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RLA NEWS AND NOTES

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"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Left-Handed Perfection:

Why God Wants to Use Us at Our Point of Greatest Weakness

By Mark Batterson of Proverbs31 Ministries on January 13, 2021

proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2021/01/13/left-handed-perfection-why-god-wants-to-use-us-at-our-point-of-greatest-weakness

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

I'm fascinated by an ancient group of archers from a tribe known as the Benjamites. Their ambidextrous ability to shoot arrows and sling stones sounds like it's right out of a Marvel movie: "All of them were expert archers, and they could shoot arrows or sling stones with their left hand as well as their right. They were all relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin" (1 Chronicles 12:2, NLT).

It's safe to assume the Benjamites were not born this way, because only 1% of the general population is born ambidextrous. In other words, this was *nurture over nature*. This was not an innate talent. It was a hard-earned skill set. There are several famous Benjamites in the Bible, King Saul and the Apostle Paul among them. Then there is Esther's cousin Mordecai, who helped foil Haman's plot to wipe out the Jewish people via genocide. So the tribe of Benjamin has its fair share of heroes, but their ancestral hero is a judge named Ehud.

Years before the Benjamites were known for their ambidextrous qualities, Ehud delivered Israel — with his *left hand*. In Judges, we read, "*But when the Israelites cried to the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man ...*" (Judges 3:15, AMPC). Ehud is one of the most significant southpaws, or lefthanders, in Scripture. So what does that have to do with the ambidexterity of the Benjamites?

Ehud's left-handed victory became the Benjamites' signature story, buried deep within their collective consciousness. It was their rallying cry, like "Remember the Alamo!" Cultivating weak-hand skills was their unique way of honoring Ehud. Ambidexterity was a tip of the cap to the judge who delivered Israel with his left hand.

Most of us tend to ignore our nondominant hands. Why bother when using our strong hands is so much easier, so much better? We let our weak hands atrophy. But how you handle your weak hand affects more than your present task; it affects the next generation. Ehud didn't just deliver the Israelites from the Moabites; he inspired generations of Benjamites. His bravery wasn't just their breakthrough; it became their signature story.

God wants to use you at your point of greatest giftedness. That's a given. He is the one who gave you those gifts in the first place. But God also wants to use you at your point of greatest weakness. Why? Because that is where His power is made perfect as 2 Corinthians 12:9 says: "*But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

When we're feeling particularly weak and weary, we sometimes assume God can't use us until we're feeling strong again. But what if this moment of weakness is when God most wants to shine His light, show His power and surround you with His strength? The result might affect generations to come.

Heavenly Father, use me now, even at my point of greatest weakness. May Your power be made perfect in that weakness so others will not see me, but You instead. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Congratulations 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll - Cole H (8), Rachel H (8), Olivia L (8), Lexie S (8), Sohan P (7), Emma H (6), Eva L (5), Josiah P (5), Levi R (5), Ava L (4), Gunj P (4), Micah R (3), Lydia S (4), and Micah P (3)

"A/B" Honor Roll - Espen L (7), Hunter R (7), Makailyn R (4), and Liam S (4)

Re-Enrollment Opens this Monday, Feb. 1

See attached packet for more information. Open enrollment begins Monday, Mar. 1st.

Calendar Updates & Reminders

Feb. 12: 1:30pm Dismissal – Teacher Development
Feb. 15: No School (Possible Make-Up Day)
Feb. 22-26: National Lutheran Schools' Week Celebrations (moved from Jan.)
Feb. 25: Learning Fair (moved from Jan.)

Giving Trees

Help keep our community warm! The National Junior Honor Society is collecting items for local homeless shelters and community programs. The trees in our front entry way have boxes to collect scarves, blankets, hats, socks, gloves, and coats. Both adult and children's sizes are needed.

Staying Home for Illness

We appreciate that many of you seem to be erring on the side of caution when our kids are ill and keeping them (and sometimes siblings) home. With the prep-work required to shift to a digital format (especially in the younger grades), our teachers may not be able to post everything in Google Classroom. If your child 3rd-8th grade student is feeling well enough to do some work, some of their assignments will be posted online, often after the class period. Everything else will be available when they return to school. We will work with your child for extended deadlines to get caught up with the work they missed. If your child will be out more than 3 days, let your teacher or the office know and we will work with your family to make more comprehensive arrangements based on your situation.

Winter Weather

While we watch other schools and districts, we independently determine school delays and closures. Watch WSBT, WNDU, ABC57 and Fox28 television stations, as well as their affiliate radio stations: 99.9FM, 95.3FM, 101.5FM, and 960AM for "Resurrection Lutheran Academy". We will send out a FastDirect message and you may also check the calendar at www.rlasouthbend.com.

We make every effort to make a decision before 6:00am, however if the weather worsens after that time and we may be forced to make later decisions. We try to stay open as often as we can. We will be lenient issuing tardies on bad weather days, so please take your time and arrive safely. ***We also have the capability to send out text messages through Fast Direct. If you need help, please call the office.

Festive Food Fun Extended

This challenge is just for fun and completely optional. Find your inspiration from the Christmas season! You can use the Christmas story, holiday decorations, winter weather, or family traditions when you create a delicious treat. Use your creativity! The sky's the limit: sweet or savory, baked or assembled, realistic or abstract. Feel free to create new memories by asking members from your family to participate. Upload your creation to Google Classroom by **Monday, February 1st!** Please include your inspiration (a photo, drawing, or caption), your team (a photo, drawing, or caption), a photo of your finished creation, and a photo of someone enjoying it!