



HEROES OF THE FAITH



Sunday school syllabus from “Children are Important”

Teacher Book

For all ages

Unit 3: lessons 1-13 (27-39)

Web: www.ChildrenAreImportant.com/heroes/

THANKS TO THE WHOLE “CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT” TEAM!

Editor: Kristina Krauss

Creative Team: Abril Palacios Camacho, Areli Zuriel Salinas Sanchez, Dwight Krauss, Flor Boldo, Jennifer Sánchez Nieto, Julio Sánchez Nieto, Mike Kangas, Suki Kangas, Verónica Toj, and Vickie Kangas.

Thanks to Rubén Dario for the wonderful music in this program.

Translation Team: alineviera, Anupama Wankhede, Anton Klymyk, Araz Mammadzadeh, Aroma Publications and Media, Arturo Jr Boron, Blessy Jacob, Carmela Dawn Flores, Chrisbresnahan, David Raju, Ephraim Njuguna Mirobi, Finny Jacob, Geenav, HamidReza Azimi (hamid.azimi1364 at gm#ail com), Heyaudrey, I-clever.com, iqbalman, Jacob Kuruvilla, kamilturk, Karunguru Mwangi, kiran, Maitrayi Mondal, Marco Chu, Marcos Rocha, Mathew Das, Mitesh Mandaliya, mrramlama, Mrs.Geethashree NavaneethaKrishnan, Nassim Bougtaia, nicbenk, Paul Mwangi, Paul Septan, Rana922, Rubina Rai, Safdar Khan, shahroshan15, Talento-Unido, ueritom, Verdia Juliansyah Cancerika, Yeoh Jung Chin, Zeina Mirella Barzaga Arencibia



YEAH!!



INTRODUCTION

¡WELCOME! to the unit 3 of the “Heroes of the Faith” Sunday school!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1

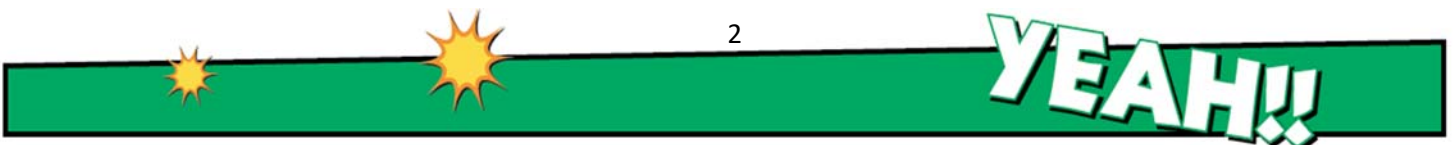
The witnesses referred to in this verse are those on the list of ‘heroes’ found in chapter 11 of Hebrews, the same heroes that we have studied this year! It's as if all these heroes could see us right now, and it's our turn in the race. Now we are alive here on earth, and we have something to give to God. The grandstands are full of witnesses watching us run. It is time for action! We only have a few years here on earth to make a difference, and it is time to put action to our faith!

Not everyone will have opportunities like Moses to speak directly to the president of a country, representing the people of God; nor will we be able to save the people of God through parties with rich food and beautiful clothes like Esther. But each of these stories has something important that applies to our lives today. It is important that we learn to take the initiative like King Hezekiah and Nehemiah, that like Job we submit to God’s wisdom that is beyond ours, that we consider eternity more important than the present like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did, and that we not run away from God as Jonah did. Why don't we learn from this multitude of witnesses? Let's take action on our faith, and ‘run with perseverance the race marked out for us!’

May God bless your life by leading the children around you to see the lives of the "Heroes of the Faith."

With Love,

The Children are Important team





HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

☀️ NEED STORY/ RESOLUTION

A great teacher is not one who imparts knowledge to his students, but one who awakens their interest in it and makes them eager to pursue it for themselves.” –M. J. Berrill

For your students not only to pay attention in the classroom but to apply to their lives what they have been taught, they need motivation. Many try to motivate children with sweets and rewards or punish them if they do not pay attention. While these two methods give you good behaviour in the classroom, they do nothing to motivate them to LIVE the principles they learn once they return home. As teachers of children in Christian churches, we are NOT entertaining them so that they do not disturb the adult meetings. Instead, we are trying to raise a new generation of believers who follow God, know Him and serve Him. Although it is a difficult task for any of us, the wonderful thing is that God himself cares for every child more than we do, and He gives us His strength to continue and His wisdom to motivate and minister to each child's life.

SCHEDULE

Open:

- Welcome
- Need story
- Song

Main Lesson
Activity (optional)
Resolution of Need story

Student books

- Timeline
- Activity page

Questions and Answers (older students)
Game (optional)
Attendance
Assignment

To help you motivate your students, we have provided a “Need story” at the start of each lesson to help the students FEEL their need for God and APPLY what they are learning to their real lives at home. Each story features one of 5 fictional characters we have created. Please feel free to change their names. One idea is to ask volunteers to act out the stories each week. If that is not practical, then you can simply read the story out loud to the children. You can ask the children for ideas to solve the problem. Do not tell them if their ideas are bad, good, wrong, or correct, and don’t provide any solution yet. Use the unresolved tension to motivate the children pay attention to the lesson.

The Resolution segment comes after the lesson. If the children have been sitting for a long time, do an activity before the Resolution segment, too. When ready, remind the children of the Need story then have your actors come out for the resolution or simply narrate it. This will resolve the tension of the partial Need story and help the children solve problems they face at school and at home. In this way, you will be motivating the children to apply the lessons to their daily lives!





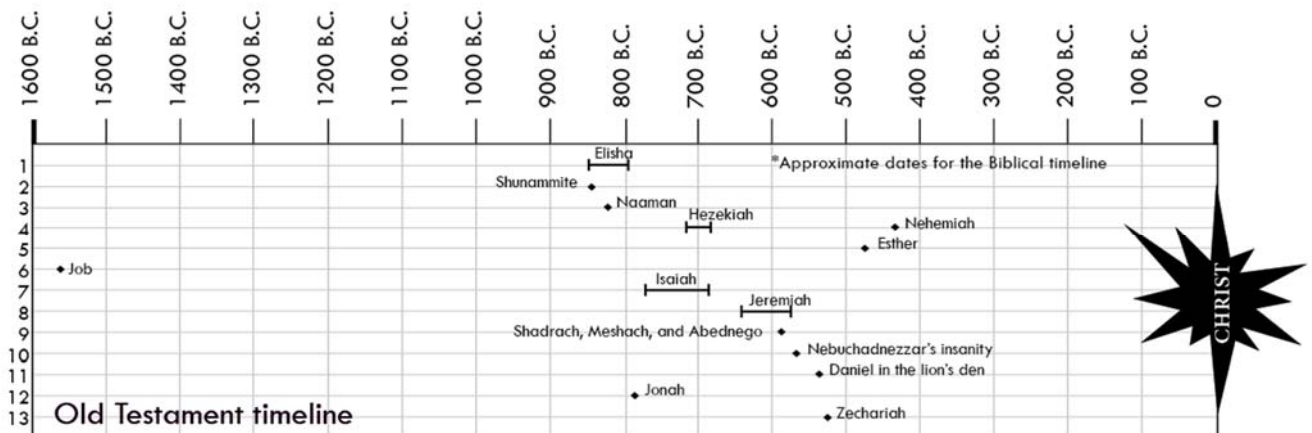
MAIN LESSON

This syllabus is an overview study of the Old Testament. In many lessons, we will be looking at the whole life of a person, or Hero, in the Bible. As the teacher, you can use this as a study yourself and read the Scripture passages listed ahead of time and get fresh insights, too. A summary of each hero's life is included in the main lesson. Feel free to ask the children if they remember more details of the Hero's life to keep them engaged.

Please keep the story portion short, so you have time to say the main point: the application. At the end of each lesson is a decision for the children to make. This decision is the main point of the whole lesson, like the goal in a soccer (football) game. If you play the game well, passing to other team mates and keeping the other team from stealing the ball, but you never kick it into the goal, you will never win. Make sure that you get to the main application to help the children put it into practice in their lives. In James 1:22-24 we read, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." In 1 Corinthians 10, we read that the stories in the Old Testament are examples showing us what to do and what not to do. Looking at the Heroes of old is like looking at ourselves in the mirror giving us an opportunity to learn from their lives. Let's teach children to follow their examples and learn from their mistakes and live for God.

TIMELINE

Each week the children draw a line on the timeline in their books to represent the life of the hero or the events in the Bible story. For example, in lesson 1, they trace the life of Elisha onto the line marked with a 1 for lesson 1. Using the numbers provided in the lesson, the idea is that the children calculate when the line should start and how long it should be. Each square represents 100 years. For example, the life of Elisha starts right between 800 and 900 B.C. and ends at about 800 B.C. It will be fun to see the life of each hero and surprising details, like the fact that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace during the lifetime of Jeremiah.





ASSIGNMENT

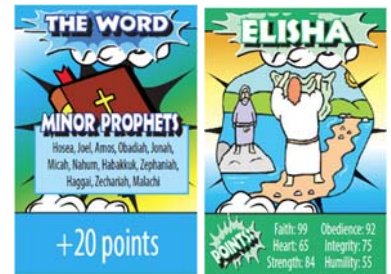
Another tool to help you teach the children to put the lessons into practice is the homework assignment each week. Each lesson has an activity that the children can do midweek.

In John 14:23, Jesus said, *“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”*

With these assignments, the children can bring God into their lives midweek, not just at church. For older students there is also a reading assignment in the Bible. Take a few minutes in class to discuss the homework assignment and give them a chance to practice in class. Reward those who completed last week’s assignment with a small candy or prize.

ATTENDANCE/ HEROES GAME

This material comes with a set of cards to reward children for attendance each week. These can be attendance cards or stickers. However, they can also be a game! At the end of the unit (13 lessons, or 3 months), the children can play a game with these cards. Read the game instructions for more information.



ALTERNATIVE GAME:

Have the children write numbers 1-10 on a piece of paper. The teacher then asks any 10 of the provided questions from the game instructions. Do not say the attribute in parentheses. For each question, the students write which quality or characteristic is needed in that situation: Strength, Integrity, Obedience, Humility, Heart or Faith. Whoever guessed the most correct wins a small candy or prize.



1. TAKE THE INITIATIVE



Bible Story: Elisha
1 Kings 19:19-21, 2 Kings 2:1-18

 **MEMORY VERSE 1**

“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:10

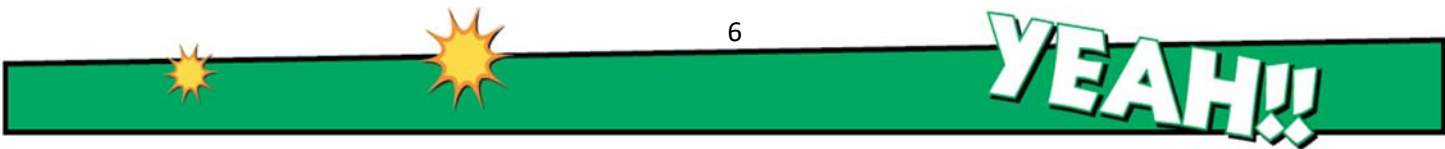
 **NEED STORY 1**

The Sunday school room did not look very good. It lacked paint and some walls were a little scratched. One day Kip started looking at the room and felt sad, but he said to himself, “I need to do something. I'm going to buy paint to paint this room.” Kip had been saving money for many months to buy a video game, since he likes them a lot. When he counted the money he had saved, he saw that it was the same amount he needed for the paint and the brush. Could he give up the money he saved for the videogame and spend it on the church?



 **MAIN LESSON 1**

Welcome back to Heroes of the Faith! It has been amazing to see the way God showed up in people’s lives throughout history. Let’s look at some more examples of faith that we can learn from in our lives. Remember the stories from the last two weeks with Elijah and the widow then with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel? Today we’ll learn from his successor Elisha. When Elijah recruited Elisha as a personal servant, Elisha sacrificed his oxen and burned up his plows. His response to his call for service was to burn up his old job and life. That’s the kind of intensity that God looks for. Jesus told us to count the cost when we decide to follow Him. Are we willing to put Him first in our lives before anything else? (Luke 14:25-35) After a while, it was time for Elijah to leave earth and go to heaven. He kept pushing Elisha away, telling him to stay somewhere while Elijah went on. Elisha wouldn’t allow it. He took the initiative, did more than was asked of him, and kept traveling with his master. When they came up to the Jordan river, Elijah struck it with his cloak, and the water parted for them to walk through! That has only happened a few times in the Bible. As they were walking along, Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted. Elisha demonstrated initiative again, asking for something bold: a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. Elijah answered that if he kept being tenacious and was there when he “died,” he would get it. Elijah died in a very spectacular way. Instead of dying like normal, a chariot of fire swooped down and scooped him up and took him up to heaven! Elisha pick up Elijah’s cloak and went back. At the Jordan river, he took the initiative and struck the water just like Elijah had done, and the water parted for him, too! He had faith that God would answer him and that he would be given what he asked for.





We see people with initiative in the New Testament, too. Peter told Jesus to call him out to walk on the water, and he did! A Canaanite woman persisted in asking Jesus to heal her daughter. When Jesus told her that He was only sent to the Israelites, she begged Him again, saying that it was a very small and easy thing to do, and her daughter was healed. A centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant. Recognizing Jesus as the King and ultimate authority in the universe, he asked Jesus not to come into his house but to simply say the word, and his servant was healed. This is the kind of faith that God rewards. Jesus told us that if we have faith like a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for us. (Matthew 17:20)

I will take the initiative and put my faith into action.

 **RESOLUTION 1**

He went and bought the paint and brush. One day when there were no classes, he went and painted the room. When the teacher noticed, he congratulated Kip for the initiative he had shown. After this they formed a team for the maintenance of the room and named Kip as leader.



