**Revolution Week 1**

This term we are launching a brand new series on Sunday mornings – called the Revolution series!

Video: Nickelback – Edge of a Revolution. Get it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYnuSsM7tRw

Welcome to the Revolution

Express Yourself: We start with you today! Here is your chance to express what you think about revolution. Here are some options: (1) Graffiti Wall: some of you will choose to go to the graffiti wall and use words and images to describe revolution. (2) Group Sculpture: Some of you will create a group montage (sculpture with your bodies) that represents revolution. (3) Spoken Word: Some of you will create a short spoken word that reflects what you think about revolution. (4) Cut Out: Some of you will use paper and a scissors to create a cut out that represents revolution.

Actually the idea of Revolution is all around us… In video games like Sid Meier’s Revolution…

Worms Revolution

Call of Duty: Black Ops 2: Revolution

Deus Ex: Human Revolution

And in movies like Step Up: Revolution

Many of us are excited about the second movie in the Divergent series that will be released in March

Divergent is all about a world that is under the control of certain individuals with revolution bubbling all over the place as factions compete for control of the city.

Hunger Games too contains themes of rebellion as the districts rise up to fight for freedom from the Capitol.

What a great phrase: The courage of one will change the world.

And one person is able to inspire many people to take action and work together for change!

Last year we bought the box series for the first season of Revolution – which travels into the future to a world where all power has been turned off.

And where 15 years after the blackout, power if everything.

And people have to rise up to take back the power.

Even Jamie Oliver has started a revolution: a food revolution!

In South Africa – if you were an old timer like me – or paid attention during your History or LO classes you would have learnt about a revolution that brought an end to apartheid.

One of the greatest revolutionaries ever was our very own Nelson Mandela.

More recently in North Africa and the Middle East we have seen movement where people have risen up against oppressive governments to bring change to their world. Like in Egypt for example.

John F. Kennedy once said: Those who make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable.

So what is Revolution? According to Webster’s Dictionary a Revolution is: an overthrow or repudiation a thorough replacement of an established system, a sudden, radical, or complete change, an activity or movement designed to effect fundamental changes, it is a change of paradigm (which is a change in the way of thinking). Many will call it a rebellion, which is opposition to one in authority or dominance.

Revolutionary: A fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something : a change of paradigm.

But to be clear, when we talk about revolution we are not talking about…

Teenage rebellion

Or the power of the fist

Or breaking rules that are meant to protect us from harm.

Or breaking rules just to be rebellious!

What Does the Bible Say About Revolution?

If you look at the Bible through the lens of revolution you will see that it has so much to say about revolution.

1. Revolution in Heaven: There was once a revolution in heaven where Lucifer, the main worship leader, decided that he wanted to be the one worshipped and he led rebellion of a third of the angels but he was thrown down to earth – we know him as Satan today.

2. Revolution in Eden: Then just after God created Adam and Eve they led a revolution by breaking the rules and were banished from the garden of Eden.

3. Revolution in Humans: Not many years later mankind embarked on another revolution against the ways of God and only Noah and his family were saved as everyone else drowned in a flood that covered the whole earth.

4. Revolution in Jesus: But God stepped down into time and space in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and launched another revolution – this time of good one designed to save humanity from sin and eternal death.

Jesus’s message was a threat to the religious establishment. He called for dramatic, sweeping—yes, revolutionary—change. He taught his followers to pray radical prayers like, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”—meaning, the displacement of the corrupt kingdoms of this world by the perfect kingdom of God. He called his disciples to revolutionary commitment, urging them to leave everything and follow him, and in his platform message, he promised freedom to the captives (Luke 4:18–21).

Jesus called for revolutionary commitment: Jesus came into our world to launch God’s revolution—a kingdom revolution, a revolution of the Spirit, a world-changing movement that would overcome evil with good and hatred with love, and Jesus himself was the most radical revolutionary leader who ever lived.

5. Revolution in Disciples: We see a revolution happening in the early days of the Church after Jesus ascended into heaven – here are some examples from the book of Acts:

“Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19-20)

“The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah” (Acts 5:41-42).

They dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials and shouted, “These fellows have turned the world upside down.” (Acts 17:6)

6. Revolution In Us: And what about you and I?

Jesus said to His disciples, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed My teaching, they will obey yours also” (John 15:18-20).

“Our world has witnessed many a revolution, but none as effective as the one that divided history into B.C. and A.D. … Revolutionary, indeed, this mission, to begin with a cross and sway the whole world through suffering love.” (H.S. Vigeveno)

Video: Start a Revolution. Get it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTTlIYBrsG4

Prayer

Next week in our Revolution series we are going to look at some Amazing Revolutions.

Week 3 is going to be about Amazing Revolutionaries.

Week 4 we will look at how to Prepare for Revolution.

We will interrupt out series for a Prophetic Sunday.

Week 5 we will learn how to Become Revolutionary.

Week 6 we will learn how to Think Revolutionary.

Week 7 we will learn how to Act Revolutionary.

Week 8 we will end off with how to Join the Revolution.