work on it. So, out of defiance, he designed a secret weak spot, an Achilles heel. The problem is that the Evil Empire killed him before he could get it to the rebellion. Well, in the movie, a girl called Jyn is self-centered. She is not interested in helping others, let alone saving the galaxy. She just wants to survive. When she was challenged with a question on how she could accept the banner of the evil Galactic Empire flying over the galaxy, her response was “it's easy if you never look up.”

Well, as it turns out, it was her father that was the rebellious designer of the Death Star. And over the course of the movie, she begins to embrace doing what she can to giving hope and freedom to her friends and the galaxy beyond. She realizes the importance of retrieving her father’s plans to defeat the Death Star. And she accepts what she knows will be a fatal mission, to get the plans. She even becomes willing to die for others.

The movie moves to a climax as the team, *Rogue 1*, has stolen the plans, but needs to send them to Princess Leia in the ship above. But there’s a shield prohibiting the transmitting of the plans.

And in the end, Jyn climbs up to the top to drop the shields, so the plans can be sent. But, just as she is about to the top, the nemesis appears and blocks in her way. Take a look at what happens.

Video Clip: Star Wars: A Star Wars Story (2016) - Krennic, Jyn & Cassian death
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HBCbfg94Sk> (3:23 minutes; End at 1:45)

A defiant Jyn is blocked, but out of nowhere comes help. A beat-up and half-functioning Cassian (CASH-en) comes to her aid. And Jyn is able to drop the shields and send out the secret plans. The mission is accomplished! The bedraggled two help each other limp away. Because of these two nobodies, Luke Skywalker gets what he needs to blow up the Death Star.

PP3#1: You Can Make A Difference!

1. God has a destiny for you!
2. Your role is the next steps in front of you.
3. The Holy Spirit will guide you.

God has work for you to do. It may be small, and it may seem unimportant. But it is vital to the mission God is working. The Star Wars movies talk about the Force. But here in the real world, we are given the Holy Spirit to guide us into our mission, one step at a time. And the Holy Spirit will give you the power, the confidence, the words to say, to faithfully and successfully fulfill your purpose. You just need to keep praying, each step of the way!

God is counting on you!

“It is your destiny!”

Amen.

Closing Song: *Glory to Glory* - Sanctify

Memory Verse:

“Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” -John 14:6

Announcements:

- Wednesday evening
- Small Groups

Benediction: -Pastor David

May the Holy Spirit be with you!