 **ACTIVITY 1**

Taking the initiative

Make a list of things the students can help with, like helping a classmate with their paper or cleaning up materials after a class activity. When you see 2 or 3 children doing it, congratulate them. Invite everyone to give them a round of applause. Mention that their help shows their initiative to do things. Ask them to think about things they see in their home or school and write one thing they can help with and ask them next week what it was.

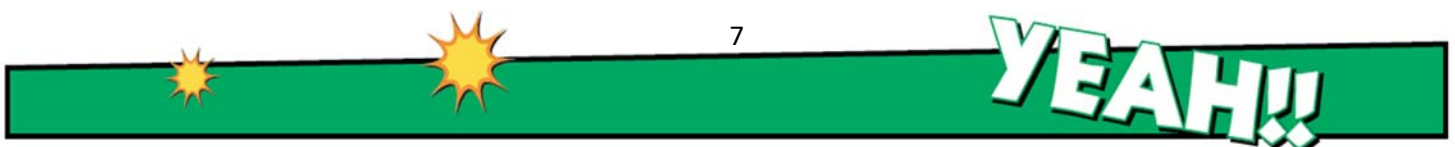


 **TIMELINE 1**

With the information from the questions, the add Elisha to the timeline.

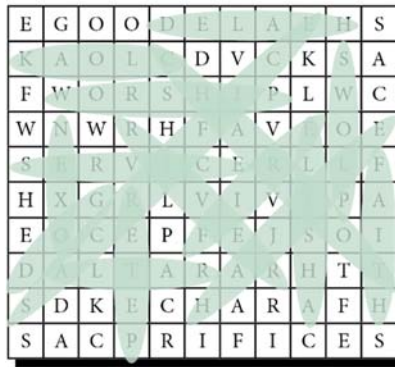
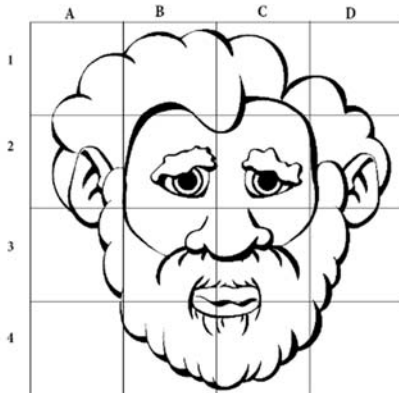
In what year did Elisha take the place of Elijah? Answer: Approximately in the year 850 B.C.

In what year did Elisha die? Answer: Approximately in the year 798 B.C.





PUZZLE ANSWERS 1



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 1

(For older students)

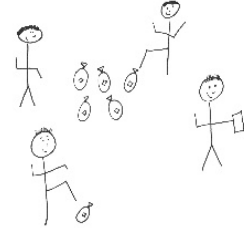
1. Is it necessary to wait for God to call you BEFORE starting a good work? If not, why?
Let the students discuss the matter. Can you be a missionary without receiving a specific call? Can we give a glass of water to a poor man without God asking us to? How far can we take initiative in the things of God? Can you sell your car and give everything to a ministry? Can you sell the house and travel to another country to minister without a specific call?
2. How far does obeying the Word of God in the Bible go? And when is it important to receive a call from God apart from what is already written in Scripture?
On one hand, we should always put into practice what we learn from the Bible that God asks us to do. There is a saying that it is easier to change the direction of a car when it is moving than when it is parked. It is better to start and do SOMETHING for God, and from there God can guide us. On the other hand, as we grow into mature Christians, it is better to obey God with whatever He asks us specifically to do or not to do. Something may sound like a good idea, but God may want someone else to do it and may have something else in mind for you to do. As you grow, practice discerning whether to take a step forward on your own or to wait for God's instructions.
3. What kind of initiative does God like?
In the world, large companies want bosses with initiative. It means that they take responsibility for their position and do not wait for someone to tell them everything to do. They invent what to do to improve their product. Employees who only do what they are asked and never do extra things or take initiative will remain at a very low level and will not go up to management. Can this same situation be with God? Is it possible for God to look for 'employees' like the Pepsi company, for different levels depending on the initiative and responsibility of each person?



GAME 1

Balloon pop

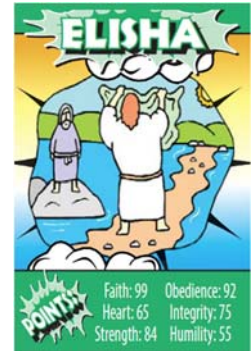
To prepare, insert small pieces of paper into balloons and inflate the balloons. Use 3 colors of papers so that white is worth 2 points, green is worth 4 points, and blue is worth 6 points. You may change those colors as needed. To play, divide the class into teams. On your signal, the children run around popping balloons and accumulating the small papers. The team with the most points wins. Consider rewarding the winning team with a small prize.



ATTENDANCE 1

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Elisha



HOMEWORK 1

Choose an adult this week that you can learn from and offer to help them with something without being asked. It could be a pastor, a teacher, a parent, or someone you look up to who can teach you to follow God. Don't announce to your peers that you will do this, but simply do it.

Read

- Day 1: 2 Kings 4:8-13
- Day 2: 2 Kings 4:14-19
- Day 3: 2 Kings 4:20-26
- Day 4: 2 Kings 4:27-31
- Day 5: 2 Kings 4:32-37





2. RECEIVE THE BLESSING



Bible story: Shunammite woman
2 Kings 4:8-37, 8:1-6

☀️ MEMORY VERSE 2

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,” Ephesians 3:20

☀️ NEED STORY 2

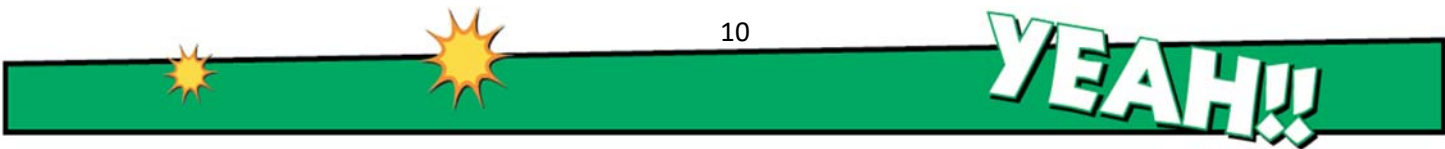
Peppy had been praying for laboratory equipment. One day she saw that her neighbor, an older gentleman, was cleaning the yard outside his house. There was a lot of weeds in the yard, and Peppy thought it would be too much for her neighbor to clean it alone; so she asked if she could help and the man said yes. They spent most of the day cleaning the yard and when they finished, the man asked Peppy what he liked most. Peppy told him that she liked doing scientific experiments.



☀️ MAIN LESSON 2

Welcome back to Heroes of the Faith! Today we are going to look at someone who offered hospitality to Elisha, the man of God. A Shunammite woman together with her husband invited Elisha to their house every time he passed through the area and even built a room just for him. It cost them some time, money and effort to bless Elisha like that. Jesus made it clear that He loves His people and that whatever we do for His people, He considers it as though we did it for Him (Matthew 10:40-42). But we can never out-bless God! Whatever good things you do for others, God will do even greater things for you, some here on earth and some in heaven. They built a room for Elisha, which was beyond what most people would do, but it was much smaller than the many ways God blessed the Shunammite woman! Elisha was so grateful that he prophesied that she would have a son. She was hesitant to believe that it would happen and to receive the blessing. When God blesses us, sometimes it feels so great that it’s hard to receive! But when God chooses to bless you, simply believe God and accept it. Allow God to show you how much He really loves you; and He loves you so very, very much!

Years later, the child died one day. She could have grieved then and there. She could have gotten mad at God for all the pain in that moment. She could have cried to her husband. Instead, she went straight to Elisha, asking for God’s help. Elisha went with her and prayed to God, and the child came back to life! Will you trust God to take care of the blessings He has given you? When bad things happen, will you ask God for help? He loves you so much! He wants to take care of you and bless you in both good times and bad. Like the Shunammite woman, go first to God and ask for help.





Elisha warned the Shunammite woman to leave the country for 7 years because of a famine. When they came back and went to the king to ask for their land back, something amazing happened. Just as they were coming in, Elisha's servant was telling the king stories about Elisha, including when he raised the Shunammite's boy back to life. God even used the bad thing that happened to continue to bless her throughout her life. If the boy had not died and come back to life, there would be no remarkable story to tell. The king asked her about it then made sure her family not only got her land back but also the money from 7 years of harvests from the land! You can trust God's love for you and accept His blessings for you.

I choose to do good for others and accept God's love and blessings for me.

RESOLUTION 2

The next day, Peppy's neighbor came to her house with a box and said, "This is for you. Open it." When Peppy opened the box she saw that it was new laboratory equipment. Then she said, "No, I can not receive this!" The neighbor said, "The Lord told me to get this for you as a reward for what you did for me." Peppy replied, "But this is way too much!" The man said, "It's yours, I give it to you."



ACTIVITY 2

Hospitable hands

Draw both of your hands on a piece of paper. Make sure they overlap. Cut out the outline of the hands and fold it like a little booklet. On the outside of the booklet, the child writes their name. On the inside, write ideas for how to be hospitable like the Shunammite woman was with Elisha.

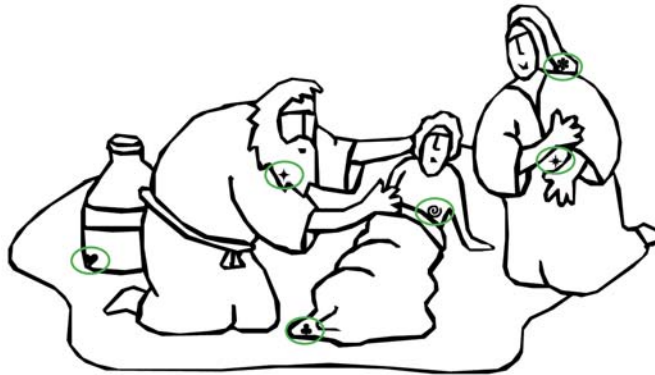
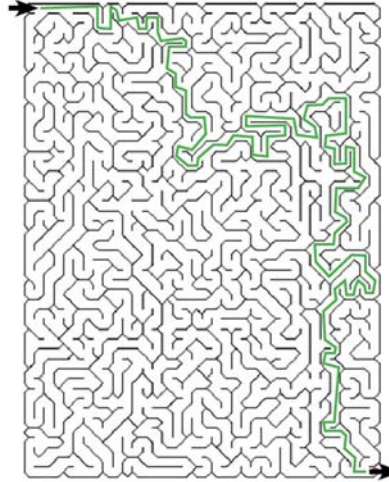


TIMELINE 2

In what year was the meeting between the Shunammite woman and Elisha? Answer: Approximately in the year 847 B.C.



☀️ PUZZLE ANSWERS 2



☀️ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 2

(For older students)

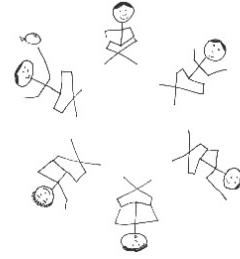
1. What things or situations could be blessings in disguise?
We may not be ready to receive a blessing from God, often because we don't recognize that something is a blessing. For example, if our parents decide that we move to another city, life becomes difficult for a while in the new place. But what if you meet your future spouse in the new city?
2. Which does God value more, our spiritual or physical lives? Which kind of blessing does God give more, spiritual or physical?
For the Shunammite woman, God gave an example of physical blessings. But our spiritual lives are more important than our physical lives. The better blessings will be for you as a person, not necessarily to fill your stomach. For example, too much pride will ruin us for work in the future.
3. Is it a blessing if God humbles us? YES!!!



☀️ GAME 2

Balloon volleyball

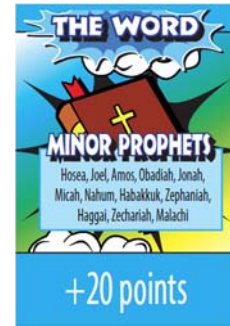
All the children sit in a circle with their legs crossed. Tell children that they are now glued to the ground and can only move their torso and arms. Throw an inflated balloon into the center of the circle. The children must pass the balloon from one child to another by hitting it like an overhead volleyball hit. If a participant drops the balloon, they lose mobility in one arm, then the other, then their torso, then their head until they are completely frozen and out of the game.



☀️ ATTENDANCE 2

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Minor Prophets



☀️ HOMEWORK 2

Look for a way to do something nice for someone this week, like helping your mom to serve guests in your home or giving away one of your toys. Also, watch this week if God does something nice for you. If someone does something nice for you this week, thank them appropriately then privately thank God as well, because He is the source of all good things in our lives.

Read

- Day 1: 2 Kings 5:1-6
- Day 2: 2 Kings 5:7-10
- Day 3: 2 Kings 5:11-14
- Day 4: 2 Kings 5:15-20
- Day 5: 2 Kings 5:21-27



3. OBEY WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING



Bible story: Naaman

2 Kings 5

MEMORY VERSE 3

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;” Proverbs 3:5

NEED STORY 3

Buzz had been invited to a puppet show, it would be very fun! All his friends were going to be there. On the day of the presentation, they announced on television that they are going to play several movies including *Bambi*, which is Buzz’s favorite. Then he thought, “I cannot miss the movies, even though the puppets would be fun.” When it was time to go to the presentation, the Buzz’s friends arrived for him.



