



Youth Ministry  
February 23, 2014

### Lesson:

This week, we started a 3 part series preparing us for our viewing of the movie, "God's NOT Dead" on Friday, March 21st.

We started with some discussion about various situations in which we found ourselves "taking a stand" about something that no one else agreed with. We talked about how it felt to be the only one in a group with a different opinion or belief than everyone else.

We then watched a scene from the movie "God's NOT Dead" in which the main character, college freshman Josh Wheaton, finds himself in quite a predicament on his first day of philosophy class when his atheist professor claims that there is no God and demands that everyone make a signed statement that God is dead. Josh finds himself being the only one in class who refuses to sign the paper, because he is a Christian. The scene ends with the professor giving him the alternative which is that Josh must give three 20min lectures to prove the existence of God and convince the class that God is indeed NOT dead or he will fail the class.

We learned that from the very beginning, before we were even born, God knew he wanted a relationship with us and he "set us apart" to be different from the common world. In **Jeremiah 1:5**, we read that God told Jeremiah that he had been "set apart" for a special purpose, to go into the "world" and spread the word of God. As Christians, we are all called to be different from the "world".

In **Acts 26:17-18**, we read about when Paul was "set apart" for a special purpose by Jesus. As Christians, Jesus calls each of us to also go into the world and "open the eyes" of the unbelievers and "turn them from the darkness" of Satan to the light of God. But, sometimes God asks one of us to do a little more in maybe not a very easy way. Sometimes God asks us to "go against the grain" like Josh did in the movie. A whole classroom of his peers signed the paper and the professor made it clear what would happen if he didn't and still Josh chose to stand strong for God no matter what. Sometimes being "set apart" can be a lonely and scary place.

We read in **Deuteronomy 31:6** where Moses was reassuring Joshua as he handed over leadership to him. Moses tells Joshua to be courageous because God is with him and will never leave or forsake him. We said that courageous is when you are afraid to do something but you do it anyway.

We said that when God calls us to go "against the grain", while we may sometimes feel scared and alone, God never, ever, leaves our side and he will give us the courage to complete his purpose for us.

We finished up with some discussion about the other students in Josh's class, some maybe even Christians, who signed the paper and we talked about what we might do if we were in a similar situation.

We said that it is very possible that we could be put in a similar situation as Josh and actually may even be put in somewhat similar situations right now but at a somewhat lower level. For example, standing up for a classmate who is being bullied when everyone else is just standing by watching or maybe refusing to cheat on a test that the entire class somehow got the answers for. We discussed what we might do when faced with some of these situations.

We agreed that standing up for our faith can sometimes be difficult but with God by our side we will always succeed. We also agreed that it makes it much easier when even just one friend joins us so if we see a friend standing up for God or for Godly ways, maybe we should think about joining them.

**Jeremiah 1:5:** 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

**Acts 26:17-18:** 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

**Deuteronomy 31:6:** 6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."