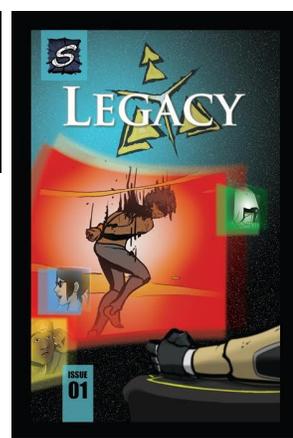


TAKING RESPONSIBILITY



ENGAGE

Spiderman's uncle told him, "with great power comes great responsibility."

- What do you think responsibility means and why is it important?
- What are some reasons people don't always take responsibility?
- Where have you seen taking or passing responsibility in America today?



EXPLORE

God has a lot to say about responsibility in the Bible, and He loves to show us His heart through people. Let's look at some people in the Bible.

READ Genesis 3:11-12

- Who screwed up?
- Who did he blame?

READ Psalm 51

- Who screwed up?
- Who did he blame?
- Beyond simply forgiving him, what did David ask God to do?

READ Isaiah 53:4-6; Philippians 2:5-11

- Who screwed up?
- Who took the blame?

ENCOUNTER

How do you think honesty, confession and responsibility affect our hearts, our ability to connect with God and to tell others about Him?

You can't convince others they need Jesus until you show them that you do to.

All of us were once shattered and full of darkness, but when we accept Jesus, He fills us with His light (Eph 5:8-9). Our lives should reflect that light so others can see God too (2 Cor 3:18). We've still got layers of darkness obscuring who we are, dirtying the mirror so people can't see God in us, and we can't see Him either (Matt 5:8).

EMPOWER

READ 1 John 1:9

- Anyone willing to peel back a layer of darkness and share something you haven't taken responsibility for?
- Everyone peel back a layer of darkness by writing down something you've been hiding (you're ashamed or afraid of what others might think): a hurt, a fear or sin. Decide today who you are going to trust with this.

This video (<http://vimeo.com/20791917#at=0>) helps nail down the idea of confession and reliance on God with the metaphor of breathing. The whole video is great, but if you don't have 15 minutes, the last 3 sum things up pretty well (start the video at 12:00).