MAIN LESSON 3

Welcome back to Heroes! We are going to look at a great man today who learned to humble himself and allow God to decide how things should be done. Naaman was the general of Aram and was highly regarded by everyone. He was famous and great. It’s easy when you are famous and great to expect God to treat you as a famous person, but God does not show favoritism. Naaman took the right steps toward God, laying down all his expectations to follow Him. Naaman had leprosy, an awful skin disease. His wife’s servant girl said they should go to Israel where there was a prophet of God. Naaman could have ignored the young girl, but instead he decided to listen and take her advice. God speaks through all kinds of people, and if we are unwilling to listen to those that the world says are smaller and weaker (though in God’s eyes, we are all the same) then we can miss out on what God has for us. Naaman followed her advice and went to Israel in search of God’s help. Again, at the prophet’s house, Naaman expected to be treated as someone great. Instead, the prophet Elisha sent a messenger to tell him to bathe 7 times in the Jordan river. Naaman was furious, but he again decided to listen to his own servants when they urged him to obey the prophet’s instructions. Don’t let your pride get in the way of pursuing God, even when it doesn’t make any sense to you. In Proverbs we read to trust God instead of trusting our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). The Jordan river was very dirty. Imagine Naaman standing out there in the water. Along the bank were his camels with gold and wealth and all his servants watching him. He was probably tempted to stop after 5 or 6 times, thinking it was silly to do this. But instead, he continued to obey the prophet’s instructions and dip in the river all 7 times. Then he was healed! He was so excited that all the things that seemed silly didn’t bother him anymore. When you see God does through your obedience, all the things that didn’t make sense won’t bother you anymore either. Naaman went back to thank Elisha and give him all the gifts he had prepared. But Elisha chose to act in humility as well and declined all the gifts. Elisha’s servant Gehazi did not choose humility but went after the treasure. Instead of living happily with extra treasure, Gehazi lived with leprosy for the rest of his life because of it. Jesus said to humble yourself and let God lift you up instead of lifting yourself up (Luke 14:11). Naaman was



for a short time famous for all his accomplishments in the Aramean army, but for thousands of years he has been famous all over the world for his obedience to God.

I choose to listen and obey even when it doesn't make sense.

RESOLUTION 3

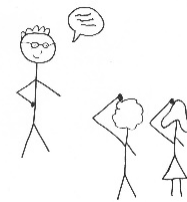
Buzz told them that he would not go because the movies were more interesting. After his friends were insisting, he agreed to go. In that event, Buzz and his friends accepted Jesus in their hearts and their lives were transformed! Now he was happy with what had happened.



ACTIVITY 3

Do what I say, not what I do

All the students stand in a group with the teacher standing in front. The teacher begins to give verbal instructions to touch a part of their body, like nose, knee, hair, etc. while touching a different part of his body. For example, the teacher says to touch their heads while he touches his knee. Children who mess up are out of the game and have to sit down.

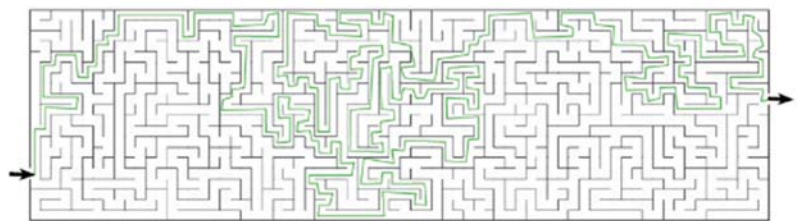


TIMELINE 3

In what year was Naaman healed of leprosy? Answer: Approximately in the year 830 B.C.

PUZZLE ANSWERS 3

L	R	I	G	G	N	U	O	Y	D	S
Y	E	S	J	E	S	U	Y	N	I	U
O	E	P	O	F	H	E	A	A	S	O
U	L	R	R	U	B	A	G	H	E	I
N	B	I	D	O	M	I	Z	S	A	R
E	M	D	A	A	S	A	D	I	S	U
V	U	E	N	J	A	Y	E	L	E	F
E	H	T	A	B	E	L	I	E	F	I
S	I	C	K	Y	B	V	L	B	E	L





QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 3

(For older students)

1. Will God really reward us for our works here on earth?
Sometimes for lack of faith, we get lazy in the promises of God. We see that the world is unjust and assume heaven will be the same and we lose motivation for our work here on earth. Talk about different rewards and what the students would do to gain those rewards.
2. What would you do to receive a new phone?
For fun, discuss what things you would be willing to do. Let them think that maybe God will give us even technological prizes. God said that heaven and rewards will be better than we can imagine ... so God can surprise us with technological rewards! For example, in Guatemala they made a contest to win the most recent iPad. The participants had to do something extreme to deserve the prize. A girl ate a live earthworm and earned it!! Yuuuck. What will you do for God?
3. If God asked you to do something you don't want to do, would you do it? Would it be rewarded?
Remember how Naaman got angry when the prophet sent him to dip into the Jordan river. He did not know at the time that his leprosy would go away. Mention things that you would not want to do, then mention things that you want, like a new phone or peace for your family. Would you do the things you don't want to do if you could gain the things you want?

GAME 3

Treasure hunt

Divide the class into teams and have one child per team come play while the rest cheer for their team's player. For each team, prepare a bowl or bucket full of mud (or oatmeal or some other gross slime). Be careful that the mud has no sharp things to injure the players. In each bucket of mud, hide the same number of paperclips or other small object as the "treasure" and rocks to make it fair for each team. When you say "Go!" each player searches through the mud with their hand to find all the paperclips they can find in 30 seconds. Give younger players more time. Explain to the children that the mud represents difficult





situations, the shiny paperclips represent the treasure of a close relationship with God, and the rocks represent hardening of one's heart. It is the responsibility of each one to look for the treasure and not allow oneself to grow bitter.

ATTENDANCE 3

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Leprosy



HOMEWORK 3

Listen to your younger siblings, your friends' younger siblings, or someone you normally don't pay attention to. Try to understand their point of view. If they are pointing out something you are doing wrong or something that makes them uncomfortable, listen to them and change your actions.

Read

Day 1: 2 Kings 18:1-9

Day 2: 2 Kings 20:1-6

Day 3: 2 Kings 20:7-11

Day 4: Nehemiah 1:1-6, 11

Day 5: Nehemiah 2:1-5



4. DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT



Bible story: Hezekiah and Nehemiah

2 Kings 18:1-8, 20:1-11, 2 Chronicles 29:1-19, 29:35-36, Nehemiah 1:1-2:5

☀️ **MEMORY VERSE 4**

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15:15

☀️ **NEED STORY 4**

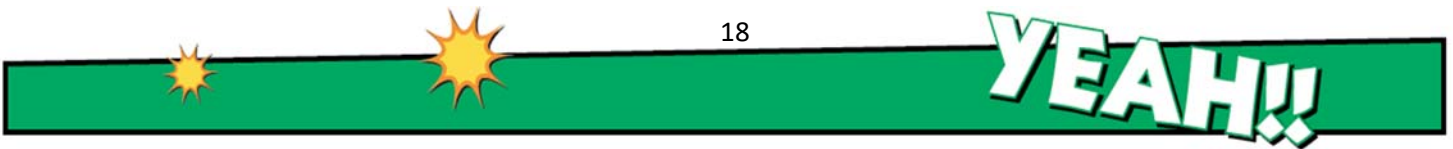
The street in front of Comet’s house was in very bad condition after the rains with many holes. It is so bad that he cannot ride his bicycle without falling into the holes. He decided to work on the road and fill all the holes with rocks and dirt. It was such hard work that his hair and clothes got all dirty. The neighbor kids started teasing and making fun of him for his disheveled looks.



☀️ **MAIN LESSON 4**

Today we are going to look at two Heroes of the Faith. So far, we have mostly learned how to obey God and follow His leading and pursue Him. Those are all wonderful things that we need to continually work on throughout our lives. But God does not want us to wait for Him to tell us to do things all the time (Psalms 32:9). Neither of the two heroes we are looking at today heard God’s voice or were told to do what they did. Both saw a need and decided to do something about it. Hezekiah became king at 25 years old, and he saw how Israel had rejected God and allowed the temple to be in disrepair. These bothered him, so he made a decision and led the people to work on cleaning and fixing the temple. He also went throughout the country and destroyed all the idols, telling people to worship the one true God. Similarly, many years later after Israel had been in exile for a long time, Nehemiah heard that the wall of Jerusalem was in ruins and the people were in disgrace. He was not originally a leader, but something bothered him, and he decided to do something about it. After praying and fasting and seeking God, he asked the king of Persia for permission and provisions to go to Jerusalem to fix the wall. He gathered all the Israelites living in Jerusalem and organized the rebuilding project, despite opposition from the neighboring people.

Jesus said that He wants us to love each other and that, like friends knowing His business, He entrusts us to pursue good for His people (John 15:12-17). Someday, if not already, you may begin to have a dream. There may be some injustice in the world, something missing in the church, people who are hurting on the streets, children who need homes and families, people who have not heard about our wonderful and loving God, or people who need help. What bothers you? What makes you cry or keeps you up late at night thinking about it? Perhaps it not only bothers you, but it bothers God and He is inviting you to join in His business. Don’t simply wait for instructions, although you should obey God if He tells you to





wait. Otherwise, start praying about it. Ask Him for the training you need and for help and guidance in the project. Look for people doing something about it and find ways to join them. If there is no one doing anything about it, then lead the way! Don't wait until you feel ready because you may never feel completely ready. And don't think that God can't use you right now even as a child (1 Timothy 4:12). Don't worry about what you cannot do; look for what you CAN do and start right away!

I choose to ask God for help then do something about the things in the world that bother me.

RESOLUTION 4

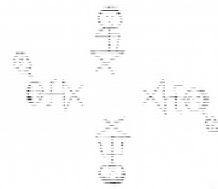
Comet kept working on the road until it was completed, ignoring the teasing from the neighbors. Now not only can he but the whole neighborhood can use the road nicely without problems from all the holes.



ACTIVITY 4

Injustices

Have everyone sit in a circle and think about unfair things that happen at school, like a child who always bothers others, or when people take your things without permission. Let each child say something even if it is repeated. Now discuss what to do about it, like telling a teacher or a parent, praying to God for help, or showing mercy to others like God has shown you mercy for your sins.

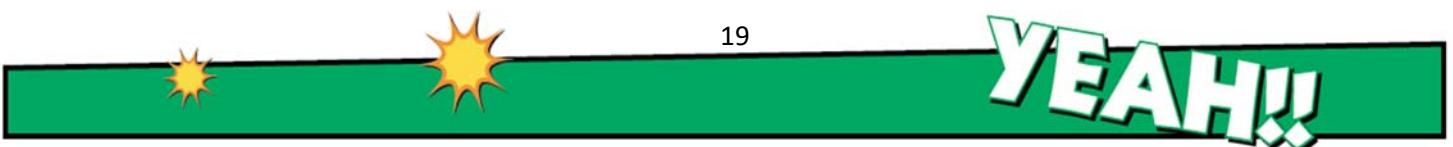


TIMELINE 4

In what year did Hezekiah begin to reign? Answer: Approximately in the year 715 B.C.

In what year did Hezekiah die? Answer: In the year 686 B.C. approximately



In what year did Nehemiah rebuild the wall of Jerusalem? Answer: In the year 444 B.C. approximately















PUZZLE ANSWERS 4

TRUE OR FALSE

Circle this figure  if the answer is true and this figure  if the answer is false.

-   1. Hezekiah became king at age 20.
-   2. Nehemiah rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem alone.
-   3. You can have initiative on something even if nobody asks you to.
-   4. Hezekiah reigned the people of Israel.
-   5. When Nehemiah felt restlessness upon learning of the destruction of the wall, he lived in Persia.

N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P	P	O	S
I	P	S	E	O	R	E	H	E	P	E
E	D	E	H	L	L	A	W	R	P	T
L	L	L	R	T	I	R	O	E	O	I
P	I	P	E	M	I	V	I	G	S	L
M	U	E	E	A	I	A	Z	N	K	E
E	B	H	P	S	D	S	F	A	I	A
T	E	E	I	N	T	E	S	D	N	R
N	R	O	K	I	S	R	R	I	G	S
S	N	I	U	R	A	E	L	P	O	I
S	O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	E	P	N



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 4

(For older students)

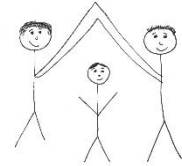
- Do you see something in your community or school that is wrong? What can you do?
(The intention here is to talk about the injustices around them, and things that they themselves can do to restore the situation.) A boy who suffers teasing at school, another girl who never has food, or a dad who hits his child every day. Talk about what they can do about it.
- Did Hezekiah and Nehemiah take the initiative, or did they simply obey God?
Try to have an argument, and don't just say yes or no. In the 2 cases of the lesson, you can see that they saw a problem with their eyes and decided to do something to correct it. None received a command from God, apart from what is already written in the Bible. They took initiative and achieved something great for God.
- But should I get involved with other peoples' business and problems?
Talk about what it is to be a responsible person, that we can't see our needs only. You can also use the story of the Samaritan who stopped to help instead of just passing by.



☀️ GAME 4

House residents

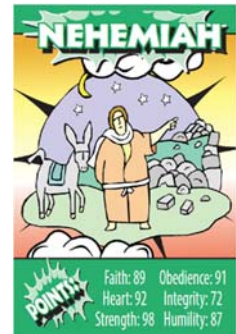
Divide children into groups of 3. Two children in each group form a house with their bodies forming two walls and their arms up and together forming the roof. The third child gets inside the “house” and becomes the resident. When the teacher shouts, “Resident!” the residents leave their houses and run to find other houses. When the teacher shouts, “House!” all the children forming houses run to form houses around different residents.



☀️ ATTENDANCE 4

Give today’s card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today’s card is:

Nehemiah



☀️ HOMEWORK 4

Look around at the world this week and find something that bothers you. Pray for God to help the people involved, praying for justice, peace, and love. Then look around for some way you can help, like talking about something God did for you recently, donating your money to an organization, giving away one of your possessions, or defending someone on the playground.

Read

Day 1: Esther 2:17-23

Day 2: Esther 3:1-9

Day 3: Esther 4:1-3, 12-17

Day 4: Esther 5:1-8

Day 5: Esther 5:9-14





5. FACE THE RISKS



Bible story: Esther

Esther 2-8

MEMORY VERSE 5

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

NEED STORY 5

Taffy is now a group leader, making her the most popular girl in class and always surrounded by many friends. She likes to mingle with everyone and help them. One day her "friends" told her that she should not hang out with some children, because that made her look bad. They told her that she was very important and should not join those whom nobody cares about. These words made Veronica's heart ache. She told them that she would continue to include everyone, because she wanted to help them. They replied that she had to choose between them or the other children, because she could not be friends with both.



