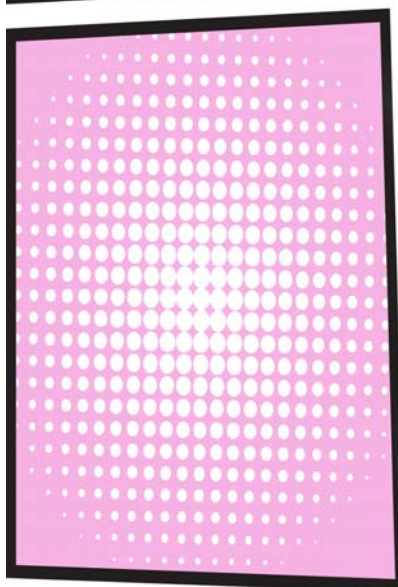


**F.A.I.T.H. TEAM
ELEMENTARY
TRAINING
MANUAL**

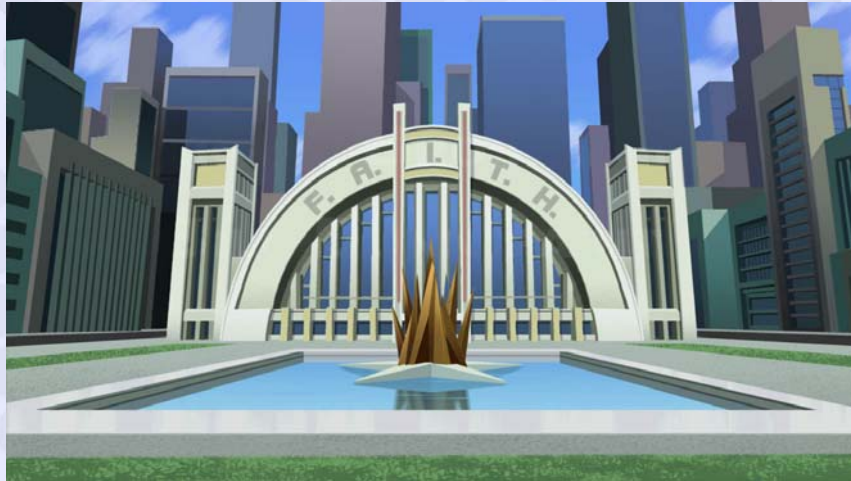


"The Lord has shown you what is good. Seek Justice. Love Mercy. And walk Humbly with your God"
Micah 6:8



F.A.I.T.H. TEAM TRAINING

WELCOME TO F.A.I.T.H. HQ



In our Great Hall of FAITH, five superheroes have assembled from the four corners of our world, and beyond. Their mission: To fight injustice, to right that which is wrong, and to train others to serve God!

Those words, steeped in legend, inspire our mission at Faith Fellowship's Awesome Institute for Training Heroes every day. And in this special week ahead, as our specially chosen F.A.I.T.H. agents, your job will be to train a new class of heroes to learn to use their powers to help God.

It might seem like a daunting task, but we are confident in your ability to complete the mission. And if you have any remaining doubts about your ability, look no further than this official training manual. It has everything you need to know to be successful this week – or ask your F.A.I.T.H. HQ directors for help and we'll be there to support you.

All of the lessons, games, crafts and schedule details are packed into the official training manual you now hold in your hands. It is divided into two major parts.

Part I contains the introduction you're reading right now. This part explains how the rest of the Training Manual is organized and repeats some of the key information presented at our initial meeting in March.

"The Lord has shown you what is good. Seek Justice.

INTRODUCTION & ORIENTATION

Part II contains the daily Bible lessons you will lead in your Briefing Room each day.

Some additional helpful material will be included and/or added to the manual as we go along, but the lesson plans are locked in and ready for your to deliver.

HOW TO READ THE LESSON PLANS

If you see something written in italics – (*Just like this. Arial, 12 pt., sometimes surrounded by parentheses.*) – then those are instructions to you, answers to questions, and generally helpful stuff you ought to know.

If you see something written in just plain, ordinary Arial, 12 pt. typeface exactly like this, then those are words that were written with the intent that you say them out loud to your Players. **Direct quotes from the Bible are given special treatment by appearing in bold just like this.**

Yup, the whole week is scripted for you. You don't have to ever worry about what to say in front of the kids. Of course, you are free to use your own words and make the lesson "your own." If you do make changes, please be sure to understand the lesson's intent and don't stray from it.

If the kids have questions, answer them as best you can and let the conversation go where it might, but be sure to bring the conversation back to the key phrase of the day. If you ever have any questions about the lessons, feel free to contact F.A.I.T.H. HQ director Becky Durrance, or the Chief, Kris Pakulak.

Each lesson is organized in a certain order. These are:

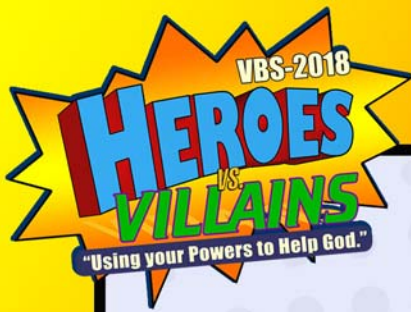


UTILITY BELT

Your daily list of supplies, including those we will provide and – on very rare occasions – those you need to scrounge up on your own. Each day you'll find your provided supplies in a "craft bag" that is color coded for the day. Need a reminder of what the day's color is? Just look at your lesson. It's pretty obvious what the daily color is!



Love Mercy. And walk Humbly with your God."



F.A.I.T.H. TEAM TRAINING



FLAME ON

This is the opening activity at the beginning of each lesson. It's the first thing you'll do when you arrive at your Briefing Room following the daily Opening Briefing at the F.A.I.T.H. HQ. This section sets up the Bible lesson that comes next.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

This is the meat of the daily Bible lesson. Take your time teaching this. Make sure you've read everything in advance and think about how you are going to teach this. This is where you will shine as a F.A.I.T.H. agent and help our heroes learn to use their super powers to help God.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Following the lesson, where for the most part you've asked your heroes to sit still for a few moments, now is time for a fun follow-up activity to reinforce the lesson you just taught. Some of these are Q & A based, while others involved a fun game. Be sure everyone participates and gets a chance to move around a bit.



I HAVE THE POWER

This is a final chance to make sure your heroes go home each day with the lesson in their heads, and the daily Bible verse in their hearts. For Elementary age kids this time will include a crazy "minute to win it" game. And for everyone it means one more fun thing to do before everyone returns to FAITH HQ for the Closing Briefing and a chance to sing everyone's favorite song "Yes to VBS." (So don't be late!)



"The Lord has shown you what is good. Seek Justice.

INTRODUCTION & ORIENTATION

DAILY LESSON SUMMARY

MONDAY

Gideon defeats the power of Fear.

(Gideon vs. the Midianites)

"BUT THE LORD SAID TO GIDEON, MAY PEACE BE WITH YOU! DO NOT BE AFRAID."
JUDGES 6:23

COURAGE!

GOD'S HEROES HAVE COURAGE

TUESDAY

Elijah defeats the power of False gods.

(Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal)

"LORD, ANSWER MY PRAYER. SHOW THESE PEOPLE THAT YOU, LORD, ARE GOD AND THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS BRINGING THEM BACK TO YOU."
1 KINGS 18:37-38

FAITH!

GOD'S HEROES HAVE FAITH

WEDNESDAY

Daniel defeats the power of Lies.

(Daniel vs. the Lions)

"DANIEL'S GOD IS THE LIVING GOD. HE LIVES FOREVER. HIS KINGDOM WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED. HIS RULE WILL NEVER END."
DANIEL 6:26

TRUST!

GOD'S HEROES TRUST IN HIM

THURSDAY

Jesus defeats the power of Temptation.

(Jesus vs. Satan)

"JESUS SAID TO THE DEVIL, 'GO AWAY FROM ME, SATAN! IT IS WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPTURES, 'YOU MUST WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD. SERVE ONLY HIM.'"
MATTHEW 4:10

BELIEVE!

