

The Domino Effect

Facilitator: Dan and Busie

- Mark 10:46-52; Acts 3:1-10
 - o *What are your initial thoughts about the story? What strikes you?*
 - o *What are the similarities between both stories? What do they have in common?*
 - o *What can we learn from the way that Jesus, Peter, and John interacted with these men?*
 - o *What does this mean for us? How can we apply that practically?*
- *What does this domino effect mean to us here in Africa and why is it so important for us to live it out as a way of influencing others?*
- We need to trust God to fall on others in the best way that we can. When we talk to kids we have to be careful how we talk and how we talk about other people.
- As an international office – *who are the people you are serving/influencing?*
 - o Individual Donors
 - o Advocates
 - o Team Leaders
 - o Past Volunteers
 - o Pastors
 - o Partners
 - o Volunteers
 - o Returning Team Members + Volunteers
 - o Each other – Management Teams and Our Boards
 - o The Vulnerable Child in Africa
 - o Hands in Africa
 - o OCV, PCG, CW, SC, RST, HUB, IO
 - o Circles of influence in our own home – represent Hands to people outside of Hands at Work
 - o Our Churches
 - o God
 - o The vulnerable within our own communities
- Jesus' life was interrupted. We may think sometimes why are we doing this? Our lives are going to be interrupted.
- *How do we live it out in Africa?*
- Story:
 - o We had one team that did a community stay. The community was excited and when the team got back they were excited and shared their stories. When Dan went to ask Care Workers how it went they told Dan that they felt bad. They felt bad because when the team got back they were telling each other and showed how they were bitten by bed bugs. The Care Workers heard them and felt so bad. We need to equip people. *How are we influencing each other and falling on each other the wrong way?*
- We speak a lot about how our actions speak louder than our words and in our communities that is huge. *How do we make sure that what we say is what we are living out?*
- This thing of wanting to fall on each other in a positive way. We always want to ask each other: *How am I doing? What are they saying to me?*

- Our goal in our office is to bring transformation to the lives of our children but in-between there are all these people that we need to fall on. Example: If I was going to the post office to receive mail and I see a child from one the CBO's I stop and I greet them and listen to them and how they are doing. If the Care Workers see me doing that they will follow.
- Story:
 - o We are involved in new communities in Swaziland. Dan and Sibiu went twice for the day and on the third visit Dan, Sibiu and Busie stayed the night. They wanted to meet the most vulnerable children. Before they left they asked George for wisdom. He said to find the most vulnerable homes to spend the night.
 - o When the team arrived they went and asked local people about the most vulnerable families. The people knew and they told them and showed them the two homes.
 - o One of the gogo's was considered to be a witch by many community members and tried to tell Dan and Sibiu not to stay there.
 - o As they were walking with potential Care Workers they kept on talking about the fact that these homes weren't good. They told them that the one gogo had poisoned someone and they died, but the team told them that they were going to stay there.
 - o There was not enough space to sleep inside, so Dan and Sibiu slept outside.
 - o As they talked to people they knew who we were and what they did because they recognized who they had stayed with. Their actions spoke louder than words.
- We have to be diligent in impacting people. Bethuel gets it. It's not about being the big guy; it's about being the lowest that draws people to him and gets them to open up.
- *How are we falling? What is it going to look like?*
- Going to talk about vulnerability and why it's good to be vulnerable?
- We all agree that the domino effect happens; whether it's good or bad people catch something from us; it's important.
- *How does it happen?*
 - o Vulnerability
 - Domino Effect happens whether we like it or not.
 - We don't have to be perfect to grow. We can still have a positive impact on someone and fail; it's not a call to perfection
 - Story:
 - When Audrey, Busie, Jackie & Bethuel went to Bandeni and the Care Workers had gone home and they were just cooking, a mentally disabled man came. They asked themselves whether or not they should serve him and before they knew it Bethuel had brought the man food, and a chair and had washed his hands. We need to be vulnerable with Bethuel and say that we may have struggled to do what he did.
 - It's about being vulnerable and letting people in – that is our foundation.
 - o Time
 - We will never be able to influence someone if we don't spend time with him or her. We have to walk with them and let them in.

- It is not just about influencing someone. We need that person just as much as he or she needs us.
- Identifying Sons and Daughters
 - We have to be vulnerable, and this happens when we spend time with people.
 - The Domino Effect is our main method of creating leaders.
 - Sons and Daughters should know who their mom is. She is the person that is hard on us. We need to identify them and let them know who they are to us.
 - Many of us come to Africa and we're looking for an African person to mentor. It doesn't work like that. When you're trusted with the small things you can be trusted with the big things. We earn the right. This is our method for growing leaders and where the Domino Effect is probably most used.
- *What does the Domino Effect mean for each other in the international office? Who are our sons and daughters? What can we do to influence them?*

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