MAIN LESSON 5

Today we are going to look at a remarkably brave woman who faced the risks to save her people. The Jews (Israelites) were in exile because they had forsaken God. But even in exile, God showed up for them. God is always with you wherever you go. King Xerxes of Persia deposed the queen for disobeying him in front of all his nobles. He later searched for a new queen, and a young Jewish woman named Esther pleased him and became queen. Meanwhile, a man named Haman rose to power and became the king's right-hand man. Haman grew to hate Mordecai, Esther's cousin who raised her. He even hated all the Jews throughout the empire. With the king's permission, he wrote a decree telling everyone to kill the Jews on a certain day later in the year. The Jews were all in great danger! They cried to God for help. Mordecai asked Esther to go before the king and plead for life on behalf of her people. Young Esther was terrified, because anyone who went into the king's presence without being summoned was put to death.

Last week we talked about what bothers you and how you can take action for the good of God's people. But what if it is risky and there is a chance that it goes wrong or that you could get hurt somehow? Esther risked death to save her people. She asked all the Jews to pray and fast along with her and her companions. As she approached the king's hall, she probably looked at the blades on the guards' swords. How scary! But she was willing to do it for her people. When you are scared, you can pray to God for help. You can also choose to focus on the potential good results instead of thinking about the possible bad results, deciding that the possible good is worth all the risk. The king was pleased with her





and came to her banquet. She told the king about Haman’s plot, and the king had Haman killed. But there was still a problem! The date was still set for killing all the Jews throughout the empire. What happens if, when you take the risk, it does not work out the way you thought it would? Do you stop and give up? If Esther gave up, the Jews would still die. She bravely went back to the king again, and they issued a second decree that saved all the Jews.

Risk is scary because you do not know what will happen. It probably won’t happen exactly the way you want it to. But no matter how scary something is, know these things: God is with you no matter what (Deuteronomy 31:6, Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus has already won (John 16:33). God will turn even bad things into good somehow (Romans 8:28). And God will surely reward you (1 Corinthians 15:58, Genesis 15:1).

I choose to face the risks and pursue God and the good of His people.

 **RESOLUTION 5**

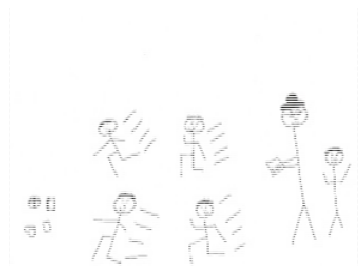
Taffy decided that caring for others was more important than being popular. She replied to those friends that she did not mind losing popularity and would continue to help those in need.



 **ACTIVITY 5**

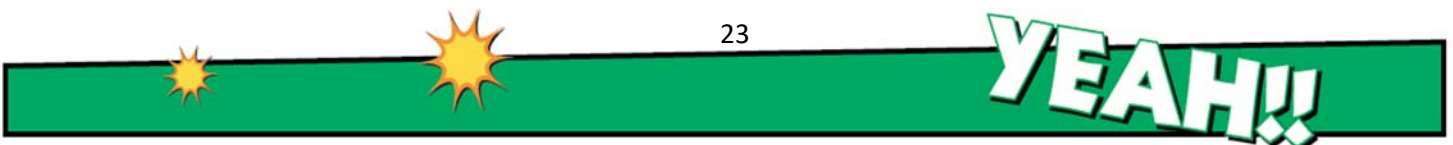
Colored elephant

One player has the role of hunter on one side of the room. On the other side of the room, place objects of various colors. The hunter calls out a color while all other students run to touch an object that has that color. Any player who does not touch an object with that color within 5 seconds is “captured” and must go sit by the hunter. The hunter’s goal is to capture all the students. The teacher can be the hunter in the first round, then allow other students to take turns being the hunter.



 **TIMELINE 5**

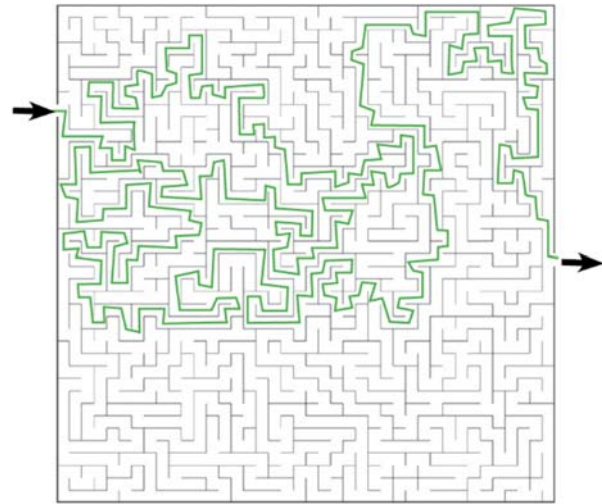
In what year was Esther proclaimed queen? Answer: In the year 478 B.C. approximately.





PUZZLE ANSWERS 5

G	M	A	R	Y	D	A	N	G	E	R
D	O	G	E	U	S	R	E	P	M	H
T	R	K	E	S	T	H	E	R	V	A
H	D	A	N	G	B	Q	U	E	T	R
T	E	U	Q	N	A	B	Q	N	Y	E
H	C	W	B	N	R	L	P	V	G	W
E	A	S	C	A	R	Y	L	S	C	A
R	I	G	V	M	L	L	O	O	G	R
Q	U	E	E	A	N	V	T	N	W	D
W	R	Z	V	H	T	P	I	L	A	S
Y	P	L	O	D	S	K	S	I	R	D



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 5

(For older students)

- How big of a risk should we take for the kingdom of God? Should we risk a scholarship in school? Should we risk losing a job, or even losing our lives? What about this example? Suppose a brother starts a church in a town and it quickly grows to 400 people. The pastor decides to take a risk with the bank for a building to begin another church in the neighboring town. If it works, he has 2 good churches. If it doesn't work, he risks losing the 1 building he already has. Is it good to risk for God's kingdom like that or not?
Do not allow students to give a prompt response. The important thing is that they discuss that there are tremendous risks in life, and sometimes they are super difficult.
- Must we all take risks in our lives?
YES! It is important that students understand that God made the world and the Christian life with RISK as an important part. The reason is that for God, FAITH is super important. God cares



more about our faith in believing in what God is asking us to do, than the value of a building. We must ALL take risks for God.

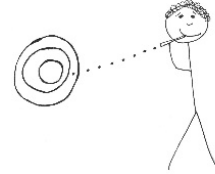
3. What risks have you taken?

Give them time to think and testify of their personal lives. It doesn't matter if it's something small. We all have to start with something small.

GAME 5

Spit ball contest

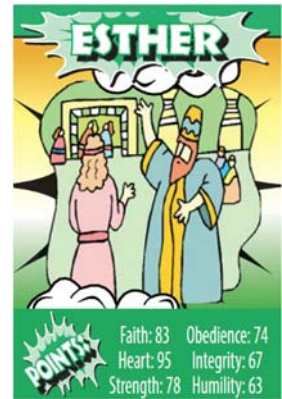
On a large paper, draw a target with 3 circles. The center circle is worth 100 points, the middle 50, and the outer circle 10 points. Children will then wad small pieces of paper into small balls and try to hit the center of the target by shooting the paper with their mouths. Alternatively, have them shoot the paper balls through a drinking straw.



ATTENDANCE 5

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Esther

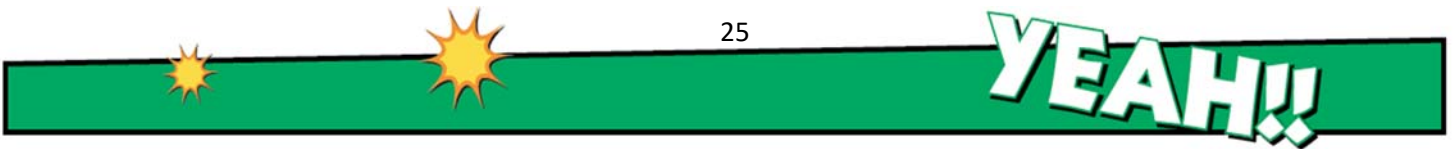


HOMework 5

Ask God for an opportunity to do something cool for Him this week, like telling someone about Jesus, praying out loud in a group, or talking to someone new. When the moment comes, if you are afraid to do it, think about how it could bless someone else and try to do it anyway. If you don't succeed the first time, it's ok. Ask God for help and try again and again until you succeed.

Read

- Day 1: Job 1:1-5
- Day 2: Job 1:6-12
- Day 3: Job 1:13-22
- Day 4: Job 2:1-10
- Day 5: Job 2:11-3:4





6. HIDDEN TREASURE



Bible story: Job
Job 1:1-3:4, 40:1-14, 42

☀️ MEMORY VERSE 6
“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9

☀️ NEED STORY 6

Kip liked to serve God in the church, also in the school he spoke and sang about God. He had classmates who did not like him to do this and they started to annoy him. They took away his pencils, his notebooks, even one day they stole his backpack. They accused him of things that he had not done, and the director of the school to call him to his office, and he was wrongly punished.

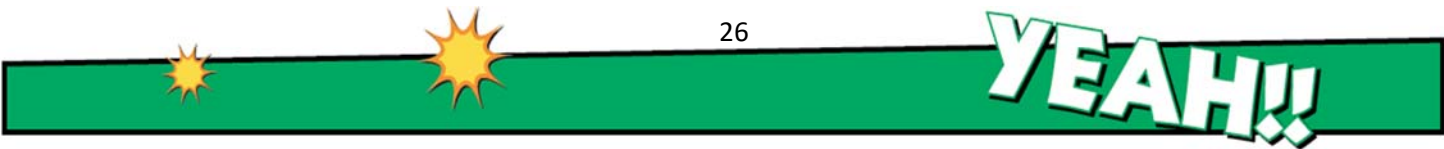


☀️ MAIN LESSON 6

Today we will see some treasure that’s so hidden that most people don’t look for it. Today’s Hero of the Faith Job was so righteous that God told the devil about him! Wouldn’t that be amazing if God were to say about you, “Everyone, see how righteous my son/daughter is”? The devil said that it was only because of the blessings. God gave the devil permission to test Job by taking away all his wealth and even his sons and daughters. God has all authority in the universe so that even the enemy can’t do anything without God’s permission. Job responded righteously, so with permission, the devil gave him a painful disease. In this story, God showed us behind the scenes in heaven.

Job’s friends came and told him that he had brought this pain upon himself through wickedness. Job thought he was righteous and that his pain was unjust. In the same way, some people think that when a person follows God, they should be rewarded with a happy life all the time. At the end of the story, we see the treasure that Job received. God Himself talked to Job directly! Whether Job literally saw God or simply understood, he was completely astounded. He saw that God is running the whole universe: the stars and creatures and loud thunderstorms and big volcanoes and everything around us. He humbled himself and accepted that God’s wisdom is beyond ours. Afterward, God blessed Job with even more wealth and sons and daughters, but this time Job had a changed heart and a better knowledge of God.

On this earth there is pain. Sometimes the devil has God’s permission to test us like Job. Sometimes bad things happen just because this world is corrupted by sin. And sometimes God asks us to do something that brings pain for a time. God asked His Son Jesus to go through a painful death on the cross. Again, God showed us behind the scenes. The night before Jesus was crucified, He asked the Father if there was any other way; yet He submitted to God’s will (Matthew 36-39). Jesus knows what we are going through (2 Corinthians 1:5). No matter where pain comes from, we can seek God right in the middle of it and acknowledge that God’s wisdom is far beyond ours even if we don’t understand (Isaiah 55:9). Just like God used Jesus’ pain to save the whole world, God can use your painful situation to bless lots and





lots of people around you somehow. But you can have the greatest treasure right away. God is close to the broken-hearted (Psalm 34:18), and when you submit to God in your pain, He can be very close to you. Though the pain is temporary, the greatest treasure in the whole universe – a close relationship with God – will last for ever and ever!

I acknowledge God’s wisdom is beyond my understanding and I choose to seek God even in the pain.

RESOLUTION 6

Even with all this he kept praising God and praying for his companions.



ACTIVITY 6

Something of value

Each child writes or draws different things that they consider to be of value in their lives, like parents, friends, God, school, etc. Afterward, have the children discuss with 1 or 2 other students their drawings and discuss why it is a treasure to them.

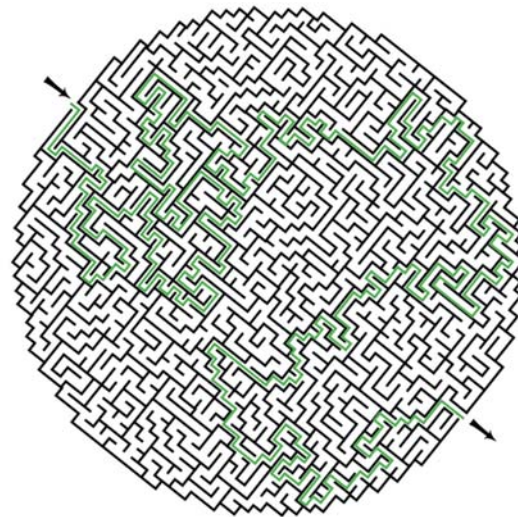


TIMELINE 6

In what year did Job's story happen? Answer: We do not know exactly, because there is no date indicated in the Bible. It is estimated between 2200 B.C. and 1520 B.C.

