**Week 1 - DWTS Intro His Scars Heal Our Scars**

**This Week’s Hero:** Jesus

**Scripture References:** Read Isaiah 53:5 and John 20:24-29

**His Scars:** Jesus Christ is the most unique figure in all of humanity. Never did anyone speak such red-hot scorching words about sin, yet at the same time speak such grace-filled words of hope to sinners. His voice, which commanded the universe into existence, would later whisper words of love and forgiveness to saint and sinner alike. His hands, which carefully formed the earth and everything in it, would eventually bear the marks of death on a cross.

“*The only man-made thing in Heaven are the scars of Jesus*.” Or so says the old quote. Based on the accounts in Scripture, we know the resurrected Savior chose to keep the scars He received on the cross – they are a visible reminder for all believers of the cost of our salvation and the marks of Christ’s indescribable love for us. Despite the fact that it was mankind’s inequities (*immorality and guilt*) and transgressions (*rebellion*) which sent Him to suffer death on a Roman cross, it was through that very cross Christ chose to offer redemption to the world. It is a redemption we neither deserve nor can comprehend.

He graced the earth with a 33-year long ministry which not only turned the Jewish religious establishment on its ears, but redefined mankind’s relationship with both God and with each other. Had Jesus simply accomplished these things, history would have remembered Him in vivid color. But as countless changed lives have revealed over the centuries, His life was so much more than merely shaking up social structures and modeling goodwill.

**His Healing:** Jesus Christ, through His crucifixion, death, and resurrection, defeated the power of sin and death. Through His scars, He extends to all mankind forgiveness for sins past, present, and future. Through His scars, He restores and renews what sin mars and destroys. Jesus, this week’s Hero, did not come to make bad people good – He came to make dead people *alive*. His scars are living proof of His power, His love, and His authority to do just that.

We all bear scars; they seem to be an inescapable part of life. But not all of our scars are visible – some are hidden far beneath the surface. They are scars from the love we desperately wanted but never received, the trauma of abuse we didn’t deserve, the wounds from words we can’t stop hearing. But there is hope in Christ! The prophet Isaiah said that through Christ’s suffering, we would receive peace and healing (Isaiah 53:5). Christ redeems the scars meant to destroy us. He places His own scars over ours and trades our defeats for His victory.

**Discussion Questions:**

* What questions do you have about this section?
* Hippocrates said, “*Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity*.”
	+ How does Jesus offer the opportunity for healing?
* Every scar tells a story. For those willing, share a physical scar from childhood and how you got it. (*ex. A scar from a scraped knee while learning how to ride a bike*.)
* Read Psalm 107:1-2.
	+ What are some examples of “life scars” people may bear?
	+ Not all the stories behind our scars are fun to tell. How does Jesus change the way we look at the scars life has given us?
	+ Why would Christ ask us to share some of the most painful, poignant times of our lives?
* As a group, how can we encourage one another toward redemption?