

# EPIC LIFE

THE END IS THE BEGINNING

#TMHEpicLife 

## Average Life or Apocalypse?

Luke, Neo, Frodo, Emmet, Steve and you

What do I believe is the larger story of my life?

## Daniel: Vision of an Epic Battle

**Daniel 7:1-18**

**Sea** – Place of evil and chaos

**Beasts** – Destructive Empires that oppress Israel

**Ancient One** – God

**Son of Man** – The Descendent (Israel's Captain American)

**Holy Ones** – Angelic army, set apart for God

**Kingdom** – Promised Land finally at peace

## Jesus: Upside-Down Revolution

**Matthew 16:13-28**

**Enemies:** Evil spiritual forces, not people

**Son of Man:** Will suffer for people, not kill them

**Kingdom:** Not a geographic, political kingdom, but a transnational, relational kingdom for all people

**Holy Ones:** Not an army of angels, but an army of people transformed by the love of God

## What is my great quest?

If we are in an *epic battle*, what does a *great quest* look like for my life?

### Act One

Living an ordinary life  
Confronted with a problem  
Rejects or doubts the call  
Meets a mentor  
Changes mind and leaves on the quest

### Act Two

Gathers allies, faces tests, and confronts enemies  
Enters a dark, dangerous place  
Faces a catastrophe  
Discovers the treasure

### Act Three

Makes a courageous choice  
Rises out of the place of pain and loss  
Returns home with the reward

**Matthew 4:18-22**



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## Home Church Questions...

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. What is your favourite epic movie? What inspires you about the main character of this movie? Why do you think people like epic stories?
2. As you look at the outline of a *Great Quest* in the notes, what do you think are the great quests promoted by our culture? Do you think most people find their storyline or life quest satisfying or not?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Paul was an early church leader who experienced a radical life transformation. Read **Galatians 1:13-2:10** to listen to how he sums up the dramatic change to the storyline of his life. (For additional study also read Ephesians 3:1-13 and Acts 7:54-30, 8:1-8, 9:1-31, 11:19-30, 12:24-25, 13:1-3)
  - a. Compare what you read here and what you know about Paul's life story and compare it to the general outline of a Great Quest provided in the teaching notes. How did Paul's encounter with Jesus launch him into a great quest?
  - b. What was his ordinary life before meeting Jesus? What was his call or quest? Who was his mentor? Who were his allies? Who were his opponents? From what you know of Paul's life, what did this quest cost him?
  - c. What inspires you about Paul? What aspects of Paul's story can't you relate to?
  - d. What part of Paul's story challenges you in your own story or quest?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

4. What is the *great quest* of your life (if you feel you have one)? Where are you in the outline of your quest? Are you satisfied with the storyline or quest of your life?
5. What do you think is God's *great quest* for your life (if you think he has one for you)?
6. What is your courageous next step or decision to move you forward?
7. How can this home church support you in your quest or next step?
8. Take time to pray for each other and the next steps each person has identified.

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Art by jossmonzon.com

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## Quotes...

"The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for."

-- Fyodor Dostoyevsky

"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer."

-- Jim Carrey

"If there is no God, then man and the universe are doomed. Like prisoners condemned to death, we await our unavoidable execution. There is no God, and there is no immortality. And what is the consequence of this? It means that life itself is absurd. It means that the life we have is without ultimate significance, value, or purpose."

-- William Lane Craig

"It could be that all existence is a pointless joke, but it is not in fact possible to live one's everyday life as if this were so."

-- Christopher Hitchens

"The human race is a monotonous affair. Most people spend the greatest part of their time working in order to live, and what little freedom remains so fills them with fear that they seek out any and every means to be rid of it."

-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"It is not that we have so little time but that we lose so much. ... The life we receive is not short but we make it so; we are not ill provided but use what we have wastefully."

-- Seneca

"I am looking for someone to share in an adventure that I am arranging, and it's very difficult to find anyone." -- Gandalf

"I should think so — in these parts! We are plain quiet folk and have no use for adventures. Nasty disturbing uncomfortable things! Make you late for dinner!" – Bilbo

– J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

-- Jesus