



It's A Wonderful Life Bible Study

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
12/16/2020

Welcome

Trivia

- 1) When they were children, what did a young Violet Bick order from George in Mr. Gower's drugstore?
- 2) The marquee on the Bedford Falls movie house advertised that it was playing *The Bells of St. Mary's*. What *It's A Wonderful Life* actor starred in that film?
- 3) Beulah Bondi played George's mother. She had played Jimmy Stewart's mother in 3 prior films. Name one of those films.

- 1) Of Human Hearts (1938)
- 2) Vivacious Lady (1938)
- 3) Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)



Trivia

4) In the alternate reality in which George Bailey had never been born, what is the name of Bedford Falls?

5) Who said it?

- *You're not paid to be a canary!*
- *Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes...The big Charleston contest!*
- *I been saving this money for a divorce, if ever I got a husband.*
- *I'm glad I know you George Bailey.*
- *I was just thinking of a flaming rum punch. No, it's not cold enough for that. Not nearly cold enough...Wait a minute...wait a minute...Mulled wine, heavy on the cinnamon and light on the cloves. Off with you, me lad, and be lively!*

Session 3: Impact

- Scene: Pottersville



Session 3: Impact

*“You’ve been given a great gift,
George. A chance to see what the
world would be like without you.”*
--Clarence Odbody, Angel 2nd Class

- If you were offered this “gift”, would you accept it? Why or why not?





Session 3: Impact

- Why was this gift presented to George?
- What caused George to believe that everyone would have been better off if he had never been born?
- What was George failing to consider?



Session 3: Impact

- With the help of an angel from Heaven, George was shown how his life had impacted so many others. What are some of the ways George impacted others as he walked through his life?
 - Saved the life of his brother. His brother later saved the life of an entire transport of servicemen.
 - Helped countless people in the town build a better life for themselves and their families (through the Building and Loan, through getting the plastics factory to come to town, etc)
 - Gave Harry the chance to go to college; gave him the freedom to chase a different career path
 - Supported his mother after his father's death
 - Helped Uncle Billy maintain a purpose in life
 - Positive influence for Violet Bick
 - Built a loving family with Mary...4 children. Who is to say the impact those children could have in the future, after growing up with the solid foundation George and Mary were providing?
 - Other ways?

Session 3: Impact

- What impact does God want you to have on the people in your circle of influence?
- Shortly before leaving the earth, what did Jesus tell His followers?
 - *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Matthew 28:18-20
- How does this call to action inform how you live your life? Do you find this call daunting?

Session 3: Impact

- Whose work is it to “save”?
 - *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”* Ephesians 2:8-9
- Salvation is God’s work. But is it His work alone?
 - *“What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”* 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- God desires our participation in reaching the lost (those who do not know Him). What a privilege!

Session 3: Impact

- How do we participate? I'm not a pastor, not an evangelist, etc.
 - *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."* Romans 12:6-8
- God has gifted each of us. And He calls us to use our gifts to advance His Kingdom.

Session 3: Impact

- The work of God's Kingdom is not an event reserved for a special season or isolated outreach efforts. Rather, we are called to witness for Christ through our daily conduct, through our words, through our love for one another, through our faithfulness to God's Word even in adversity.
- In living a life of credibility and authenticity, God will provide opportunity to point others to Christ.
- *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” 1 Peter 3:15-16*



Session 3: Impact

- If we were given the same gift as George, what would be revealed? What has been the impact of your life?
- Has God been glorified because you existed?
- Is your family closer to the Father because you were here?
- Do your children have a clearer understanding of the true nature of God because you opened His Word to them regularly?
- Have people in your sphere (co-workers, classmates, friends, etc) taken a deeper look toward Christ because of the daily witness of your conduct? Because they saw a glimpse of His Spirit in you?
- May we live lives which bear eternal fruit.

Closing Thoughts/Comments

