



Acts 9:1-20

Being A Risk-Taker

Tupos Student Ministries

Wednesday Night Live – October 19, 2011

Video = "These Three Remain" (Beamer Films, 2:40)

*Truly living for God can be risky business... and I believe tonight
He wants to challenge you to follow Him, no matter the risk!
He's challenging all of us to be risk-takers!*

I. The Risks We All Avoid

a. The Game of Risk

- i. Ever heard of the board game "Risk"?
- ii. What's the point of the game?
 1. The object of Risk is to conquer the world by controlling every territory... Set up your territories, gain reinforcements, attack players, take more territories, & dominate!
 2. It can be risky... but sometimes worth it.



b. The Game of Life

- i. Ever feel like you have to take risks in your life too?
- ii. "Risk equals reward" some say. Or, it can end badly.

c. The Life of Christianity

- i. Most Christians = playing it safe
 1. This sound like you? = Get the facts, analyze the options, and make the choices that seem reasonable.
 2. Uncertainty = risk (no, no)
- ii. If we take a risk & lose... may mean we suffer and feel embarrassed (and the results could be = look foolish/dumb, financial loss, or physical danger)

d. The All-Too-Comfortable "Comfort Zone"

- i. You know what a "comfort zone" is right?
- ii. Comfort zone = "being a Christian until it starts to get a little uncomfortable about for you"
- iii. All about you? No! All about Him!
- iv. Get out of the "zone"... and be an answer to prayer!

"A group of California high school students had spent three months preparing and planning to go to Mexico during Easter break to help the poor. They had prayed that God would use them in a mighty way. Anticipating an exciting week of ministry, they journeyed to a small church near Mexicali.

Upon arriving at the small rural village on a Sunday morning, the students saw that the church where they were going to serve had been badly burned. The roof had caved in, and only the four walls remained. They cautiously made their way into what was left of the building, while a hymn was being sung in Spanish. They were greeted by the puzzled stares of a weary, discouraged Mexican pastor and nine parishioners who were midway through their Sunday morning service. It was apparent that the congregation had never received the group's letters explaining their plans to serve and had no idea that the group was coming to spend the week with them.

At the end of the hymn, the pastor stopped the service, walked back to the group of high school students and said, "Qué pasa?" (Which the group interpreted to mean, "What in the world are you rich white kids doing in our church?")

After a long silence, one of the students spoke: "We are Christians, and we are here to serve."

On hearing this the pastor's eyes brimmed with tears. "Some people in the village burned down our church six months ago," he explained. "We've been praying that God would send help, but we had given up hope that help was ever coming. Praise be to God!"

The thirty-five high school students were stunned silent. They had heard many times that God wanted to use them; now they were experiencing it for the first time. Amazed, one of the students turned to another and said, "I can't believe it. We're an answer to prayer!"

God does want to use us, and he will—if we will only obey him and follow Christ's example to be a servant. (See Philippians 2:3-11.) We can be the answer to someone's prayer by moving out of our comfort zones to use the gifts God has given us to make a difference in the world." **(Hot Illustrations 1.0, An Answer To Prayer)**

- v. You'll never know how much the Lord can do through you until you take the risks that He's calling you to. We need to stop avoiding being a risk-taker!

II. The Risks We Need Not Avoid

a. Common Sense Vs. Faith

- i. Human view point = eliminating the uncertainty makes sense (not just about rolling the dice) [Dice]



- ii. God's view of uncertainty? = no such thing as uncertainty to God! (He's in control, and never fails to accomplish His purposes.)
- iii. Sometimes common sense is opposite of faith = if it's too safe... you'll never trust (have faith) in God!
 1. Be a risk-taker for God!

b. Risk-Takers In The Bible

- i. The Bible is full of risk-takers!
- ii. Acts 9 = two great examples! (summarize Acts 9)
 1. Ananias (disciple sent by God to minister to the newly converted Saul. He risked his reputation & his life by trusting God.)
 2. Saul (who was now commanded to preach to the Jews who he had so violently oppressed for so long. Risky business.)

Acts 9:17 = "So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, 'Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'" (Msg)

III. Being A Risk-Taker For God

a. These Risks Are Worth It

- i. "Are there times when we're to take risks? The answer is a resounding yes, when He is the one asking us to take risks." (Charles Stanley)
- ii. I may fail God, but He never fails me!
- iii. How to take risks? = Focus on God, His character and His promises... you will succeed (no matter the uncertainty, doubt, and fear)
- iv. What risks do we (as Christians) avoid all too often? (Students share)
- v. What keeps us from taking risks like God asks us to? (Students share)

b. These Three Remain

- i. Back to the start... Faith, hope, love... risky, worth it!
- ii. Where do you need to be a risk-taker? Think it out!
 1. More faith, more hope, more love?
 2. Even if it makes you look weird, lose friends/boyfriends/girlfriends, feel like an outsider, seem like a failure? YES!!

c. These People Are Ready?

- i. Some of your friends/family may never understand this Jesus thing till you start living w/ true faith (like you're ready to risk it all for Him)! R U READY???



Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Acts 9:1-20

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2010

Lesson Theme: Faith / Service

Lesson Objective: Students will be challenged to step out of their comfort zones and follow God's calling in their lives, no matter the risk. Serving God can be risky sometimes, but that can not keep us from serving Him! Are you a "risk-taker"?

Lesson Text: **Acts 9:17** = "So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, 'Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'" (Msg)

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it means to take "risks" for God?
2. What's something we can learn from Ananias & Paul tonight?
3. What risk is God asking you to take? And, will you take it?

Prayer Time: Seek God's help as we step up & risk it all for Him!



Acts 9:1-20

Being A Risk-Taker

Tupos Student Ministries

Wednesday Night Live – October 19, 2011

I. The _____ We All _____

a. The Game of _____

b. The Game of _____

c. The Life of _____

- Playing it safe? Uncertainty = Risk?

d. The All-Too-Comfortable _____

- Get out of the “zone” & be an answer to prayer!
- You’ll never know how much the Lord can do through you until you take the risks that He’s calling you to. We need to stop avoiding being a risk-taker!



II. The _____ We Need _____ Avoid

a. _____ Vs. _____

- If it’s too safe... you’ll never trust (have faith) in God!

b. Risk-Takers In The _____

- _____
- _____

Acts 9:17 = “So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’” (Msg)

III. Being A _____ - _____ For God

a. These Risks Are _____ It

- What risks so we avoid all too often?
- What keeps us from taking risks like God asks us to?

b. These _____ Remain

- Faith, hope, and love! (1 Corinthians 13:13)

c. These _____ Are Ready??

- Risk it all for Him! Are you ready??