GOD'S HEROES BELIEVE

FRIDAY

David defeats the power of a Bully.

(David vs. Goliath)

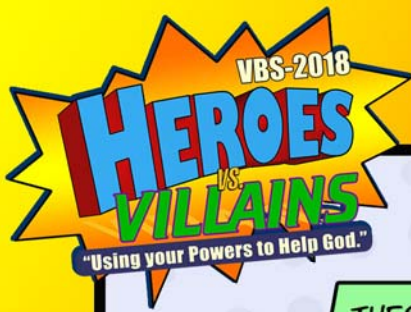
"THIS DAY THE LORD WILL DELIVER YOU INTO MY HANDS, AND I'LL STRIKE YOU DOWN."
1 SAMUEL 17:46

STRONG!

GOD'S HEROES ARE STRONG

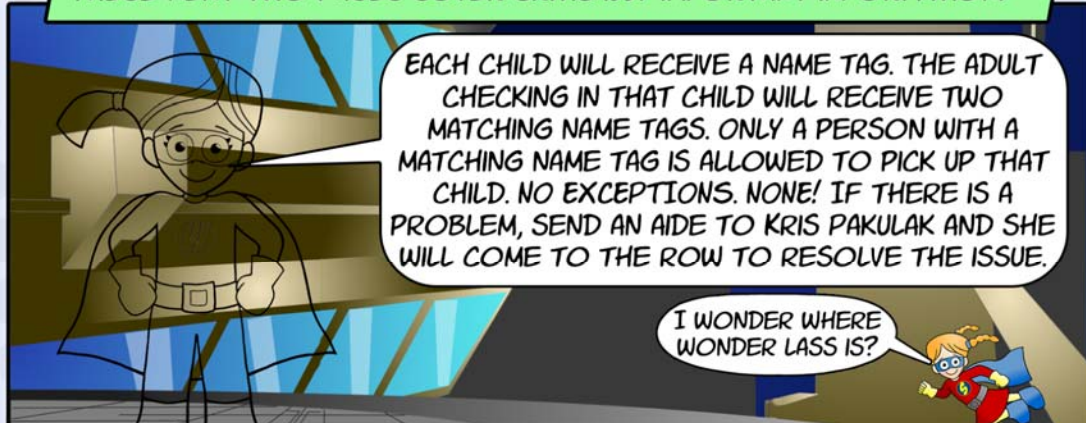


Love Mercy. And walk Humbly with your God."



F.A.I.T.H. TEAM TRAINING

THESE NEXT TWO PAGES COVER CRITICALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!



EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE A NAME TAG. THE ADULT CHECKING IN THAT CHILD WILL RECEIVE TWO MATCHING NAME TAGS. ONLY A PERSON WITH A MATCHING NAME TAG IS ALLOWED TO PICK UP THAT CHILD. NO EXCEPTIONS. NONE! IF THERE IS A PROBLEM, SEND AN AIDE TO KRIS PAKULAK AND SHE WILL COME TO THE ROW TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

OUR OFFICIAL VBS-2018 NAME TAGS ARE COLOR-CODED TO MAKE IT EASIER TO TELL WHO IS WHO AT A GLANCE.



HEROES



ADULTS



YOUTH



DIRECTORS



PLEASE KEEP YOUR CLASSROOM DOOR LOCKED AT ALL TIMES. A SECURITY TEAM WILL BE MONITORING THE HALLS AND WILL CHECK FOR LOCKED DOORS.



DO NOT BE ALARMED IF YOU SEE A BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY WALKING THE PROPERTY DURING VBS. THEY ARE HERE AT OUR REQUEST.

"The Lord has shown you what is good. Seek Justice.

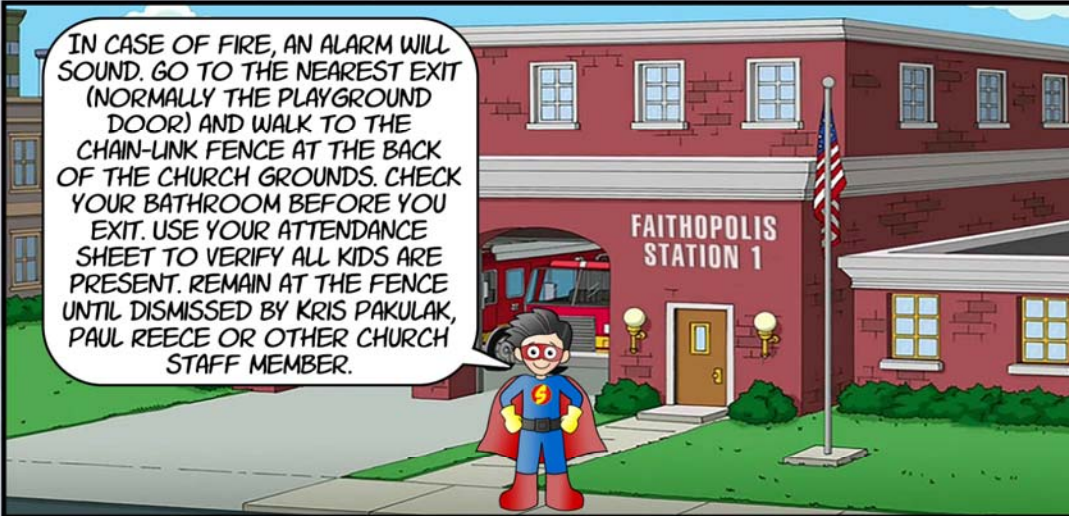
INTRODUCTION & ORIENTATION

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS ALWAYS TO KEEP OUR HEROES SAFE. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS:

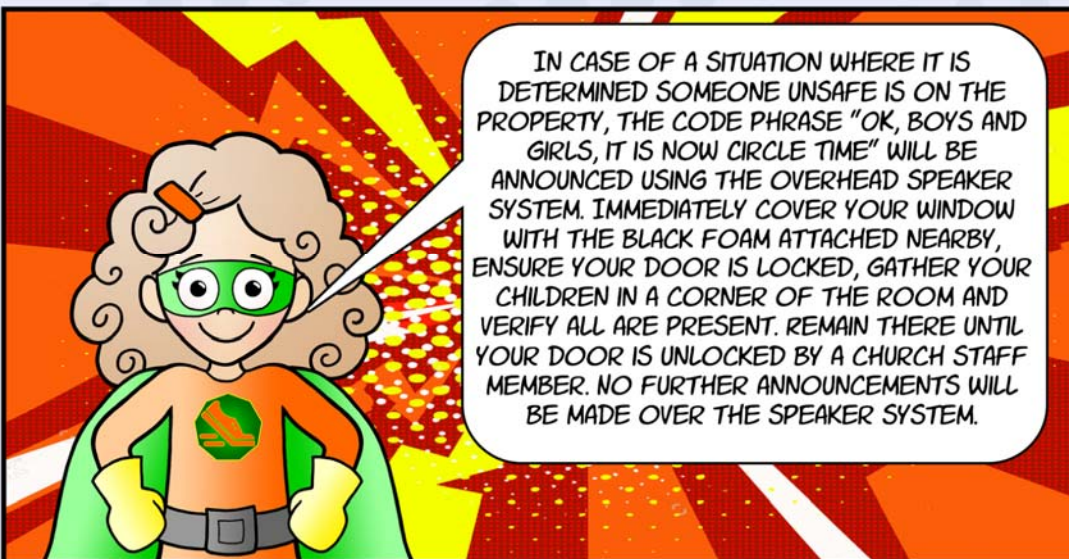


EACH ROOM HAS AN ATTENDANCE SHEET. THIS MUST STAY WITH YOUR CLASS WHEREVER THEY GO. THIS SHEET WILL BE USED TO ENSURE YOU CAN ACCOUNT FOR ALL CHILDREN IN ANY SITUATION.