PUZZLE ANSWERS 6

J	E	B	J	P	O	V	W	T	Y	S	R
W	M	S	A	O	D	N	E	S	S	E	I
B	I	B	A	V	B	V	A	F	L	R	G
F	R	C	D	E	V	I	L	A	U	O	H
A	R	J	K	R	S	A	T	A	N	S	T
I	I	I	B	T	J	I	H	L	R	M	E
T	E	N	E	Y	O	L	D	E	O	U	O
H	S	S	E	N	D	E	K	C	I	W	U
F	T	D	S	F	D	I	K	N	E	S	S
U	T	H	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	F
L	I	H	U	M	B	L	E	W	E	A	L
P	T	R	E	S	U	R	D	I	S	E	Z





QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 6

(For older students)

1. Would God allow something bad to happen to test me?
YES! How we talked in previous lessons, God cares more about our spiritual life than our physical life. If we can stand a test well, get a good score from God Himself, and not complain, we have won! God has shown us that this is more important to Him than our belongings, our family, and even life. The reason is that we are not here on earth for a long time. Eternity is the important thing.
2. If everyone in my school is copying exams and always getting good grades, how can I pass the test?
Like Job, enduring bad grades, although the situation is difficult, without COMPLAINT! To NOT pass the test, we just give up and start copying too.
3. Are bad things that happen to people directly connected to sin?
The Bible has an example of both sides. Here with the example of Job, NO. Job did not sin to receive all evil. But there are situations in the Bible where we see YES. For example, the city of Sodom and Gomorrah. God tells us with the Bible, that the city was burned for sin in it. The answer is sometimes yes, and sometimes no. God has told us not to judge others and that if we are merciful, we will receive mercy from Him. Don't try to assign someone else's pain to their sin because you do not know what God is doing in their lives. Perhaps they are fortunate, because God considers their heart to be valuable enough to work through the pain they are experiencing.



☀️ GAME 6

Scavenger Hunt

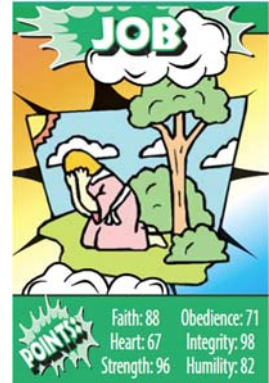
Collect small objects or toys and hide them. If you can play outside, hide them in bushes and plants. If you play inside, hide them under tables, chairs, or under mats throughout the room. Prepare lists of all the hidden objects for each player. You can organize children into teams or pairs. The children will leave the objects where they found them but must remember where each object is located. The first participant or team that finds all the objects wins.



☀️ ATTENDANCE 6

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Job



☀️ HOMEWORK 6

Think about a difficult time in your life recently. What good things came out of it? It may be hard to find them, but you can ask God to help you see what good things God did through it. Then write down or draw pictures of all the good things and thank God for them. Tell your parents and your teacher about them.

Read

- Day 1: Isaiah 52:1-4
- Day 2: Isaiah 52:5-10
- Day 3: Isaiah 52:11-15
- Day 4: Isaiah 53:1-6
- Day 5: Isaiah 53:7-12





7. HOPE FOR GOOD



Bible story: Isaiah
Isaiah 6:1-8, 9:6-7, 42:1-4, 53, 65:17-19

MEMORY VERSE 7
“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”
2 Corinthians 5:20

NEED STORY 7

Peppy’s parents had gone on a trip, and they promised her and her siblings to give them a good reward if they behaved well. Her siblings told Peppy that they could do whatever they wanted since they were alone. Peppy told them that she wanted to be good, so that when her parents came back, they would give her a good reward. Her siblings told her she was crazy, that her parents never brought them anything. Peppy replied that she knew that now they were going to bring good gifts. She stood her ground and did not follow her siblings in the things they did.

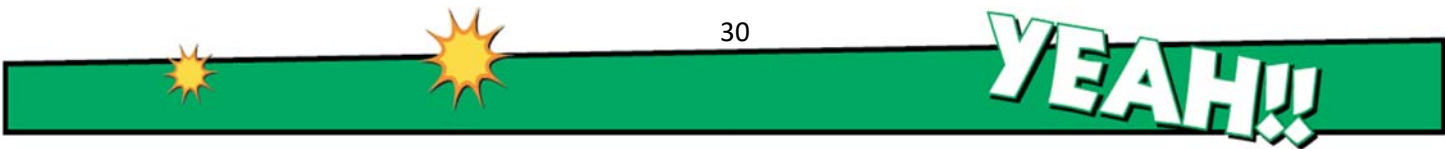


MAIN LESSON 7

In today’s lesson in Heroes of the Faith, we are going to look at a prophet who had a very special job. Let’s look at how God called Isaiah as a prophet. Isaiah saw an incredible vision of heaven (Isaiah 6). When you continue to spend time with God every day, as you follow and obey God and pursue Him in every part of your life, you will understand more and more how holy and awesome our God is, too. And like Peter, when he recognized who Jesus was and recognized his own sin (Luke 5:8), when you recognize God’s holiness, you will also see your own sin and helplessness more clearly. But don’t worry! In Isaiah’s vision, the angel touched his lips and said he was clean. In the same way, Jesus calls you clean, not because of anything you have done but because of what He did (John 15:3). Then in the vision, God asked who He could send, and Isaiah said, “Pick me! Send me!” Today, too, God is looking all over the earth to see who is fully committed to Him (2 Chronicles 16:9) and who can He send on His behalf. You can tell him to pick you! You are commissioned by God to represent Him in this world, and to encourage people to follow Him (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Isaiah had an awesome job! If you ask God to pick you, He could have amazing things for you, too. Isaiah got to prophesy about Jesus’ coming. God showed him a hopeful future for Israel and for the whole world.

Almost a thousand years later, a disciple named Philip met an Ethiopian Eunuch who was reading this very same book of Isaiah that we’re reading from today. He read the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7, and when Philip explained it to him, the Eunuch accepted Jesus! So, too, when you ask God to send you like Isaiah, God will do amazing things through you. But when we look around, we can only see the small area round us and the little time of our lives. When God looks around, He sees the whole world and all of





time before and after us. He is planning all kinds of wonderful things that can start with your simple “yes.” But you won’t know just how much God did through you until you get to heaven, where perhaps you will be completely astounded to see how God continued to use you long after you were gone from the earth.

Speaking of heaven, Isaiah kept looking forward to the good, far into the future. God gave him a job to prophesy not just about Jesus but about heaven as well. Will you ask God to pick you to go out and bring hope to the world by pointing them to Jesus and helping them look forward to heaven as well?

I choose to ask God to pick me and to look forward to God’s wonderful future.

RESOLUTION 7

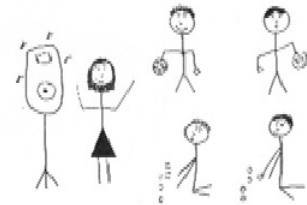
In the end she received the reward she expected.



ACTIVITY 7

Puzzles with music

Prepare ahead of time pieces of paper with lyrics to different songs. Depending on the ages in your class and the difficulty of the music, separate the lyrics by each word or by stanza and place the pieces into bags. To play, divide your class into teams and give each team a bag. Play the music for them, and the first team to put together the song correctly wins. This game also works well to review previous memory verses.



TIMELINE 7

When was Isaiah born? Answer: In the year 766 B.C. approximately

When did Isaiah die? Answer: In the year 686 B.C. approximately

PUZZLE ANSWERS 7

G	O	O	D	S	Y	C	M	M	E	V	R	E	S	A
E	R	Y	F	K	R	O	W	E	Z	R	E	S	K	I
T	E	P	E	S	A	M	F	S	I	D	T	N	W	H
H	S	I	L	B	N	M	I	S	L	S	H	O	P	E
I	M	L	S	F	O	I	T	E	E	Y	I	I	H	R
O	E	I	Q	U	I	T	S	N	G	U	O	S	I	U
T	N	H	V	W	S	M	D	J	N	Y	P	I	L	T
R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	V	E	U
H	A	I	A	S	I	N	K	L	V	F	A	W	P	F
S	F	E	L	L	M	T	L	S	E	D	N	D	A	S

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54	35	40	25	39	40	16	10	11	10



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 7

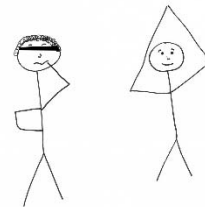
(For older students)

1. People are saying to believe or declare the promises of God. But how can we tell which ones are true and which ones are false? What do we do?
Talk to the students about the difference between declaring you will get a new red car versus believing that God will provide a job for you. Also discuss a promise that may be a feeling that God spoke to you or a promise written in the Bible. For example, "God will do something good in my life with everything bad that is happening now." On the other hand, God is not a vending machine where we put 1 dollar and something we want will come out.
2. Was there a time that you believed that God would do something then He did it?
Give them time for students to share. It would be good to have your testimonies ready beforehand, so that ideas flow.
3. How long do we need to wait and hope for good?
Let them talk about answers from 1 hour to years. Remind them that Isaiah prophesied about the Messiah, and his prophecy was correct, though he never saw him during his life. Sometimes we will not see the good fulfilled during our lives. But God does not fail.

GAME 7

Blind drawing

Divide the class into pairs. In each pair, blindfold one player and give them a paper and pencil. The other player will read a word you write on the board or say quietly and will direct their partner to draw it without saying the word. For example, if you write "house," the guide must not say the word house but must direct their partner to draw lines for each side and a triangle on top, etc.

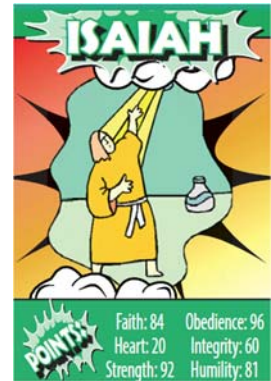




ATTENDANCE 7

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Isaias



HOMEWORK 7

Every time something good happens this week, think about how much better heaven will be. Whenever something bad happens, remember how God will wipe away all tears in heaven. Bonus, only do this if you want to: ask God to choose you and send you. This is very serious. If you ask Him, He will choose and send you, and there is no going back.

Read

Day 1: Jeremiah 1:9-14

Day 2: Jeremiah 20:3-6

Day 3: Jeremiah 20:7-12

Day 4: Jeremiah 20:13-18

Day 5: Jeremiah 37:11-17

8. ENDURE OPPOSITION



Bible story: Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4-19, 15:15-21, 26:7-16, 37:11-21, 38:6-10, 39:1-2, 39:11-12

MEMORY VERSE 8

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.” Acts 4:29

NEED STORY 8

When they were praying, Buzz felt very strongly that God was telling him that he needed him to speak to the children of his neighborhood about the Word of God. He did not feel very sure of this, since they were in a new neighborhood. But the voice was getting stronger. He decided to do it, but every time he talked with someone, they made fun of him, and that made him feel a little sad.



MAIN LESSON 8

Welcome back to Heroes of the Faith! Today we will look at someone who faced opposition all his life and who God made strong. Jeremiah lived during the time of the last kings of the nation of Judah.

God called Jeremiah at a young age. God told Jeremiah that He knew him even before he was in his mother’s womb. God knew you before you even existed, too! And God has set you apart to do the things He has for you to do. God’s plan for Jeremiah was for him to prophesy, to speak on God’s behalf to the nations. God told him that He would make him strong, like a bronze wall. Jeremiah’s message throughout his life was to tell Judah to stop forsaking their God, and that God was going to exile them into Babylon. The people ignored Jeremiah and opposed him all his life.

One time, Jeremiah got discouraged. He looked around and saw only what was going on around him, not seeing how God was upholding him. It’s very easy to start complaining when things seem bad and to lose sight of how God is taking care of you. God told him to repent and reassured him that He would save him. God told him again to be strong and not follow the ways of everyone around him.

Jeremiah endured lots of opposition. Once they threatened to kill Jeremiah for his words. Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern for some time, then held in a prison. Though he was speaking on God’s behalf, they accused him of being a spy for Babylon. Just like Jeremiah was falsely accused, so was Jesus when He spoke on God’s behalf. Always there are people in the world who reject Jesus’ words, and they will reject ours, too. After Jesus went up to heaven, the disciples preached the word of God clearly and many people came to follow Jesus. Soon, they faced opposition and were whipped and imprisoned. Instead of giving in, like Jeremiah they turned to God for boldness to keep speaking God’s word despite opposition (Acts 4:29). You can ask God for boldness, too.



After many years of prophesying the exile, Jeremiah’s words all came true. The Babylonians came and conquered Jerusalem, broke down its walls and burned it down. They took most of the people away from their home and brought them to Babylon. But God never left His people. He spoke through Jeremiah, saying that God had sent the righteous people to Babylon and He would be with them (Jeremiah 24:5-7). We’ll see that in the coming lessons in Heroes.

When the Babylonians captured Jerusalem, they set Jeremiah free. God saved him just like He promised. Like Isaiah in the last lesson, Jeremiah was not concerned with this world but looking forward to God’s new home for him (Hebrews 11:13-16).

I choose to hold to God’s truth and speak God’s word and endure opposition.

 **RESOLUTION 8**

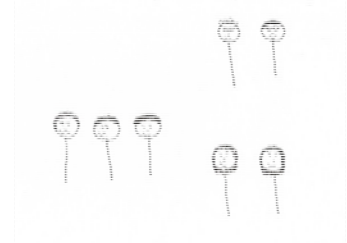
But God kept talking to him, so he stood firm and no matter what he was told, he continued to preach the Word, because he knew that God was with him.



 **ACTIVITY 8**

Each sheep with its pair

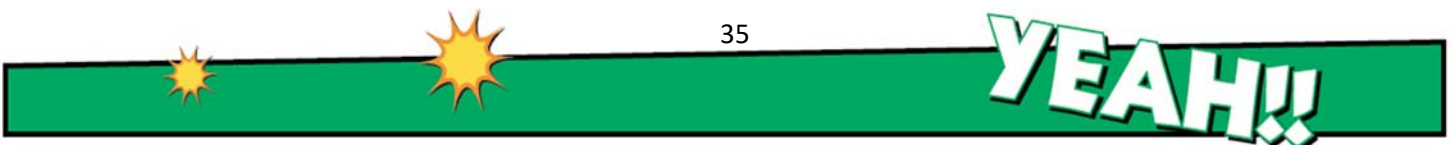
The teacher calls out different rules, and the children must group themselves accordingly. For example, the teacher calls out “white vs. colored shirts” and all the children with white shirts go to one side of the room while all the children wearing colored shirts go to the other side. Other rules could be long vs. short hair, birthdays from January – June vs. July – December, among girls a rule could be tied hair vs. loose hair and depending on age or region it could be shorts vs. long pants. You can also put the division rule together with an activity that you want to develop.



