

DAVE ROEVER

Focus It doesn't matter what difficulties you face, or what difficult thing you've gone through: God can redeem anything. God can take a tragedy and turn it into a triumph.

Fun What is your favorite Fourth of July memory? Or what is your favorite way to celebrate the Fourth of July?

Review Key Scriptures: Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:28

- Dave Roevers was drafted to serve in the Vietnam War when he was young. After saying goodbye to his young bride, he was deployed for service. While in a battle, a sniper shot a bullet through a grenade he was getting ready to launch, setting off an explosion that severely wounded and nearly killed him.
- In the ICU where he recovered for over a year, he was the only man of the 13 there who didn't die. When his wife saw him for the first time, she didn't believe it was him at first. When the realization sunk in, she chose to love him even though she couldn't recognize him. In the same way, God loves us no matter what we've been through.
- After living through this tragedy, he was given the opportunity to travel around the world preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. The military now sends him to the most difficult places to encourage soldiers not to quit and not to lose hope. No matter what difficulty you face, or what tragedy you've been through, God can redeem anything. There is always hope for your future!

Group Dynamics Idea This message is a great reminder of the tremendous sacrifice so many have made for our country and for our freedom. As a group, brainstorm about ways you can show your support for those who serve in our military. You may want to partner with

Dave Roeever's foundation, Restoring the Wounded. Or your group may want to look into ways to help veterans in your area.

Discuss

1. Why is it so important to always have hope? What does hope look like?
2. What are some things that can steal our hope? What does it look like and feel like to lose hope?
3. Dave Roeever's testimony is a powerful reminder that God can redeem any tragedy. Can you think of any other examples or stories of tragedies that God redeemed and turned into an opportunity to bring hope to others?
4. Can you think of anything difficult you've been through in your own life that God has redeemed and turned around for good? If you're comfortable, share with the group.
5. Read Philippians 4:13 and Romans 8:28. How do these Scriptures apply to your own life? How do they apply to any difficult situations you may currently be facing?
6. Take a few minutes for everyone to bow their heads and take some time to listen to the Holy Spirit. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Is there an area of your life where you need hope? Is there something difficult you've been through you would like God to redeem? Take time to pray specifically for these things.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Don't give up, no matter what you're facing.
- God can redeem any situation.
- God can turn tragedy into triumph.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for all those who have served our country so we can have freedom. We pray You would protect and bless those who faithfully serve in our military. Give wisdom to our leaders and help us to never take our freedom for granted. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Messages like this are reminders that it is easy for people to lose hope. Even if they haven't been through a Dave Roeever-type of tragedy, the enemy still tries to steal hope.

Be sensitive to people in your group who may be struggling in this area. Ask God to show you people in your group who may need extra prayer or extra encouragement in this area.