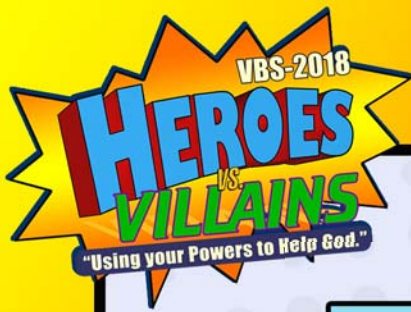
IN CASE OF FIRE, AN ALARM WILL SOUND. GO TO THE NEAREST EXIT (NORMALLY THE PLAYGROUND DOOR) AND WALK TO THE CHAIN-LINK FENCE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH GROUNDS. CHECK YOUR BATHROOM BEFORE YOU EXIT. USE YOUR ATTENDANCE SHEET TO VERIFY ALL KIDS ARE PRESENT. REMAIN AT THE FENCE UNTIL DISMISSED BY KRIS PAKULAK, PAUL REECE OR OTHER CHURCH STAFF MEMBER.



IN CASE OF A SITUATION WHERE IT IS DETERMINED SOMEONE UNSAFE IS ON THE PROPERTY, THE CODE PHRASE "OK, BOYS AND GIRLS, IT IS NOW CIRCLE TIME" WILL BE ANNOUNCED USING THE OVERHEAD SPEAKER SYSTEM. IMMEDIATELY COVER YOUR WINDOW WITH THE BLACK FOAM ATTACHED NEARBY, ENSURE YOUR DOOR IS LOCKED, GATHER YOUR CHILDREN IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM AND VERIFY ALL ARE PRESENT. REMAIN THERE UNTIL YOUR DOOR IS UNLOCKED BY A CHURCH STAFF MEMBER. NO FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE OVER THE SPEAKER SYSTEM.



Love Mercy. And walk Humbly with your God."



F.A.I.T.H. TEAM TRAINING



THROUGHOUT THESE LESSONS YOU WILL BE READING TEXT TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE BIBLE. THIS MEANS YOU WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH NAMES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT YOU MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH AND DON'T KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE. SURE, YOU COULD MAKE SOMETHING UP — MOST OF THESE WORDS ARE SAID ONLY ONCE AND YOUR HEROES WILL HARDLY KNOW THE DIFFERENCE — BUT WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF YOU KNEW THE PROPER WAY TO SAY THEM. WE HOPE THIS GUIDE IS HELPFUL.



WAIT!!! WHO IS THIS DAMSEL CLAD IN PURPLE THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE? COULD IT BE A SECRET SUPER HERO THAT NO ONE WILL LEARN ABOUT UNTIL FRIDAY NIGHT OF VBS? NAH. THAT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THE ANSWER.

"The Lord has shown you what is good. Seek Justice.

INTRODUCTION & ORIENTATION

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Abednego	uh-BEHD-nee-go	Hill of Moreh	MO-reh
Abel Meholah	AY-b'l-mee-HO-lah	Jehoiakim	Gee-HOI-uh-kihm
Abiezer	ay-bai-EHZ-er	Jerub-Baal	yer-OOB BAY-uhl
Abiezrite	ay-bai-EHZ-rait	Jezreel	JEHZ-reel
Abinadab	uh-BIHN-uh-dab	Joash	JO-ash
Amalek	AM-uh-lehk	Manasseh	man-AS-eh
Amalekites	AM-uh-luh-kaits	Medes	meedz
Asher	ASH-er	Meshach	MEE-shak
Asherah	ASH-er-uh	Midianites	MIH-dih-uhn-ait
Ashpenaz	ASH-pee-naz	Mishael	MIHSH-ay-ehl
Azariah	az-uh-RAI-uh	Moabites	MO-ab-ait
Baal	BAY-uhl	Nebuchadnezzar	neh-byoo-kuhd-NEHZ-er
Beth Barah	Beth Bah RAH	Naphtali	NAF-tuh-lai
Beth Shittah	Beth SHI tuh	Ophrah	OF-ruh
Beltshazzar	behl-SHAZ-er	Oreb	OH- reb
Darius	duh-RAI-uhs	Purah	POO-rah
Edomites	EE-duhm-aits	Shadrach	SHAY-drak
Eliab	ee-LAI-ab	Shammah	SHAM-uh
Ephraim	EE-fray-ihm	Shinar	SHAI-nahr
Ephrathite	EHF-ruh-thait	Tabbath	tab-BATH
Gath	GATH	Zebulun	ZEH-byoo-luhn
Hananiah	han-uh-NAI-uh	Zeeb	zeh-ABE
Harod's Spring	HEHR-uhd	Zererah	ZEE-ruh



Love Mercy. And walk Humbly with your God."



DAILY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 AM: Agents check in to their Briefing Room, head to F.A.I.T.H. HQ no later than 8:45.
- 8:44: Mission Specialists in place at F.A.I.T.H. HQ.
- 8:45: Doors open to F.A.I.T.H. HQ.
- 9:00 – 9:30: Opening Hero Team Activities at F.A.I.T.H. HQ.
- 9:30 – 10:15: Briefing Room Time. (45 minutes)
- 10:00: Sidekicks to The Mess to pick up snack.
- 10:15 – 11:15: Organized Hero Team Activities.
 Recreation time at Field Ops. (M, T, W, Th)
 Creative open for crafts. (T, W, Th)
 Water Day at Field Ops. (F)
 (Specific rotation times for daily hero team activities will be shared later.)
- NOTE: Expect extra time in your Briefing Room on Monday and Friday.**
- 11:15 – 11:35: Briefing Room Time. (20 minutes)
- 11:40: Closing Team Activities at F.A.I.T.H. HQ.
- 12:00: Heroes dismissed to parents.
- 12:15: Agents return to Briefing Rooms.
- 12:30: Sidekicks check out with their Agents.
- 2:00: All news items due for the daily Heroes Herald.
- Text: 321-698-0591 Email: vbs2018@aol.com

6:30 PM FRIDAY ONLY
Mission Success Celebration

VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

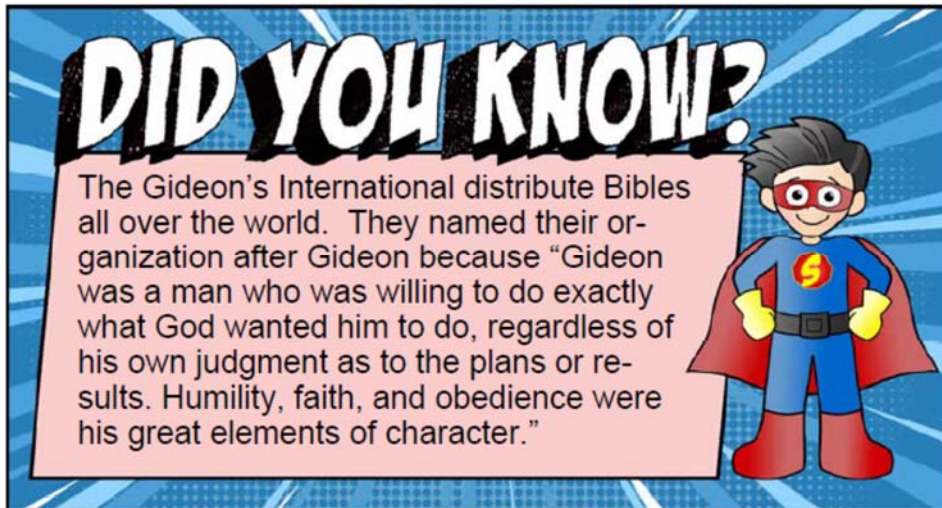
"Using your Powers to Help God."

MONDAY

"But the Lord said to Gideon, May peace be with you! Do not be afraid." Judges 6:23



GOD'S HEROES HAVE COURAGE



UTILITY BELT

Are You Afraid Of activity cards

Pencils

Feathers, one per hero

Set of scripture verse cards, one set for each team.

You might want to set up the Feather, Feather game while the heroes are at recreation.

