



Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

In "The Finest Hours," Pastor Rob Paugh shares the story of the heroic small boat rescue by the Coast Guard in 1952. The sermon links the rescue mission to the church's duty to prioritize rescuing others spiritually, much like the crew of the SS Pendleton depended on outside help. The challenges faced in the rescue operation mirror the obstacles believers encounter when reaching out to the lost. Sacrificial love is highlighted as believers are urged to fulfill their responsibility in sharing the life-saving message of Jesus Christ.

Ice Breaker

What's the most unusual food you've ever eaten and would you eat it again?

Discussion Questions

How does the story of the SS Pendleton rescue relate to our responsibility as Christians to share the Gospel?

- Pastor Rob used the story of the SS Pendleton rescue to show the challenges faced in a rescue mission and how it parallels our duty to spiritually rescue others.
- What challenges do you personally face when sharing your faith? How can you overcome these challenges?

What does it mean for the church to be the last best hope to rescue those who are lost? How can you play a role in this?

- The responsibility of sharing the life-saving message of Jesus Christ falls to the church, and if believers don't do it, it won't get done.
- How can you be more intentional about sharing your faith with non-believers and inviting others to church?

Why do you think the Coast Guard's saying 'You have to go out, you don't have to come back' is significant in the context of rescuing others spiritually?

- The saying emphasizes the value placed on saving those in need. It ties in with Jesus' emphasis on rescuing others, as mentioned in Mark 16:15 and 2 Corinthians 1:10-11.
- How can you apply this mindset to your own faith and willingness to share the Gospel with others?

In Ephesians 6:12, why is our struggle described as not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil?

- Pastor Rob mentioned the obstacles believers face when rescuing others spiritually, and Ephesians 6:12 helps us understand the true nature of these obstacles.
- Can you think of a time when you felt you were facing a spiritual battle while trying to share your faith? How did you handle the situation?

How does the sacrificial love demonstrated during the rescue of the SS Pendleton crew resemble Christ's love for us as mentioned in John 3:16 and John 15:13?

- The rescuers put their own lives at risk to save the lives of others, just as Jesus gave His life to save all who believe in Him.
- How can you practice sacrificial love in your own life to demonstrate the love of Christ to others?

Prayer 🙏

- Ask for prayer requests
- Ask God to help us prioritize rescuing those in spiritual need, just as Bernie Weber and his crew prioritized those in physical danger.
- Pray for the courage to face challenges and obstacles in our efforts to share the Gospel.
- Pray for hearts willing to make sacrifices for the sake of others' salvation, as exemplified by Jesus' sacrifice.