 **TIMELINE 8**

In what year was Jeremiah born? Answer: In the year 643 B.C. approximately

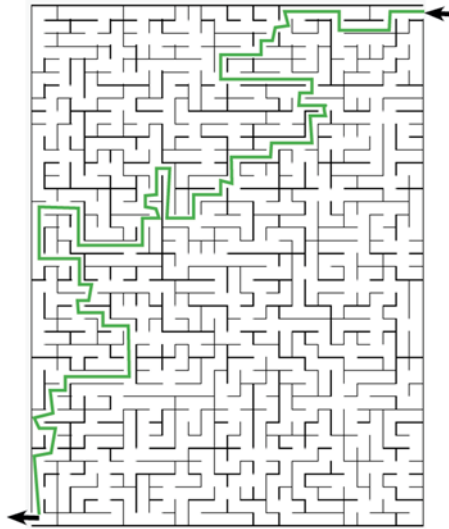
In what year did Jeremiah die? Answer: In the year 570 B.C. approximately





PUZZLE ANSWERS 8

P	Z	G	K	X	N	P	M	L	D	G	V	P	P	D
N	P	B	N	R	P	R	I	S	O	N	E	T	G	E
O	S	E	X	I	L	E	E	R	H	O	N	I	R	R
L	T	N	R	T	R	O	N	A	G	R	D	S	E	U
Y	B	O	G	S	H	O	I	R	B	T	U	O	J	O
B	N	Y	X	T	E	M	N	L	L	S	R	P	E	C
A	D	I	U	G	E	V	B	G	E	Y	A	P	C	S
B	L	R	O	R	B	A	E	J	I	E	N	O	T	I
E	T	N	E	M	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	S	I	D
E	X	J	L	E	J	E	S	U	A	S	E	B	O	J
J	O	P	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	J	G	N	L
D	U	G	N	I	K	A	S	R	O	F	C	Y	S	L
R	E	J	E	C	T	R	G	N	I	L	L	E	T	S



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 8

(For older students)

1. The Christian life is easy, right? And believers always have God's protection, no?
Of course God protects us, but it does not mean that life will be easy. As we saw in the lesson, there may be teasing, false punishments, even putting us in jail, but it doesn't matter. God will allow all that, because for God, our spiritual life is more important than the physical one. Perhaps something bigger for the country is more important, which includes something super difficult for the Christians who live there.
2. How young can you be to receive God's call in ministry?
Jeremiah was called sometime between 10 and 17 years. Talk with your students about the fact that RIGHT NOW God can call you!



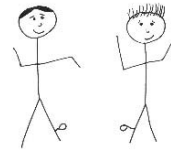
3. What kind of opposition is there in school today?

Talk in different ways to help students explain everything they have to endure. Examples: someone taking away your food, a teacher giving you a bad grade, your dad losing his job, nobody playing with you at recess, a boy attacking you on the street on the way home after school, etc.

GAME 8

Balloon Hunt

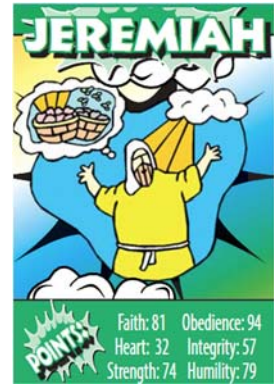
Give each player an inflated balloon and tie it to their ankle with some string. Make sure all the balloons are inflated equally. The goal of the game is to pop other players' balloons using only their feet while preventing anyone to pop your balloon. Set some time or play some music, and when the time is over, anyone who maintains their balloon wins.



ATTENDANCE 8

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Jeremiah



HOMEWORK 8

Read the Bible every day this week, even if it is only for a few minutes. The book of John or Psalms are great places to start. If you cannot read, ask someone to read a little to you. If you missed a day, don't beat yourself up for it. Simply try again every day. If you already read the Bible every day, well done! Keep reading it.

Read

- Day 1: Daniel 3:1-6
- Day 2: Daniel 3:7-12
- Day 3: Daniel 3:13-18
- Day 4: Daniel 3:19-25
- Day 5: Daniel 3:26-30





9. PAY THE PRICE



Bible story: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Daniel 3

 **MEMORY VERSE 9**

“Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:16

 **NEED STORY 9**

Taffy was the smartest student in class. One day the teacher asked them to do a project at home to prepare for a celebration. This celebration was against what the Bible says. When Taffy realized that what the teacher had asked was against what she believed, she told the teacher that she was not going to participate because it was not right for her. The teacher told her that if she did not bring that work, he would give her a much lower grade.

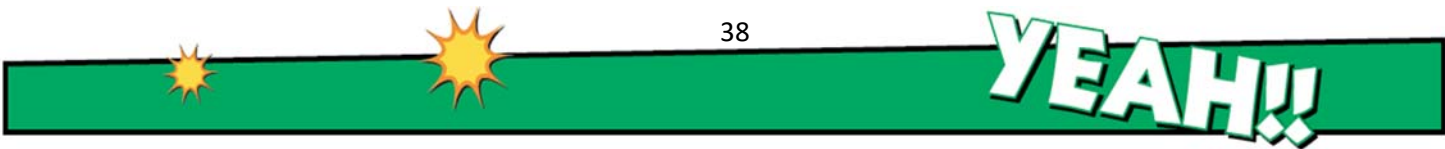


 **MAIN LESSON 9**

Last week we saw how Judah went into exile to Babylon. Today we will begin to see the amazing ways God was with them there. Three young Jewish men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought to Babylon and were given the job of running the Babylonian province. The king decided to set up a big statue and have all his leaders bow down to it, with the threat of being thrown in a furnace for disobedience. People think they can change our beliefs just by threatening us. They don't expect us to be willing to pay the price. But unlike their gods, our God already led the way and paid the price for us, and we can even be joyful with every opportunity to do the same for God.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to stay faithful to their God and pay the price. They knew God could save them, but they could not know if God would save them on earth or in heaven. The guards threw them into the furnace with clothes and everything, though clothes were very valuable. Today, when people reject Jesus's words, they may even reject all the good things that God does in your life, too, just like they rejected Jesus' miracles and God's authority in Him (Matthew 12:24). But it doesn't matter what they think because God's opinion of you is the most important. All those good works He is doing through you He sees as though you are wearing fancy white clothes (Revelation 19:8).

Instead of saving them from going into the furnace, God saved them inside the furnace. In the same way, sometimes God will allow difficult situations and save you right in the middle of them. Just like the fire burned the ropes but didn't touch the men, perhaps God will even use the situation on the outside to change your heart and give you freedom on the inside. God wants freedom for you (Galatians 5:1).





Remember the treasure of a close relationship with God in hard situations? Here we see it again, because God was with them in the fire. In the same way, Jesus already paid the ultimate price for you, and He will stay with you in your situation.

It is tempting to avoid the people who threatened you. But when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire, the people crowded around them and saw the miracle and praised God. They didn't even smell like smoke! In the same way, let even those who threatened you come near so they can "smell" God's presence and freedom in you.

If they had given in to the threats, this amazing story wouldn't have happened. They had to be willing to pay the price, even when they did not know what God would do in the situation. They had to look forward to heaven and consider God's opinion to be most important.

I choose to pay the price for following God.

RESOLUTION 9

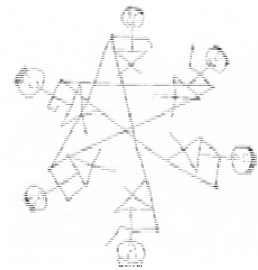
Taffy replied that she still could not participate, and she would accept a lower grade for it.



ACTIVITY 9

Spiderweb

This fun activity leads to a funny story. Begin with all the students sitting in a circle, and give one student a ball of string. The student begins the story with 2 or 3 sentences. Then the student holds the end of the string and throws the ball to another student. The next student adds a little to the story, holds his point of string, and throws the ball to a different student. Continue until each student has had a turn and a web is formed. Then proceed backwards through the students, undoing the web and rolling the ball of string back up while the students keep adding to the story until the web is completely gone.



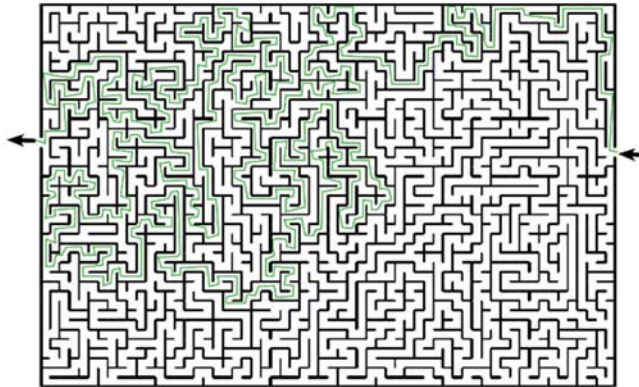
TIMELINE 9

In what year were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into and rescued from the fiery furnace?
Answer: In the year 594 B.C. approximately.



PUZZLE ANSWERS 9

F	W	M	K	I	N	G	H	T	S	S	S
A	H	T	E	F	G	C	K	P	E	E	M
I	B	A	H	S	A	D	L	F	H	V	O
T	L	E	X	R	H	E	M	R	T	E	B
H	U	G	D	B	I	A	O	E	O	N	F
U	F	A	P	N	W	P	C	E	L	S	U
L	H	W	A	U	E	S	T	H	C	I	R
S	T	D	P	S	H	G	C	L	E	X	N
M	I	E	Y	T	I	R	O	H	T	U	A
O	A	N	F	E	L	C	A	R	I	M	C
K	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	C	H	I	E
E	B	U	R	N	A	U	T	H	W	R	E
G	A	B	E	D	N	R	G	O	B	A	C



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 9

(For older students)

1. What price are you willing to pay for the kingdom of God?
Let them discuss the matter. Examples: changing a major in school, leaving a boyfriend or girlfriend, being in a small church, moving to another city to live with an uncle to attend another school, leaving friends, etc.
2. Must I love everyone?
Talk about different people who are super difficult to love, and if it is a kind of price we must pay.
3. What does God want from me?
Talk about different purposes that God has for us. Some can help the world with their professions as accountants, doctors, teachers, etc. Others may enter full-time service, such as pastors, missionaries, or nonprofit ministry managers, etc. Talk about the difference between just giving God your career versus giving God your heart, which leads to giving God your career as well as each part of your life.



GAME 9

Don't laugh!

Divide the class into pairs. One child in each pair will attempt to make the other child laugh. The only rule is that they cannot touch the other child. Give them 30 seconds for that round, and any child who does not laugh wins that round. Have the children switch roles and play again.



ATTENDANCE 9

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:



Read the word

HOMEWORK 9

Draw a picture of heaven this week. Think of all your favorite things on earth: family, toys, clothes, pets, nice cars, the sky, flowers, etc. God promises to make new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17). The same creative God who made this fun and wonderful world is making an even better one! All the good things will be there and none of the bad things. Put your picture up on the wall in your room so you can remember it and think about it, especially when sad times come.

Read

- Day 1: Daniel 4:1-8
- Day 2: Daniel 4:9-18
- Day 3: Daniel 4:19-27
- Day 4: Daniel 4:28-33
- Day 5: Daniel 4:34-37





10. HUMBLE YOURSELF



Bible story: Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4

 **MEMORY VERSE 10**

“For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?” 1 Corinthians 4:7

 **NEED STORY 10**

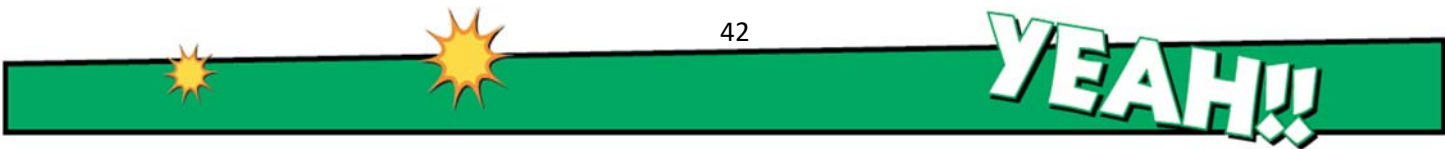
Comet had spent a few weeks showing off and bragging about his hair and how fast he could run. This bothered his classmates, and the teacher called his attention and told him that what he was doing was not good and that he had to be humbler. Comet did not want to heed this warning.



 **MAIN LESSON 10**

Today in Heroes of the Faith, we’ll look at a great king and how God humbled him. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had a terrible dream and asked a man of God named Daniel to interpret it for him. We’ll learn more about Daniel next time. The interpretation was that the king would go crazy and lose his mind and live outside like an animal eating grass. A year later, King Nebuchadnezzar boasted that he had built the great city of Babylon for his own majesty. When God uses you to do cool stuff in your life, it will always be easy to look around at the amazing things that God does through us and forget that it all came from God. The truth is that none of us is better than anyone else, because everything we have – gifts, talents, abilities, training growing up, and opportunities in our lives – all come from God (1 Corinthians 4:7). Jesus also said that we cannot do anything good without Him (John 15:5). God was the one who placed Nebuchadnezzar as king, and He could just as easily have placed someone else as king. God decides what cool things He will do in your life, and He could just as easily do them through someone else. The moment king Nebuchadnezzar boasted, he lost his mind just like in his dream and lived outside like the animals and ate grass. He was there long enough for the hair of his head to look like feathers and for his fingernails to grow long like the claws of a bird. Think about how slowly your fingernails grow. That was a long time! Then king Nebuchadnezzar looked to heaven and recognized that God is in charge of it all, and God restored him to his kingdom and made him even more powerful. But you don’t have to take that long to humble yourself. We are all sinners, and pride is one of the easiest sins to get stuck in, especially when God does cool things through you! Even if you are tempted every day, do your best to look to heaven and recognize that every good thing you have is a gift from God (James 1:17). You can ask God for help, because He loves you and wants what’s best for you. God can help you stay humble.