PLAN AHEAD. You will be doing a skit tomorrow that has four parts. The script is included in the lesson plan and four extra copies are included in your binder. Choose today who will be your actors and hand them a copy of the script. The four actors might want to practice tomorrow morning before VBS begins. Simple costumes would be fun too if your actors can help put that together.

Please keep in mind that you will be playing a minute-to-win-it game each day in groups. There may be other opportunities to use your groups throughout the week. You will be dividing your classroom into four groups with 3-5 players in each group. You will be adding up the group scores throughout the week. Make sure you keep score of which team wins the closing game every day! Perhaps you can make a simple scoreboard and put it up somewhere. The heroes love this friendly competition. However, you will discover that you may need to revise your groups based on individual personalities. Tally sheets are provided for you each day in the curriculum.





FLAME ON

After you have welcomed your heroes and introduced yourself and your Sidekicks and Mission Specialists, hand out the “I Am Afraid Of...” sheets found in your Monday Craft Bag. Give each hero a pencil.

Today we’re going to play a game that will help us all get to know each other a little better. First, I’m going to read a statement and I want you to put a check by the things you are afraid of. Then, you’re going to go around the room and try to find as many people as possible who are afraid of the same things that you find scary. When you find someone who agrees with you, put a check beside the number.

For example, if you are afraid of snakes, and you find someone else who is afraid of snakes, put a check mark beside the number. You don’t have to write down the person’s name, just put a check beside the statement. Keep moving around until you find as many people as possible who agree with you. When I say stop, I want you to return to your seats.

Are you ready? First, we’re going to find out what you are afraid of. Put a checkmark beside the statement that says what you are afraid of. Remember that everyone is afraid of something.

Okay, here’s your first one. *Continue to read the statements.*

1. I am afraid of snakes and spiders.
2. I am afraid of hurricanes and tornadoes.
3. I am afraid of being home alone.
4. I am afraid of a teacher or adult who gets angry.
5. I am afraid of failing a math or reading test.
6. I am afraid of being bullied or being made fun of.
7. I am afraid of getting sick and dying.
8. I am afraid of not having friends.
9. I am afraid of scary movies or TV shows.
10. I am afraid of sharks and jellyfish.



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- I am afraid of scary movies or TV shows.
- I am afraid of sharks and jellyfish.



Okay, has everyone marked their sheets? Now, everyone stand up and get ready to circulate the room and ask these same questions to your friends. I'm going to give you about ten minutes. Ready, set, go!

While the heroes are circulating, look around and see if there are any heroes having difficulties with the activity. They can ask you the same questions if they are reluctant to ask a peer. I would time them for about 7 minutes which will give them time to complete the activity and, then, settle back down.

Okay, everyone, return to your seat. How many of you found that other people are afraid of the same things you're afraid of? We're all afraid of something.

In today's lesson we're going to learn about a Bible superhero named Gideon who was also afraid. We're going to find out how God helped Gideon overcome his fears.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

We're going to begin our Bible study. Everyday we'll open in prayer.

Dear Lord
 Thank you for this new day
 Thank you for VBS
 Thank you for the teachers, children and helpers
 Thank you for the things we will learn
 Thank you for the fun we will have together
 Amen

In our Bible lesson today, we're going to talk about two groups of people, the Midianites and the Israelites. The Israelites were God's chosen people. Some of you might remember the story of the time when Moses parted the Red Sea and freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.

God gave the Israelites a beautiful place to live called the Promised Land. God had kept every promise He ever made to the Israelites. He fought for them and blessed them more than any people had ever been blessed. All that God asked of them was for them to obey Him and worship Him alone.

God made an if-then promise to His people. God said if they followed Him, then He would bless them and fight for them. However, God also said that if the Israelites did not follow Him, then He would not bless them, and He would not fight their enemies for them. God always keeps His promises!

So, this is where we begin our story. It did not take long for the Israelites to forget about



God's goodness and begin worshipping false gods. So, God allowed the Midianites to conquer the Israelites land. So what kind of people were the Midianites?

(You've asked a question, so some kids may want to answer. You can decide how to handle this but move on quickly. This is could happen every time you ask a question, even when its meant to be a rhetorical question or one you answer in the next sentence.)

The Midianites were very powerful and they treated the Israelites very badly. The Israelites even tried to hide from the Midianites in caves and clefts in the mountains. The Bible tells us that every year the Israelites planted their crops and, then, the Midianites and other tribes came and stole all of the crops. There were so many Midianites that no one could even count them.

The Bible describes the people like a swarm of locusts because they ravaged everything in their path. They killed the Israelites' animals. They destroyed nearly everything. It was difficult for the Israelites to even survive. There was barely any food left for them to eat and very few animals to work the land.

Why do you think God allowed the Midianites to treat the Israelites so badly?

(Allow answers and brief discussion.)

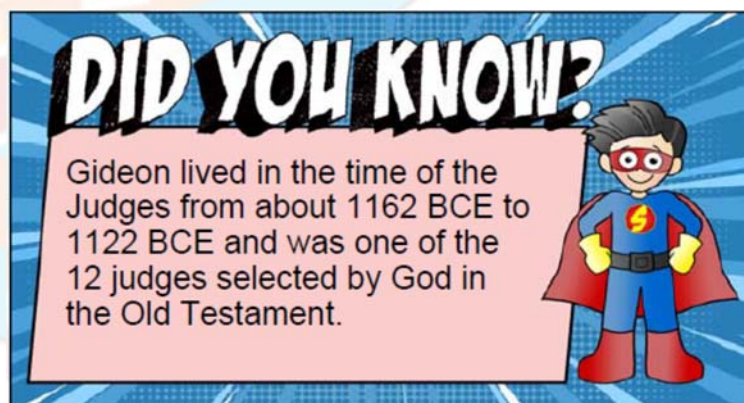
Who can tell me what the Israelites will do next?

(The Israelites will cry out to the Lord.)

Just as God had warned them, He stopped fighting for them, and He allowed them to be conquered and be mistreated. After the people had been starving for seven years, the people cried out to God. In His mercy and goodness, He sent them a rescuer, also called a judge.

The judge that God sent this time was a man named Gideon. Gideon lived a long time ago. He lived about 1000 years before Jesus was born. God chose Gideon to be one of his judges. A judge back in those days was chosen to be a leader who would help rescue God's people from very bad people who tried to harm them. So, Gideon was God's choice to rescue the Israelites.

Let's read the Bible story in Judges. Is Judges in the Old Testament or New Testament?
(Old Testament)



Read Judges 6. You can either read from your Bible or just read from the text. These scriptures verses are from the Message version of the Bible.

Yet again the People of Israel went back to doing evil in God's sight. God put them under the domination of Midian for seven years. Midian overpowered Israel. Because of Midian, the People of Israel made for themselves hideouts in the mountains—caves and forts.

When Israel planted its crops, Midian and Amalek, the easterners, would invade them, camp in their fields, and destroy their crops all the way down to Gaza. They left nothing for them to live on, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. Bringing their cattle and tents, they came in and took over, like an invasion of locusts. And their camels—past counting! They marched in and devastated the country.

The People of Israel, reduced to grinding poverty by Midian, cried out to God for help. One time when the People of Israel had cried out to God because of Midian, God sent them a prophet with this message: "God, the God of Israel, says, 'I delivered you from Egypt, I freed you from a life of slavery; I rescued you from Egypt's brutality and then from every oppressor. I pushed them out of your way and gave you their land.' And I said to you, 'I am God, your God. Don't for a minute be afraid of the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living.' But you didn't listen to me."

What do you think the Israelites did this time?

(Allow answers and brief discussion.)

The Israelites cried out to God for help. God always hears the prayers of His people! God sent a judge to remind the Israelites about the amazing things He had done for them by bringing them out of Egypt and conquering their enemies in Canaan. The judge also reminded them that they did not listen to God's warning about worshipping false gods. The judge's name was Gideon.

One day the angel of God came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, whose son Gideon was threshing wheat in the winepress, out of sight of the Midianites.

