



## Desperate

Justin Worden – August 25, 2010 (New School Year)  
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

**2 Chronicles 20:12** = "...For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (NIV)

### I. Facing Desperation

#### a. Ever Been Desperate?

- i. New school year, new challenges, new temptations... these can lead us to a place of "desperation"
- ii. Desperate = "anxious, worried, distressed, distracted, hopeless"
- iii. When you are truly desperate, what do you do?
  1. Naturally we pray, right?
  2. Do your prayers ever get desperate?
  3. Do you ever pray and mean it like this song? = "Breathe" = "I'm desperate for You... I'm lost without You"

#### b. Ever Cried Out In Desperation?

- i. Check out David's cry of desperation:
  1. **1 Chronicles 21:13** = "I'm in a desperate situation!" David replied to Gad. "But let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is very great. Do not let me fall into human hands." (NLT)
- ii. We live in a world full of desperation...
- iii. "A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world---and might be even more difficult to save." (C.S Lewis)
- iv. So... how do we respond to this desperate life?

### II. Responding To Desperation

#### a. How Not To Respond: Worry

- i. You can worry about tough times, but that will do you NO good at all. Just makes things worse.
  1. **Matthew 6:27** = "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (NIV)
  2. If anything, it steals hours/days from life!!

#### b. How To Respond: Prayer

- i. What do we do when desperation comes? = Pray?
  1. **Psalm 34:6** = "In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles." (NLT)
- ii. A great model for prayer (found in verses 6-12)
- iii. "In time of distress, we could do worse than echo the prayer of Jehoshaphat when Judah was being invaded by the marauding Moabites. Jehoshaphat's prayer is a model of trust, humility, and hope. First comes an acknowledgement of who God is. *Are you not* the omnipotent God of the universe who no one can withstand? Next comes a reminder of what God has already done. *Did you not* by force and power bring your people into this land and place your temple in its midst? And finally comes the desperate plea. *Will you not* judge the Ammonites for their sins and save us from destruction?" (DB Devo, June 6<sup>th</sup>)
- iv. Jehoshaphat's Prayer Model:
  1. **Acknowledge God**
  2. **Remember what He's done**
  3. **Desperate cry out to Him (and mean it)**
- v. Important note = you can pray as many prayers of desperation as you want... to no avail. The attitude behind the words is what counts!



### III. Living In Desperation

#### a. You Desperate For God

- i. Sometimes God has to bring us to a place of desperation, to help us realize how much we need Him! (That's why times get desperate)
- ii. More than being sad or angry in our desperation...
- iii. We need to be desperately seeking Him
  1. **Desperately** = "very much, greatly, urgently, badly, frantically"
  2. All out, full on, everything in... for Him!
- iv. Example of a man desperate for God:
  1. **Luke 19:1-4** = "Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately

# Tupos Student Ministries

## Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Lesson Theme: Faith

Lesson Objective: As we begin a new school year, we're going to study what desperation is all about and how, especially when things are desperate, we can turn to God in faith.

Lesson Text: **2 Chronicles 20:12** = "...For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (NIV)

### Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define the word "desperate"?
2. Can you name situations where you felt truly desperate?
3. Why is being desperate for God's help a good thing?

Prayer Time: "Lord, may our desperation only bring us closer to You, as You show us You are all we need. Our eyes are upon You!"

to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by." (Msg)

v. Life is a lot of things, but what is your life all about?

1. **"Life Is Temporary"** (Bluefishtv.com, 0:50)
2. What are you living (desperately) for?

### b. God Desperate For You

- i. Whether you care or not, He is desperate for you!
- ii. God's answer to Jehoshaphat's prayer:

1. "Take up your positions... do not be discouraged," said God, "for the battle is not yours, but God's!" (v.15)
2. Our fights with life are not ours but God's (He's our Warrior!)
  - a. He's our Armor, our Sword, and our Shield! (Ephesians 6)

iii. He is desperately in "hot pursuit" of us:



"Thousands of cars are stolen every year in California, but in 1981, there was one car theft that made all the local papers and was the lead story on the evening news. The police had issued an all-points bulletin to find the missing car and to make contact with the person who stole it.

Why was this car theft getting so much attention?

The owner of the stolen car had informed the police that on the front seat of the car was a box of crackers laced with a deadly poison. The car owner had planned to use the crackers as rat bait. So the police were desperately trying to find the thief—not to punish him, but to save his life. They were afraid he would eat one of the crackers and die.

In the same way, our Heavenly Father pursues us—not because he wants to punish us but because he wants to save us. You may be running away from God because—like the car thief—you are a sinner. You have broken God's law. But what you may not realize is that God is trying to rescue you, not condemn you. The penalty for your sin has been paid by Jesus Christ on the cross, and God wants to give you your freedom. So stop running and turn yourself in. Your life is at stake!" (**Hot Illustrations 1.0, All-Points Bulletin**)

iv. Instead of living lives desperate for hope and help to survive, let's desperately seek after the only Hope we will ever need, Jesus!

***No matter how desperate your life gets,  
remember He is desperately in love with You!***