Daniel also suggested something to the king that can help us to humble ourselves. Daniel said to be kind to the oppressed. It’s hard to be proud when you are busy thinking about how to help other people. You





can look around at your brothers and sisters in Christ and recognize the cool things God is doing through them, too, not comparing yourself to them but encouraging them and celebrating with them. God gives us all different gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-6), and God will do cool things through all of us, however He wants to do it.

I choose to humble myself and recognize God’s power and authority in my life.

 **RESOLUTION 10**

One day, before arriving at the school it started to rain very hard, and Comet did anything to protect himself from the rain, and he could not run fast enough to avoid getting his hair messed up. When he entered the room, everyone laughed at him for his appearance. This made him feel very bad. Then he apologized to his companions and his teacher and never again boasted about his hair or his running.



 **ACTIVITY 10**

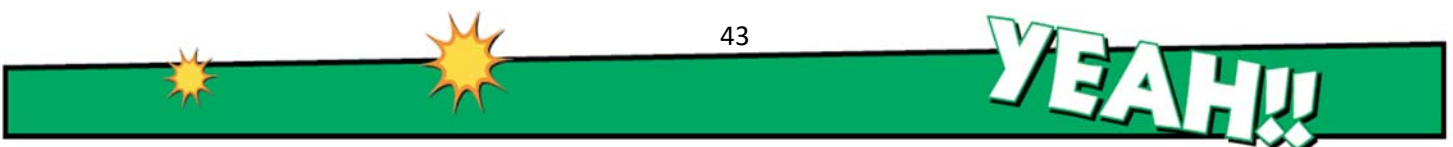
Acting out a photo

Divide the class into teams and give each team a photo. The team studies the photo, trying to guess what happened just before and after the photo was taken. Give them a few minutes to prepare. Each team then presents in front of the group, acting out the photo. The group with the best presentation wins.



 **TIMELINE 10**

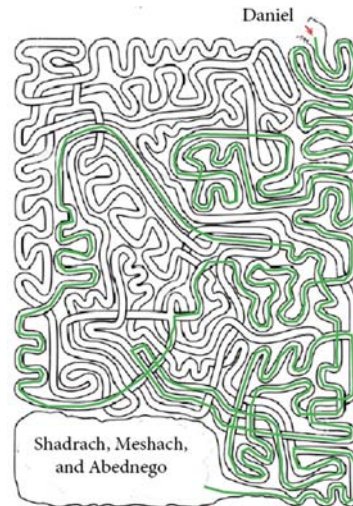
In what year did King Nebuchadnezzar go insane? Answer: In the year 570 B.C. approximately.





PUZZLE ANSWERS 10

I	N	T	E	R	P	R	T	A	T	N	E	M	H	S	I	N	U	P
V	K	I	N	G	N	E	B	U	C	H	A	D	N	E	Z	Z	A	R
D	S	A	D	R	V	O	N	T	G	N	B	R	A	G	V	O	P	P
A	S	Z	R	A	A	O	P	H	N	E	A	G	K	N	K	R	S	R
N	E	Z	E	S	I	S	U	O	I	Z	G	R	O	U	I	H	S	E
S	N	A	T	S	H	M	H	R	S	Z	A	S	S	D	R	E	A	M
A	D	I	I	J	B	U	V	I	V	U	C	H	E	B	U	B	L	E
G	N	V	R	L	N	O	I	T	A	T	E	R	P	R	E	T	N	I
G	I	M	E	V	D	Z	Z	Y	R	O	P	P	R	E	S	S	E	D
M	K	P	N	O	L	Y	B	A	B	R	A	G	O	H	U	M	B	L



☀️ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 10

(For older students)

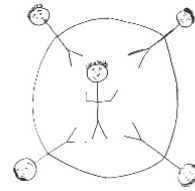
1. Why can we not say that we have accomplished everything in our own strength?
Because it is pride, and God stands against those who are proud.
2. How is humility good for me?
Because while we are humble, God will help us. When we think that we are perfect and that we have achieved everything alone, God stands against us!
3. If I did not accomplish or gain what I have, who did?
God wants us to recognize that He and maybe others helped us. All the gifts and abilities we have were given by God. Our parents fed us, helped us to go to school, etc. Other people also participated in our life. God opens doors for us, protects us from evil, and we must recognize that all we are is because God helped us.



GAME 10

Escape!

Form teams of 5 children. Of those, 4 children will hold hands in a circle, locking the 5th child in the middle. The child in the middle has 1 minute to try to get out of his circle. After each round, the children in their group change positions and a different child tries to get out of the circle. The children who escape their circles the most times win.



ATTENDANCE 10

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Fallen Tree



HOMEWORK 10

Think of the opportunities you have had and the good things in your life. Thank God for them. Then think about someone who will take your place, like a younger student who will take your place in class next year, and pray for them and ask God to bless them in that position and do good things in their life, too.

Read

- Day 1: Daniel 6:1-5
- Day 2: Daniel 6:6-9
- Day 3: Daniel 6:10-14
- Day 4: Daniel 6:15-20
- Day 5: Daniel 6:21-28





11. FAITH FIRST



Bible story: Daniel
Daniel 1, 6, 9:20-23

☀️ **MEMORY VERSE 11**

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”
1 Peter 2:12

☀️ **NEED STORY 11**

One day Peppy’s dad arrived home very sad. He told them that his manager saw the Bible on his desk and chastised him for it. She told him that such things should not be at work and that she did not want to see it in the office anymore nor hear him talking with anyone in the office about the Bible. She threatened him that he would lose his job, even though he was never late and always did excellent work. Peppy and her whole family began to pray for this situation because they felt it was unjust, and they wanted to keep God as the most important thing in their lives.

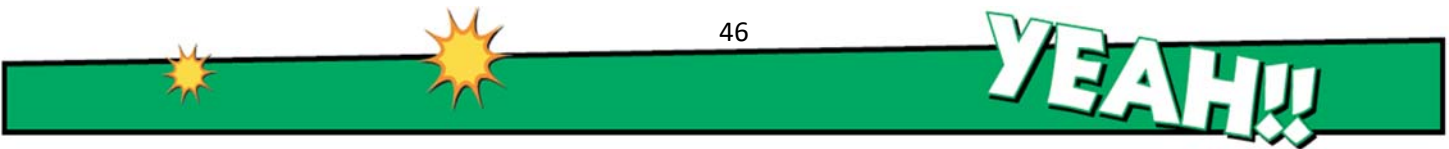


☀️ **MAIN LESSON 11**

Today in Heroes of the Faith, we will look at a man who was highly esteemed by God. Wow, what a compliment! Let’s look at how Daniel worked with diligence in everything yet kept his faith first.

Daniel was a youth when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem. They took him and his friends we met earlier to Babylon to study Babylonian culture then work for the king in administration and government. During the training time, Daniel and his friends let them change their names and take them away. But they did not let them change their food. The Bible doesn’t tell us exactly why. Perhaps the food was sacrificed to idols, or prepared in a way contrary to their law, or it could have included meats that their law called unclean. For whatever reason, Daniel chose to put his faith first. In time, he was even healthier despite his food restrictions, and God gave him and his friends wisdom and understanding beyond everyone else’s. Daniel interpreted dreams and worked diligently for king after king in the Babylonian then Median and Persian empires.

Many years later, Daniel served the new king Darius. He did his job so well that Darius planned to put him in charge of all the provinces of the whole empire. The other officials got jealous and tried to find a way to bring him down. But they couldn’t find anything wrong with his conduct! We are told to do the same, to live so well that the people around us praise God for our lives (1 Peter 2:12). The only way they could find to pull him down was for his faith, because Daniel always put his faith first. They issued a decree outlawing praying to God, and Daniel ignored it completely. The king tried to save him, but because the law was so strict, the king was forced to have Daniel thrown into the lion’s den. But again, God was with Daniel inside the lion’s den and an angel shut the mouths of the lions, so they didn’t eat





him. The next morning, king Darius found Daniel safe and alive and brought him out of the den. Daniel's enemies were thrown into the den and were eaten immediately. Then Darius praised God.

Jesus asks us to put our faith first, or rather to put Him first in all things. But often, like the Pharisees in Jesus' day, we can easily think that if do all the right "church stuff," it's ok to treat others badly. But this upset Jesus very much (Matthew 23:23). God loves all people, and He cares how we treat them. You can't expect to be right with God when you haven't forgiven others (Matthew 6:15). And you can't praise God and curse people He loves (James 3:9-12). God cares what you do both inside and outside the church, and we can serve Him by treating others well and doing a good job in everything that we do (Colossians 3:17). Then, if a moment comes when you must choose between God or others, put God first.

I choose to put God first, recognizing that He cares how I treat others, too.

RESOLUTION 11

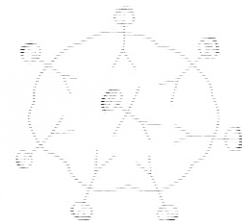
One day the supervisor (the boss of the manager) came into the office and saw on the Bible on Peppy's dad's desk. He said he was glad to read the Bible and congratulated Peppy's dad for it. Everyone in the office heard about it, and Peppy's dad never had any problems after that. Even some colleagues were no longer scared and came and began talking with him and asking him questions about his faith. Peppy's family realized that God had changed the situation and answered their prayer and helped them for putting their faith in God first.



ACTIVITY 11

Blind chicken

For this activity, divide the boys and girls to play separately. Select one child from each group to wear a blindfold. The other children form a circle with the blindfolded child in the middle. Set boundaries for play in your classroom. The blindfolded child finds the other children and they must guess only by feeling which child it is.



TIMELINE 11

In what year was Daniel thrown into and rescued from the lions' den? Answer: In the year 540 B.C. approximately.



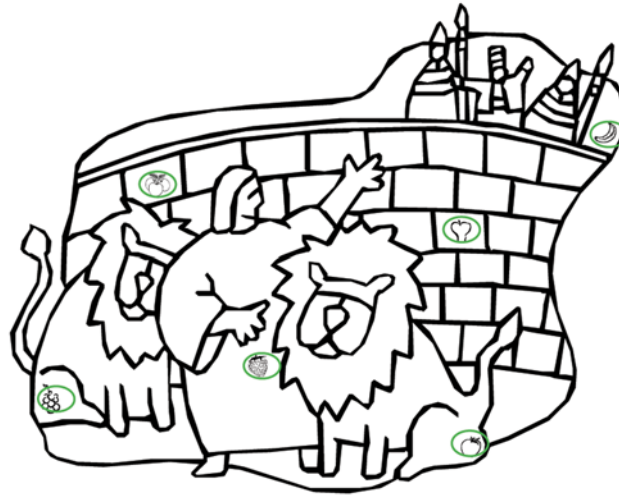


PUZZLE ANSWERS 11

N	I	P	U	N	I	S	H	M	E	N	T
O	W	I	S	O	O	M	D	C	A	R	P
I	I	D	R	I	B	A	N	O	W	T	I
T	L	E	E	L	F	E	C	B	G	L	H
C	E	K	I	N	G	D	A	R	I	U	S
E	I	G	B	I	T	B	E	P	F	Y	R
T	N	Y	L	O	Y	P	R	V	O	O	O
O	A	I	F	L	C	A	Y	U	R	U	W
R	D	O	O	F	Y	H	T	L	A	E	H
P	G	N	U	E	G	H	T	I	A	F	S
A	S	U	R	M	O	D	S	I	W	I	P

#	"	%	\$	&
35	20	30	27	40

=	?	;	-	:
30	23	27	23	25



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 11

(For older students)

1. Do you really believe that there is a God, a heaven, a hell, and that one day each of us will go either to heaven or hell for eternity?

Talk with your eternity students and how long it is. Ask them if they really believe in that, because it is of paramount importance to this lesson. We cannot put our faith first in life if we do not believe in God, heaven and hell. If we really believe, then it is easier to see why the things of eternity are more important than the things of this world.

2. Why are there tests of faith like the lion's den where we must choose faith at the risk of great loss?

Because it is easy to TALK about faith, but we will only have that faith if we pass a difficult test where we were willing to sacrifice something for it.

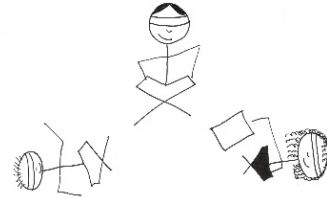


- Do you think that God tests us with difficult situations on purpose? Why?
YES!!! It is because God knows well that eternity is more important, and God wants us to grow in our faith and to become mature Christians.

GAME 11

Not by sight

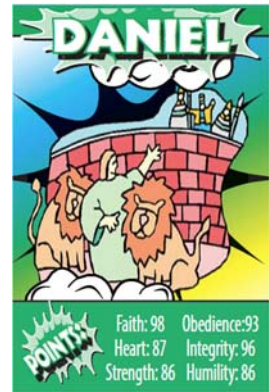
Place several random household items in a brown paper bag. Make the children sit in a circle on the floor. Children should be blindfolded and take turns taking things out of the bag and guessing they are just touching them. They might know that an apple is an apple, however, they cannot prove it without seeing it. They simply have faith that they know what they are playing. Similarly, they will know that it is a cotton ball when they touch it because they have had experience with cotton balls in the past and have faith that they are experiencing the same. Explain to children that our faith in God is like faith in understanding the elements of the bag. Although we cannot see God clearly, our experiences with God help us to have faith and identify his work in our lives.



ATTENDANCE 11

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Daniel



HOMEWORK 11

Pray alone every day this week, even if only for a couple minutes. Thank God for the good things that day and ask God to help you do well in school and at home. Think about God's love for you and tell Him you love Him, too.