The Bible tells us that Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress. Threshing wheat is what farmers do to separate the good wheat from the parts of the plant that you can't eat, called chaff. Normally, the separating was done outside. The farmer would actually toss the wheat and chaff into the air, and the wind would blow the chaff away. But because the Midianites devoured everything the Israelites had, Gideon was trying to hide his wheat from them.

The angel of God appeared to him and said, "God is with you, O mighty warrior!"

Gideon replied, "With me, my master? If God is with us, why has all this happened to



us? Where are all the miracle-wonders our parents and grandparents told us about, telling us, ‘Didn’t God deliver us from Egypt?’ The fact is, God has nothing to do with us—he has turned us over to Midian.”

Why did God let the Midianites do such bad things to the Israelites? God did not leave the Israelites. The Israelites turned their backs on God.

But God faced him directly: “Go in this strength that is yours. Save Israel from Midian. Haven’t I just sent you?” Gideon said to him, “Me, my master? How and with what could I ever save Israel? Look at me. My clan’s the weakest in Manasseh and I’m the runt of the litter.”

This seems like a strange thing to call Gideon. There is Gideon, hiding out in a wine cellar to protect a little bit of grain. He didn’t look like a mighty warrior at this point! And we will see in a moment that Gideon didn’t think he was a mighty warrior either. As scared as Gideon was, it was God’s plan that Gideon would become a mighty warrior. And because it was God’s plan, it was already as good as done.

God said to him, “I’ll be with you. Believe me, you’ll defeat Midian as one man.” Gideon said, “If you’re serious about this, do me a favor: Give me a sign to back up what you’re telling me. Don’t leave until I come back and bring you my gift.”

He said, “I’ll wait till you get back.”

Gideon went and prepared a young goat and a huge amount of unraised bread (he used over half a bushel of flour!). He put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot and took them back under the shade of the oak tree for a sacred meal.

The angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and unraised bread, place them on that rock, and pour the broth on them.” Gideon did it.

The angel of God stretched out the tip of the stick he was holding and touched the meat and the bread. Fire broke out of the rock and burned up the meat and bread while the angel of God slipped away out of sight. And Gideon knew it was the angel of God!

Gideon said, “Oh no! Master, God! I have seen the angel of God face-to-face!”

Gideon is still really afraid. He is probably wondering, Here I am the weakest person in my family. Lord, you must have the wrong person!

But God reassured him, “Easy now. Don’t panic. You won’t die.”

Then Gideon built an altar there to God and named it “God’s Peace.” It’s still called that at Ophrah of Abiezer.

That night this happened. God said to him, “Take your father’s best seven-year-old bull, the prime one. Tear down your father’s Baal altar and chop down the Asherah fer-



tility pole beside it. Then build an altar to God, your God, on the top of this hill. Take the prime bull and present it as a Whole-Burnt-Offering, using firewood from the Asherah pole that you cut down.”

Gideon selected ten men from his servants and did exactly what God had told him. But because of his family and the people in the neighborhood, he was afraid to do it openly, so he did it that night.

Early in the morning, the people in town were shocked to find Baal’s altar torn down, the Asherah pole beside it chopped down, and the prime bull burning away on the altar that had been built.

They kept asking, “Who did this?” They asked questions and more questions, and then the answer: “Gideon son of Joash did it.”

The men of the town demanded of Joash: “Bring out your son! He must die! Why, he tore down the Baal altar and chopped down the Asherah tree!”

But Joash stood up to the crowd pressing in on him, “Are you going to fight Baal’s battles for him? Are you going to save him? Anyone who takes Baal’s side will be dead by morning. If Baal is a god in fact, let him fight his own battles and defend his own altar.”

They nicknamed Gideon that day Jerub-Baal because after he had torn down the Baal altar, he had said, “Let Baal fight his own battles.”

All the Midianites and Amalekites (the easterners) got together, crossed the river, and made camp in the Valley of Jezreel. God’s Spirit came over Gideon. He blew his ram’s horn trumpet and the Abiezrites came out, ready to follow him. He dispatched messengers all through Manasseh, calling them to the battle; also to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. They all came.

Gideon said to God, “If this is right, if you are using me to save Israel as you’ve said, then look: I’m placing a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If dew is on the fleece only, but the floor is dry, then I know that you will use me to save Israel, as you said.” That’s what happened. When he got up early the next morning, he wrung out the fleece—enough dew to fill a bowl with water!

Well, Gideon is still not sure that God is directing him to lead the army. So, he asked God for one more sign.

Then Gideon said to God, “Don’t be impatient with me, but let me say one more thing. I want to try another time with the fleece. But this time let the fleece stay dry, while the dew drenches the ground.” God made it happen that very night. Only the fleece was dry while the ground was wet with dew.

Gideon got up early the next morning, all his troops right there with him. They set up camp at Harod’s Spring. The camp of Midian was in the plain, north of them near the



Hill of Moreh.

God said to Gideon, “You have too large an army with you. I can’t turn Midian over to them like this—they’ll take all the credit, saying, ‘I did it all myself,’ and forget about me. Make a public announcement: ‘Anyone afraid, anyone who has any qualms at all, may leave Mount Gilead now and go home.’” Twenty-two companies headed for home. That’s about Ten companies that were left.

Notice why God sent some men away. God did not want the Israelites bragging that they won the battle because they were so strong. God wanted the praise for winning the battle to go to Him!

Gideon had about 32,000 men with him. 22,000 men left Gideon. Only 10,000 stayed. Can you imagine this? All together, over 135,000 enemy soldiers were in the middle of the Israelites’ territory. How would you feel if you were a soldier in Gideon’s army now? Do you think that Gideon was afraid now?

God said to Gideon: “There are still too many. Take them down to the stream and I’ll make a final cut. When I say, ‘This one goes with you,’ he’ll go. When I say, ‘This one doesn’t go,’ he won’t go.” So Gideon took the troops down to the stream.

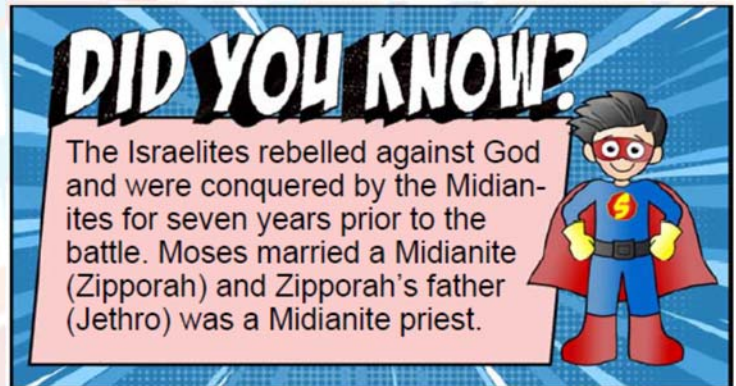
God said to Gideon: “Everyone who laps with his tongue, the way a dog laps, set on one side. And everyone who kneels to drink, drinking with his face to the water, set to the other side.” Three hundred lapped with their tongues from their cupped hands. All the rest knelt to drink.

God said to Gideon: “I’ll use the three hundred men who lapped at the stream to save you and give Midian into your hands. All the rest may go home.”

Do you think this was a funny way for God to choose the men who would stay and fight? Sometimes God has a great sense of humor! WOW! Now, all but 300 men were sent away! Let’s see, that leaves only 300 men against an army of 135,000 men!

After Gideon took all their provisions and trumpets, he sent all the Israelites home. He took up his position with the three hundred. The camp of Midian stretched out below him in the valley.

That night, God told Gideon: “Get up and go down to the camp. I’ve given it to you. If you have any doubts about going down, go down with Purah your armor bearer; when you hear what they’re saying, you’ll be bold and confident.” He and his armor bearer Purah went down near the place where sentries were posted. Midian and Amalek, all the easterners, were spread out on the plain like a swarm of locusts. And their camels!



Past counting, like grains of sand on the seashore!

