

# HSM WED NITE

## NOVEMBER 4, 2020 – STUCK

Our focus is about being *stuck* which seems like a good topic, since most of us are stuck in a much different “normal” right now. With family, school, friends, church, and some of your jobs. It seems that each area of life has different regulations and requirements that often leave us feeling stuck. I have been able to speak with many students and adults who are tired and simply ready for everything to go return to the way it was before we were...STUCK.

### REMEMBER THAT WHEN I AM STUCK...

#### 1. I can choose my RESPONSE

*12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

Philippians 4:12-13

#### 2. I am never ALONE

*6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

*7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7*

#### 3. God still LOVES me even when I am stuck in sin

*38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

#### 4. God offers FREEDOM

*15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:15-16*

*9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

**Something to think about:**

When I am STUCK, I need a SAVIOR!

# **HSM WED NITE**

## **November 4, 2020 | STUCK**

### **Ice Breakers**

- Would you rather be too busy or be bored?
- Would you rather watch the big game at home or live at the stadium?
- Would you rather spend the day with your favorite athlete or your favorite movie star?
- Would you rather live where it is constantly cold or where it is constantly hot?

### **Warming Up**

- How necessary is it for you to have connections with friends/people on a scale of 1-10 (1 = I am good being alone most of the time, 10 = I need friends/people around me ALL of the time)
- Share a time when you felt stuck.
- Is it difficult to be around people who are “always” stuck? Can you explain?

### **Getting Hot**

- What are some ways or reasons that people get “stuck” in bad situations or sin?
- What if you are stuck in a sin pattern, how do we break away from it?
- How do you think turning towards God when you are stuck can change things for you?
- Do you have areas in your life that you need God’s forgiveness? Do you want to move from stuck to serving?

### **Pray together as a group**

## Outline for November 4, 2020

We are “talking” about being stuck which seems like a good topic, since many are stuck in a much different “normal” right now. With family, school, friends, church, and some of your jobs each having different regulations and requirements we can often feel stuck. I have been able to speak with many students and adults who are tired and simply ready for everything to go return to the way it was before we were...STUCK.

The Bible talks about people getting stuck plenty of times. Paul spent a lot of time stuck in prison. The people of Israel were stuck in the wilderness. If you ask me, the worst case of being stuck had to have been Jonah. I cannot imagine living inside of one for any period of time. We do see that often, when someone in the Bible was stuck, they turned toward God. In Jonah’s case, he prayed and repented, as he was only in that fish because he had run from God. In the case of Paul, we see that he continued to praise God even though he did not do anything wrong to justify his being stuck. Good or bad, we can turn to God when we are stuck.

Sometimes we get stuck, and we did not do anything to cause it. It just happens, and although we did not choose it, we can choose what we do with it. I want to look at a person in the Bible named Joseph. I want to catch you up on some of what led to his “stuck” situation. Joseph was a younger brother, and like any younger sibling, he was at least mildly antagonistic towards his older brothers. It did not help that he was his dad’s favorite son, and the rest of the brothers knew it. Then, God spoke to Joseph in a dream and revealed to him that his dad and brothers would one day bow down to him. That is delicate information to handle as a younger brother and son, and Joseph did not handle it delicately. Instead of keeping the dream to himself, he told it to his brothers which, for some reason, upset them.

So, his brothers threw him in a pit, planned to kill him, changed their minds, and ultimately sold him into slavery. I believe we can all agree that that was an overreaction. Joseph found himself as a slave in Egypt. Despite his circumstances, Joseph worked hard and was noticed by his owner. His owner, Potiphar, promoted him to the head of the house. He was so trusted that he could go wherever he wanted to go and do whatever he wanted to do. There was only one thing that was off limits to him, and Joseph did not have any plans to cross that line. That line was Potiphar’s wife.

Potiphar’s wife did not care about that rule, though. She wanted to be with Joseph, but he turned her away. She gave one final, big push to try to seduce him, and he literally ran from the house. Rejected by Joseph, she accused him of trying to assault her when she denied him, and that Joseph had only run away because she screamed. This was about to go poorly for Joseph.

### Genesis 39:19-23 (NLT)

*<sup>19</sup> Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife’s story about how Joseph had treated her. <sup>20</sup> So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king’s prisoners were held, and there he remained. <sup>21</sup> But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. <sup>23</sup> The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.*

Of course, Potiphar was furious! Any husband would be furious. His wife had lied to him, but he did not know. So, Potiphar had Joseph thrown into prison. While in prison, Joseph ultimately became the prison warden’s favorite prisoner, which I guess is an honor but one that I am not looking to pursue. But just like in Potiphar’s house, Joseph was put in charge of everything and everyone else. He was still a slave. He was still a prisoner. But he made the most of his circumstances with God’s help

I think the key thing is found in verses 21 and 23. Joseph may have been stuck, but he was not stuck alone. The Lord was with him. You may feel alone, isolated from your life when you are stuck, but God has promised to be with you, too. When you have a relationship with God, it cannot be broken by circumstances. He is always there. He cares about your being stuck, how being stuck makes you feel, and how to get you unstuck.

Sometimes you are physically stuck somewhere, like you are stuck at home right now. Sometimes you are stuck somewhere mentally or emotionally, like Sarah was talking about with her mental health struggles. Sometimes you can feel stuck in sin. Whatever it is, when we get stuck, we can feel overwhelmed and defeated. We feel like we are not just stuck for now, but we are stuck for good.

While you may feel permanently stuck, you are not. You can be free from it. Not only can you be free, but God wants you to be free and wants to spend time with you. Sometimes we convince ourselves that we are not only stuck, but that even if we could be made free, God would be too angry to have us. That is just not true. God loves us, wants to spend time with us today, and is quick to forgive. Do not be deceived into believing that you are not better than what you have been stuck in.

God was with Joseph. God is with us too. It does not matter where, why, or how long we have been stuck. God is still there, and He still loves us. God said that He would never leave us or forsake us. In Romans 8:35, Paul asked if anything could separate us from the love of Jesus. He went through some tough circumstances that lead some of us to answer yes, but he answered his own question in verses 38 and 39.

### **Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)**

*<sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus. So, maybe you are feeling stuck right now. Maybe you feel alone. You are not. God loves you, and has a plan through Jesus Christ to free us from whatever we are stuck in.

Make sure you are following our Instagram and Facebook stories. We will be posting stuff to engage with you over the next 11 days.