Read

- Day 1: Jonah 1:1-9
- Day 2: Jonah 1:10-17
- Day 3: Jonah 2:1-10
- Day 4: Jonah 3:1-10
- Day 5: Jonah 4:1-10





12. DON'T RUN AWAY



Bible story: Jonah
Jonah 1-4

 **MEMORY VERSE 12**

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
Psalm 51:10

 **NEED STORY 12**

Kip’s father had asked him to clean the messiest room in the house in preparation for a meeting in the afternoon. Kip was angry with his father's order, because that room was very dirty. Then he took his skateboard and went to look for his friends.

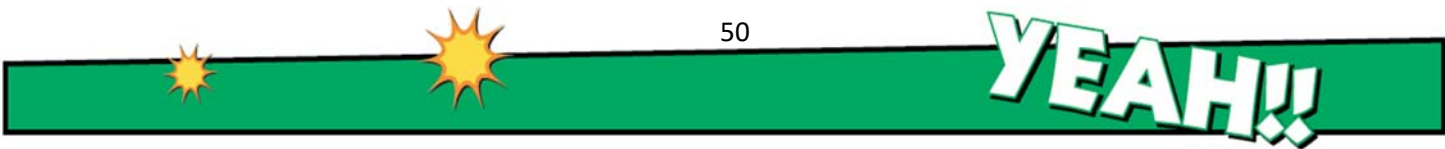


 **MAIN LESSON 12**

In Heroes of the Faith, we have seen all kinds of ways to trust and obey God. But what happens when God asks you to do something that you very much do not want to do?

God told a man named Jonah to go preach in the enemy city of Nineveh. Jonah packed his bag and excitedly went to go tell them the good news of God’s grace – no!! Jonah hated the Ninevites and wanted God to destroy them. Instead, he tried to run away from God. When we disobey God, we automatically try to run or hide from God by avoiding praying or reading the Bible. We stop being honest, because we are afraid that if people see our hearts, then they will see us as fake. It may also seem like we are irritated at everything. But the truth is that we are ignoring and disobeying God. Jonah boarded a ship to Tarshish, as far from Nineveh as he could go. A great storm came so that all the sailors and other passengers were terrified. When Jonah saw that he could not escape God, he told them to throw him overboard. God provided a giant fish to swallow Jonah! God loves you so very much that He will take care of you and even help you to obey Him. God made the fish vomit him onto land, and he obeyed and went to Nineveh. The people heard his message and repented, and God did not destroy the city. Jonah still hated the Ninevites and was angry at God for saving them. But God loves all people and does not want any of them to perish, preferring that they repent and come find Him (2 Peter 3:9).

What will you do if God asks you to do something you don’t want to do? Like Jonah, you cannot run from God. If you don’t like the people that He is sending you to help, try these things. Praying for them can help your attitude change (Matthew 5:44). You can consider what they did that hurt you or someone you love, then forgive them and stop requiring any kind of payback from them. Remember that God does not require any payback for ALL the wrong things you have done. (Matthew 18:21-35) If you simply do not get along with someone, ask them questions and try to understand their point of view. And if they do something that bothers you, look at your own heart and actions – you will find some version of the same sin in you (Romans 2:1). Regardless of why you don’t want to obey God, you





can ask God for help to change your heart and help you to want to obey Him. Any time that you don't want to obey God is a wonderful opportunity to change your heart.

I choose to obey God even when I don't want to and ask God to change my heart.

RESOLUTION 12

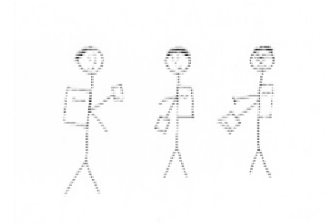
When skating in the park, one of the wheels of Kip's skateboard broke, causing Kip to fall and crash into some of his good friends. At first Kip was angry at his skateboard, and his friends for standing in the way, and at himself for skating poorly. But when he looked around and saw how everyone was hurt, Kip asked for forgiveness and told them that everything was his fault and that he should not be there. He returned home, asked his father for forgiveness and started cleaning the room.



ACTIVITY 12

Name on your back

Prepare papers with colors, animals, fruits, etc. and tape one paper onto each child's back as their "name," and give each child another paper and pencil. At your signal, each of the children tries to copy the names from the backs of the other children while trying not to let anyone copy the name from their own back. This results in spins, jumps, and whatever kind of movement they can think of to avoid letting the other players read the names on their backs. When the time is up, the child with the longest list of names wins.



TIMELINE 12



In what year did the story of Jonah happen? Answer: In the year 790 B.C. approximately.




PUZZLE ANSWERS 12

J	A	N	I	N	E	V	E	H	S
S	O	T	S	U	M	G	J	H	P
R	U	N	A	W	A	Y	H	I	I
O	S	E	A	S	L	Y	N	D	H
L	H	P	S	H	E	R	E	E	S
I	I	E	T	B	A	V	O	I	D
A	M	R	O	J	A	N	L	S	U
S	T	A	R	S	H	I	S	H	B
B	Y	H	M	H	S	I	F	Y	R

TRUE OR FALSE

Circle this figure  if the answer is true and this figure  if the answer is false.

-  1. A big fish ate Jonah.
-  2. Jonah always loved the people of Nineveh.
-  3. God always takes care of you.
-  4. Jonah was obedient at first.
-  5. Sometimes God asks us to do things that we don't want to do.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 12

(For older students)

- Is it really running away from God's commands if no one sees it?
Of course. Or do you think you can hide from God? Joke a little with your students about different places where we can hide from our parents or teachers and talk about the possibility of hiding from God. For example, "Can God see you when you are under your bed?"
- Read the parable in Matthew 13 and decide which land you want to have.
Make a decision. Do you want a life that produces goodness?
After reading the parable, take a moment to decide if you want to be the good land that can produce 100 times more fruit than it was sown. Actually, we can fix the "land" in our hearts if it has stones or lack space for roots. One of the fastest ways to fix our land is OBEYING.... And don't run away when God asks us to do something. Because in many cases, God asks us to do something for our good, and when we run away, we run out of fruit in life.



GAME 12

Whale tag

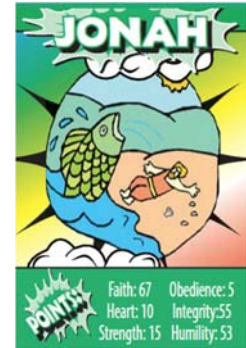
For this game, a child will simulate a whale by opening and closing his arms from top to bottom, and goes around the room trying to touch the other children. Each child that is touched is added to the whale with their hand on the shoulder of the person in front and the other hand extended in the back as a tail that can tag more children, too. If in the end there are children left untouched, they will be applauded.



ATTENDANCE 12

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:

Jonah



HOMEWORK 12

What is God telling you to do lately? Is there something you know you should do but you keep delaying or avoiding it? Don't wait and don't complain. Go do it.

Read

Day 1: Zechariah 7:1-7

Day 2: Zechariah 7:8-14

Day 3: Zechariah 8:1-8

Day 4: Zechariah 8:9-13

Day 5: Zechariah 8:14-23





13. DECLARE THE TRUTH



Bible story: Zechariah

Zechariah 7-8

 **MEMORY VERSE 13**

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

 **NEED STORY 13**

Recently Buzz had been playing with some new friends. These friends did things that he did not like, things that bothered other people. Then he told them that those kinds of games he did not like, because it was not okay to bother other people. They made fun of him and told him to go play alone at home.

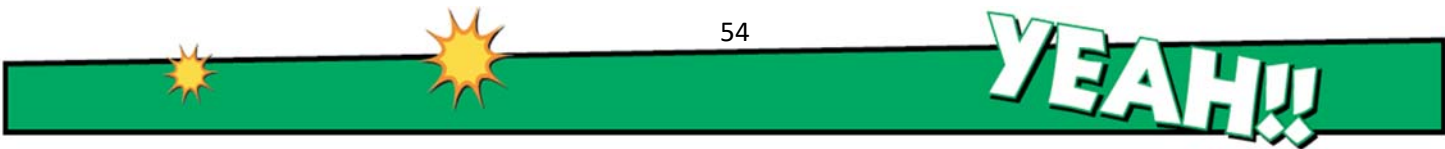


 **MAIN LESSON 13**

Let’s look at one last Hero of the Faith. Zechariah was a prophet at the time that the Jews were returning from exile in the Persian Empire. Zechariah, like the other prophets in the Bible, had the job of declaring the truth, of declaring the Word of the Lord to the people around him. When people came to ask him if they should keep fasting at the regular times, he was not afraid to tell them the truth that God spoke to him. They were not fasting to seek God but as some ritual to appear spiritual. In the same way, God sees our hearts and knows our motives for everything. And they were treating other people wrongly while appearing spiritual with their fasting. God hates that. Jesus denounced the Pharisees for appearing spiritual while hurting other people (Mark 12:40). God used Zechariah not just to point out that wrong thing the people were doing, but also to bring hope for change and good. God used Zechariah to encourage the people to seek justice, mercy, and compassion toward each other. God wants us to help those who are weak, not to think evil about people from our hearts, to tell the truth and seek peace. Their fasting was not going to go away, but God was going to turn it into a time of celebration and joy. God used Zechariah over and over to declare the truth, reminding people about all the things God had said in the past, encouraging them to seek God and treat each other well, and announcing the coming of Jesus.

In the same way, we can encourage each other with God’s Word (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13). But you cannot encourage others with God’s Word if you do not know what God’s Word says. Spend time reading the Bible daily (John 15:5-8). Imagine you meet someone new today. How would you become good friends? You need to spend time with someone to get to know them well. In the same way, you can spend time in God’s Word to get to know God until He’s your best friend – then keep going! Christianity is not like school where you finish and graduate and then you’re done. There is always more with God! Keep following Him, reading His Word, learning from the Heroes of the Faith (there are more than the ones we talked about) and encouraging others to follow Him, too.

I choose to keep reading God’s Word and encouraging others with it.





RESOLUTION 13

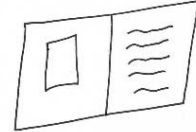
When Buzz's mother asked him why he was not with his friends, he told her what they were doing. Buzz decided to stay at home, and even though he was alone, he felt good, because he had spoken the truth.



ACTIVITY 13

Memory album

Distribute to each child a folded piece of paper. On one side, the children either glue a photo or draw a picture. On the other side, the children write something about themselves, like my biggest mischief, what I like to play, my best friends, etc. Once all the albums are made, shuffle them and distribute them randomly among students. Read them out loud and show each photo, and all the students guess who owns each album.

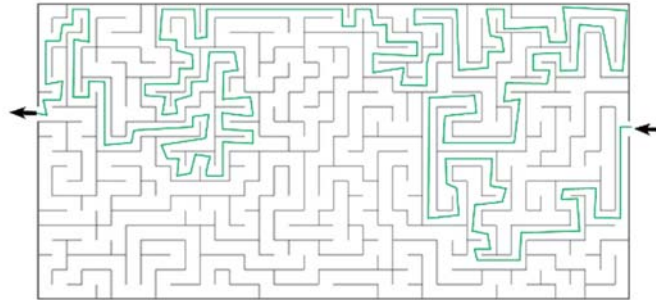


TIMELINE 13

In what year did Zechariah start prophesying? Answer: In the year 520 B.C. approximately.

PUZZLE ANSWERS 13

C	H	R	I	S	T	Z	J	G	N	I	T	S	A	F
Z	K	D	E	G	D	E	L	W	O	N	K	P	Z	Y
W	T	N	E	M	E	C	N	U	O	N	N	A	T	A
J	S	T	N	W	N	H	K	Z	P	W	G	I	E	N
E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	H	N
S	P	O	I	A	P	R	E	A	D	A	I	F	P	O
U	N	M	S	G	E	I	N	J	I	K	D	R	O	U
S	N	P	S	C	A	A	N	T	P	N	A	I	R	N
U	H	U	A	D	C	H	S	W	H	E	E	E	P	H
S	N	E	P	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	R	N	T	C
G	P	T	M	P	R	J	I	C	G	S	U	U	K	E
J	W	O	H	W	E	L	B	I	B	R	G	Z	P	
E	S	R	C	Z	N	N	M	E	N	T	S	E	W	K



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 13

(For older students)

- Do you really need to tell the truth even if the teacher punishes you for it? Obviously, the answer is yes, but try to talk about different situations when a teacher would scold them. For example, it is much better when the teacher scolds a child who did not learn to



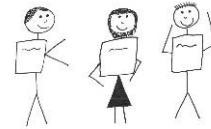
read, because this will also help the student. If the student lies, he will not have the help and will grow up without knowing how to read.

2. It is good to lie if it makes the other person feel good, no?
Talk about different situations and different kinds of lies. Discuss how flattery or incorrect instructions may make the other person feel good, but in the long run it may harm the other person.
3. Telling the truth is always easy, right?
NO, in many cases it is much easier to lie than to tell the truth. Zechariah would not have wanted to give bad prophecies, but he had to obey God and say exactly what God asked him to say to his people.

GAME 13

For this game, prepare papers with the names of the heroes from this curriculum, enough for each child. Place a hero paper on the back of each child without letting them see what it is. The children must investigate and guess which hero he is, following these rules:

- They cannot ask the same classmate more than 1 question.
- They can only ask 3 questions total.
- Questions must be answered with only 'yes' or 'no'.



Any child that guesses correctly can put the paper on their front.

ATTENDANCE 13

Give today's card to the children for attending class. Congratulate them and encourage them to come next week to earn another card so they can play the Heroes game! Today's card is:



Captivity

HOMEWORK 13

Several weeks ago, the assignment was to read the Bible every day. This is your chance again! Read the Bible every day this week at least for a few minutes. Don't worry if you miss a day but keep trying to read it daily and try to make it a habit. What is the best time of day for you to read? You can put the Bible by your bed or by your toys or somewhere that makes it easy to remember consistently. If you have the Bible on your mobile device, then tape a piece of paper somewhere to remind you, like by the door to your room. Don't make a promise, because we humans are bad at keeping promises. Simply read the Bible every day for the rest of your life.

Read

No assignment.





Teacher Book Unit 3

Heroes



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info@childrenareimportant.com
We are located in Mexico.
00-52-592-924-9041