Gideon arrived just in time to hear a man tell his friend a dream. He said, "I had this dream: A loaf of barley bread tumbled into the Midianite camp. It came to the tent and hit it so hard it collapsed. The tent fell!"

His friend said, "This has to be the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite! God has turned Midian—the whole camp!—over to him."

When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he went to his knees before God in prayer. Then he went back to the Israelite camp and said, "Get up and get going! God has just given us the Midianite army!"

He divided the three hundred men into three companies. He gave each man a trumpet and an empty jar, with a torch in the jar. He said, "Watch me and do what I do. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly what I do. When I and those with me blow the trumpets, you also, all around the camp, blow your trumpets and shout, 'For God and for Gideon!'"

Gideon and his hundred men got to the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after the sentries had been posted. They blew the trumpets, at the same time smashing the jars they carried. All three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands, ready to blow, and shouted, "A sword for God and for Gideon!" They were stationed all around the camp, each man at his post. The whole Midianite camp jumped to its feet. They yelled and fled. When the three hundred blew the trumpets, God aimed each Midianite's sword against his companion, all over the camp. They ran for their lives—to Beth Shittah, toward Zererah, to the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath.

The Midianite army was frightened and startled at the sudden sound and light piercing the night sky. In their confusion, they began fighting each other. Those who were left ran away from the valley.

Gideon called for the other Israelite tribes to chase after the soldiers who had fled. All of the Midianite soldiers and their leaders were tracked down and killed. The Midianite people never tried to attack the Israelites again.

The Israelites were so happy with Gideon that they wanted him to become their king, but Gideon refused.

Israelites rallied from Naphtali, from Asher, and from all over Manasseh. They had Midian on the run.

Gideon then sent messengers through all the hill country of Ephraim, urging them, "Come down against Midian! Capture the fords of the Jordan at Beth Barah."



So all the men of Ephraim rallied and captured the fords of the Jordan at Beth Barah. They also captured the two Midianite commanders Oreb (who was called Raven) and Zeeb (whose name means Wolf). They killed Oreb at Raven Rock; Zeeb, they killed at Wolf Winepress. And they pressed the pursuit of Midian.

Gideon lived for 40 more years after the Midianite battle. The Bible says there was peace during those 40 years. Who can guess what happened as soon as Gideon died?

(The Israelites sinned and followed false gods.)

Many times, in the Bible, we see that God uses those who are weak or those who are in an impossible situation to show His power and might. As we saw with Gideon, God specifically chose the weakest person in the weakest tribe to lead His people into battle.

Then, we saw that God decreased the size of the army, and then decreased it again, until there were just a handful of men up against a sea of warriors. At the time, anyone watching all of this would have shaken their head and said, "There is NO way Gideon's side even stands a chance." But God showed that nothing is too difficult for Him. It was all about God's power, not Gideon's.

Even though Gideon was really afraid, God was with him every step of the way. Can you imagine? God turned Gideon, who was a man with a lot of fears, into a brave man of God. God can turn you into a Superhero for Him too! Even though we have fears, God can use us to win battles.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Select teams of three to five players per team. You will keep these teams for the remainder of the week. If you see that the teams aren't working well together, switch them up for tomorrow. Feel free to let the teams name themselves if they want.

OK everyone, now we are going to divide our class into small groups to play a game. Every day we're going to play a game and you will be playing with this same group. We're going to keep score every day and at the end of the week, the group with the most points will win a prize. Listen while I divide you into groups.

(At this point divide the class up into groups.)

OK, let's get into our groups.

Let's review our story. For every correct answer your team, will get a point. We'll add up all of the points and, at the end of the week, the team that gets the most points will get a prize. Your whole team must stand up when you know the answer. If you shout out the answer, your team will lose a point. You must wait to be called on.



(Make sure you are carefully watching who stands up first. Have your aides and sidekicks watching to help you. Correct answers below are in bold face.)

Who was making things difficult for the Israelites?

- A) Edomites
- B) Moabites
- C) Midianites**

What was Gideon doing when a visitor appeared?

- A) Threshing wheat**
- B) Washing his clothes
- C) Sleeping

What sign did Gideon ask for?

- A) Send a dove with an olive leaf
- B) Sun to stand still
- C) Wool wet with dew/ground dry**

When did Gideon destroy the altar to Baal at his father's house?

- A) Morning
- B) Night**
- C) Never

How many men did God send with Gideon?

- A) 300**
- B) 22,000
- C) 500

What weapons did Gideon and his men take to attack the Midianites?

- A) Swords/shields
- B) Trumpets/jars**
- C) Bow/arrows

Where did many of the people of Israel flee to escape their enemies?

- A) In caves in the wilderness**
- B) The big cities.



When an angel told Gideon that God had chosen him to deliver Israel, Gideon was very pleased.

- A) True
- B) False.**

God helped Gideon to increase the size of his army.

- A) True
- B) False.**

When did Gideon's army put their plan into action?

- A) In the middle of the day
- B) In the middle of the night.**

The Midianites were ready for Gideon's army and fought back hard.

- A) True
- B) False**

The Lord gave Gideon a tremendous victory because he believed in God enough to let Him do it

- A) True**
- B) False.



I HAVE THE POWER

Who's up for a Minute-to-win-it game?

Today's game is called "Feather, Feather." How strong is a feather? How many of you think you can use a feather to win a game?

A feather is laid on the floor at one end of the playing arena. The contestant has to blow the feather, progressing on his hands and knees as he blows the feather to the goal line (and back if you want to make it really tough!) Tape one part of the scripture verse to the floor. When they reach the card, they pick it up and run back to the group and the next person goes until all cards are gathered. Then, the group puts the verse together First to get it all done wins.



Read the directions to the heroes.

Here's how to play the game.

Everyone gets a feather.

Put your feather on the floor.

You must get on your hands and knees and blow the feather from this point, (a predetermined point on the carpet) to this line (a predetermined point on the carpet).

Once you have crossed the line with your feather you must pick up a part of the scripture verse and run back to your team.

Then, the next person from your team blows his/her feather across the line and picks up another part of the verse.

When all of the parts of the verse have been retrieved, your team must put the verse in the correct order.

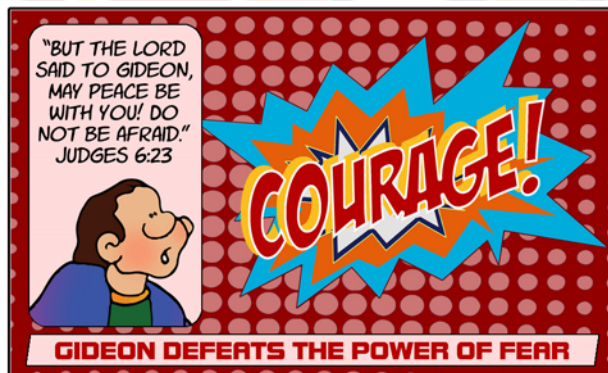
When this has been completed, the whole team stands up and loudly repeats the verse.

The team who wins, gets the points for the day.

You can repeat this game or have the entire class recite the verse until it's time to go to F.A.I.T.H. HQ. by 11:40 a.m. so your heroes can sing "Yes to VBS!"

BIG REMINDER ABOUT THE BRIEFING ROOM SKIT TOMORROW. HAVE FOUR PARTS ASSIGNED TO YOUR AIDES/SIDEKICKS, COSTUMES FIGURED OUT, SCRIPTS HAND-ED OUT. FOUR COPIES OF THE SCRIPT ARE IN YOUR BINDER AT THE END OF TUESDAY'S LESSON.

BUT THE	LORD SAID
TO GIDEON,	MAY PEACE
BE WITH YOU!	DO NOT
BE AFRAID.	JUDGES 6:23



TEAM	TODAY'S POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



NOTES



VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

TUESDAY


"Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that you, Lord, are God and that you are the one who is bringing them back to you."
1 Kings 18:37-38



GOD'S HEROES HAVE FAITH

DID YOU KNOW?

Elijah, a prophet of God whose name means “my God is the Lord,” came from Tishbeh in Gilead, but nothing is known of his family or birth. He was born in the 800’s BC. Elijah never even died. He was whisked up into Heaven in a fiery chariot by a whirlwind. (2 Kings 2:11).




UTILITY BELT

Costumes for Ahab, Obadiah and Elijah

Four copies of the Scripts for Play

Blank 8 1/2” by 11” paper

Pencils/markers

4 rolls of tape, one per group

Picture of the idol

Rubber bands, at least one per student

Plastic cups for stacking, 24 per class with parts of the scripture verse taped to the inside



FLAME ON

How many of you love to play video games? How many of you have a favorite TV show? Now, how of you love to play sports? How about go to Disney or Universal?



Today, we're going to hand out pieces of paper. I want you to write in big letters all of the things that you love to do in your spare time. Each of you will get two or three pieces of blank paper. If I were going to make a list of my favorite things to do, I would include _____ (tell them 3 or 4 things you love to do.)

You'll have about 3 minutes to write down you answers.

When everyone has competed the task, split the class into your groups from yesterday.

Now, let's get into our groups from yesterday.

Show the class the picture of the idol.

How many of you would worship this? (allow the kids time to respond)

Of course, we would never worship an idol that looks like this. But do we worship other things?

What is your definition of an idol?

Even though we don't usually worship carved out idols like the one in this picture, we can have things that are more important to us than God.

Today we're going to make our own version of an idol. I want you to take all of the pieces of paper where you wrote down the things you love to do and make an idol out of them.

Here's the fun part. You're going to make an idol out of one of the people in your group. Here's some tape. You're going to tape the pieces of paper to the selected person in your group and make your person look like an idol. After you "make" the idol be sure and give your idol a name. You can name it anything you like as long as it is appropriate.

Ok? Get busy!

Allow 5 minutes for the kids to make the idol.

Okay! Time's up! Go around each group and have them tell a little bit about their idol.

Everyone return to his/her seat.



GOD'S HEROES HAVE FAITH

There are things in our lives that consume our thoughts because we think those things will make us truly happy. If we have the newest video game we will be happy, or, if the coolest kid in our school is our friend, we will be happy. If everyone thinks we wear the newest clothes, we're happy. If we have the most friends and everyone likes us, we will be happy. If we are really awesome at sports, we are happy. If we always make the best grades, we're really happy. Sometimes, we think these things will make us happy forever.

You see things we like a lot, or even, love, are not always bad things. There's nothing wrong with playing sports, playing video games or wearing nice clothes. There's also nothing wrong with having special friends or making good grades in school. What is wrong is when we turn these things into the most important things in our lives. If we have this or that or if that person likes us, we will be happy.

When we choose to do other things with our time more than we choose spending time doing things for God, then, we are making idols. People choose to worship idols in their hearts over God. We can all make the mistake of worshipping idols because an idol can be anything that we love more than God.

Today we're going to learn about the problems that idols can cause people. In our story, the Israelites decided that worshipping other idols and forgetting about God's laws were more important to them.

God knew that the children of Israel would turn to idols just like he knows you and I often do the same thing.

Today we're going to study about a man named Elijah who became a superhero of God. The idol in our story today is named Baal.

We're going to learn how Elijah used his great faith in God to defeat the prophets of the idol, Baal.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

Today's lesson is long so you may need to teach it in two sessions. This Bible lesson takes about 10 – 15 minutes minimum to teach. There is a possible break area noted if you need to divide the lesson.

Let's open in prayer.

Dear Lord,
Thank you for this new day
Thank you for VBS
Thank you for the teachers, children and helpers
Thank you for the things we will learn



Thank you for the fun we will have together
Amen

Elijah was a prophet of God. Whenever God had a special message to give to his people, the Israelites, He would tell the message to Elijah and then Elijah would tell the Israelites. Today, we are going to hear about a time when the Israelites forgot that they should only serve God. Because of the Israelites sin, God did not send rain for over three years.

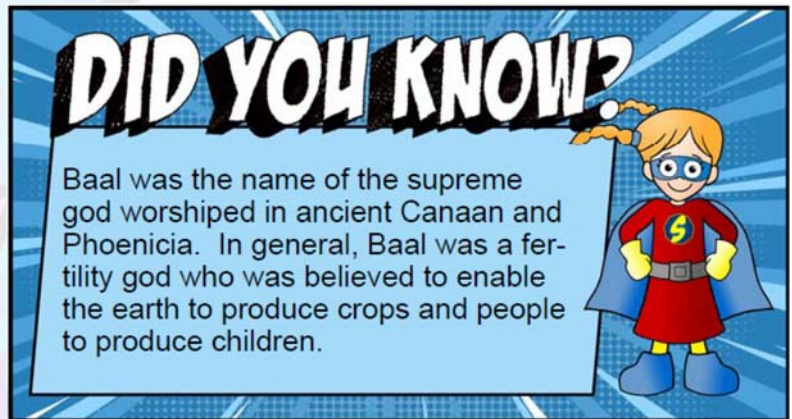
Elijah knew that you should only serve God, but another man named Ahab believed that you should serve a god named Baal, a manmade idol. Elijah came up with a plan to show Ahab that God was the only one who is worthy of our praise.

We're going to have some helpers tell our story today. I want to introduce to you Ahab who is the King, Obadiah (Pronounced oh-buh-DYE-uh), who is Ahab's servant and Elijah who is God's prophet.

Point to each character as you introduce them. Then begin the skit.

All actors leave the room.

Note: Ahab's parts are in red, Narrator's parts are in blue, Obadiah is in green and Elijah is in purple. Skit direction is given in black italics.



Narrator

There is a story from the Bible that tells us of a time when there was hardly any water to be found in Ahab's kingdom, and things were getting worse.

The creeks had dried up long ago, and the rivers had become patchy mud puddles.

There wasn't very much food for the people or for their animals.

King Ahab was beginning to worry about his own herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. He called Obadiah, one of his servants, to his side.

King Ahab and Obadiah enter the room.

King Ahab

Obadiah, something must be done before all the animals die. We must find grass and water. You go in one direction and I'll go the other. There must be grass somewhere.

Narrator

So, King Ahab and Obadiah set off in different directions in search of fresh grass and water. While Obadiah was looking around, trying to find mud puddles and grass, he saw a man walking toward him.

King Ahab leaves the room and Elijah enters the room.

Obadiah

I wonder who that could be? I recognize you! That's Elijah! Elijah? Is that really you?

Elijah

Yes, I am Elijah, and I want you to do me a big favor.

Obadiah

(Asks politely.)

What is it, sir?

Elijah

I want you to go tell King Ahab that I am here, and I want to see him.

Narrator

Obadiah instantly became fearful. This was not something he wanted to do.

Obadiah

How can you even think of asking me to do such a thing? Don't you know that King Ahab doesn't even like you? Don't you know the King is blaming you because there has not been any rain for all these years?

Besides that, the King has been looking for you. Every time he thinks he knows where you are, you leave, and no one can find you. If I tell him you are here, then you will leave again. He will want to hurt you AND me! I'm sorry, Elijah. I just cannot do it!

Elijah

It will be fine, Obadiah. I promise you that I will be here. I promise you that I will see the King. Now please, just go and tell him I wish to speak to him.



Obadiah and Elijah leave the room.

Narrator

I wonder what's going to happen next? Wait! They're coming back!

King Ahab and Elijah reenter.

Ahab

(Points his finger at Elijah)

YOU! YOU! YOU are the one that is causing trouble for Israel! YOU are the reason we have had no rain!

Elijah

No, King, YOU are the cause for all this trouble. You have turned away from Jehovah, the one true God. You are worshipping the false god, Baal. You have caused the people of Israel to sin by worshipping idols. YOU have brought all this trouble to Israel.

I want you to gather 450 prophets of Baal, and 400 prophets of Asherah, and have them meet me at Mount Carmel.

Ahab

Okay I'll meet you back on the mountain.

King Ahab and Elijah leave the room.

Narrator

Do you think King Ahab is going to show up with 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah? I wonder if Elijah was afraid? King Ahab did as Elijah said and gathered the prophets. A large crowd of people also gathered to see what was going to happen.

POSSIBLE BREAK COULD WORK HERE

Elijah and King Ahab come back into the room.

Narrator

When all the people had gathered, Elijah and King Ahab showed up. Elijah stood before the crowd and began speaking.



Elijah

How long are you going to try to worship Baal and Jehovah? You cannot serve more than one god. If Baal is God, worship him! If Jehovah is God, worship Him! You must make a decision. You must choose one or the other.

We are going to have a contest to see who the REAL God is. Bring enough wood to build two altars, one for Jehovah and one for Baal. And, bring animals for the sacrifice, again, one for Jehovah and one for Baal.

Then your prophets of Baal should pray to him and I, Elijah, will pray to my God. Whichever one lights the offering on fire, then that is the one true God.

Narrator

The 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah built their altar. They prepared the animal for sacrifice. Then they started praying: "O Baal, hear us! O Baal, hear us! Please accept this sacrifice and burn it up." From morning until noon, they kept up the shouting.

Elijah

(Looking at King Ahab)

What's wrong? Can't your god HEAR you? Has he taken a trip? Is he sleeping? Why isn't he answering you? Perhaps he is talking to someone else. Maybe you should scream LOUDER.

Narrator

Midday had passed, and now it was getting late into the evening, and the prophets of Baal were still shouting and screaming as loud as they could. Baal STILL was not listening. Nothing was happening. There was no fire to burn the sacrifice.

Elijah

I want everyone to gather around me and watch what my God can do.

(Act like you are building the altar as the narrator talks)

Narrator

Elijah stacked 12 stones to make his altar, put the wood on the top, and prepared the animal for the sacrifice. Then he did a very strange thing! He told the people to bring him four barrels of water. It sounded pretty strange to the people, but they did what Elijah asked and brought water. Elijah then poured the water on the altar and on the sacrifice.



Elijah

Now, bring me FOUR MORE barrels of water.

Narrator

The people couldn't believe it. "How much water is he going to waste?" someone whispered. Remember, there wasn't a lot of water in the kingdom. Every drop was precious. Again, they did as they were told and brought the water.

Elijah poured that water on the altar and on the sacrifice. The sacrifice was soaked with water. Water was running off the wood, onto the stones, and onto the ground. Elijah dug a ditch around the altar and filled it with water. Then he began to say a simple prayer:

Elijah

Lord God, let the people know that You are the true God of Israel, and I am your servant. Let them know that I have done these things because You told me to do them. Hear me, O Lord, so these people will know that You are the Lord God, and they will serve You again.

Narrator

SUDDENLY, fire came down from heaven! It burned up the sacrifice! It burned up the WOOD! It burned up the STONES! It EVEN licked up all the water that was in the ditch around the altar! When the people saw it, they dropped to the ground in fear and cried out, "The Lord, He is the God; THE LORD, HE IS THE GOD!"

Elijah

Turning to King Ahab

Get up! Eat and drink! There will be an abundance of rain!

All actors exit the classroom, take off their costumes and return to the classroom.

Narrator

So, King Ahab had something to eat and drink, and Elijah took his servant with him to the top of Mount Carmel to pray to God and wait for the rain. Elijah had faith that God would send the rain. And guess what? God sent lots of rain to King Ahab and his people.

God showed His power by burning up Elijah's offering even though it was soaked with water. Elijah showed that he was really a superhero of God by showing that he had faith. Faith is all about believing that God will do as He has promised. We can have great faith too.

THE END





RIDDLE ME THIS

Okay, everyone let's get back into your groups. I'm going to ask you some review questions. Please raise your hand when you know the answer. We'll be keeping score of which group answers first. Remember, you don't want to lose any points by giving out the wrong answer or shouting out the answer before we call on you.

How many years had passed without rain?

More than three years.

Whom did Ahab blame for the drought?

Elijah

What did Elijah say was the cause of the drought?

Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, had led the Israelites away from Heavenly Father and were worshipping the false god

After Elijah had gathered together the people of Israel and the false prophets, what question did he ask the people?

How long are you going to worship Baal and God? Explain that he knew they could not serve both Baal and the Lord and that he wanted the Israelites to decide whom they were going to worship.

What contest did Elijah suggest to prove to the people whom they should worship?

We are going to have a contest to see who is the REAL God. Whichever one is able to light the offering on fire is the one true God.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ahab was one in a line of increasingly evil kings in Israel's history. King Ahab **“did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him”** (1 Kings 16:30). Jezebel, Ahab's wife, was a greedy, murderous, evil woman who worshipped Baal. Elijah was her primary enemy. To call a woman a “Jezebel” is the greatest insult imaginable.



How many prophets of the Lord were there that day?

One, Elijah

How many prophets of Baal?

850

Why did Elijah have more power than the prophets of Baal, even though he was outnumbered?

He had faith that his God, the One True God, would win the contest.

When we pray to God He hears our prayers. He may not answer our prayer as dramatically as He answered Elijah's, but if we have faith, God will answer our prayers.



I HAVE THE POWER

Our scripture verse for the day is **1 Kings 18:37-38 Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that you, Lord, are God and that you are the one who is bringing them back to you.**

Rapid Fire -The contestant must shoot rubber bands to knock a pyramid stack of six cups completely off a platform. Have the Sidekicks get out the cups and rubber bands from Tuesday's craft bag. Make sure you have provided a table top area for the cups. If necessary, you can have them set up on the floor but it works better to set them up on a table.

We're handing out 6 cups and four rubber bands to each group. You will stack the cups into a pyramid. Three at the bottom, two on the next level and one at the top. Then, you will return to the designated spot and shoot the cup off of the table starting at the top cup. Each player will have a turn. Once all of the cups have been knocked off of the table, I want one member of the team to pick up all of your cups. Taped to the Inside of each cup you will find part of our scripture verse. Remove the piece of paper with the verse and then put the verse in order. When you have the verse put together, everyone from your group should sit down and raise their hand.

Here's a warning!!!! Anyone caught shooting the rubber bands at anyone, I mean, anyone, will lose their right to play in the game. Only shoot the cups!

Ready, set, go!

When each team has completed taping the verse together, everyone should say the verse together as a class. Any team who memorizes the verse, gets more points.

Get ready to return to F.A.I.T.H. HQ by 11:40 a.m. so your heroes can sing "Yes to VBS!"



DID YOU KNOW?

Elijah is regarded by all faiths (Jews, Christians, Muslims and Druze) as a healer, a miracle maker, and a great hero who stood against the might of Kings and false prophets. Elijah and Moses were on the mountain with Jesus when the transfiguration took place in the New Testament.



SOLAR GIRL

VBS-2018

HEROES vs VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

GOD'S HEROES HAVE FAITH

"LORD, ANSWER MY PRAYER. SHOW THESE PEOPLE THAT YOU, LORD, ARE GOD AND THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS BRINGING THEM BACK TO YOU."
1 KINGS 18:37-38

FAITH!

ELIJAH DEFEATS THE POWER OF FALSE GODS



TEAM	TODAY'S POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



NOTES



VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

WEDNESDAY

"Daniel's God is the living God. He lives forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed. His rule will never end." Daniel 6:26



GOD'S HEROES TRUST IN HIM

DID YOU KNOW?

Daniel was of royal lineage and was probably born in or near Jerusalem about 622 B.C. while Jehoiakim was king of Judah. Daniel was about 16 years old when he was captured by the Babylonians under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar and taken 900 miles away to live in Babylon. He died when he was about 80 years old living almost his entire life in Babylon.

**UTILITY BELT**

Masks, one per student

Markers

Are You Brave cards

Index cards with parts of scripture verse on each card, one set per group

**FLAME ON**

Get out the Are You Brave cards from your Wednesday craft bag. You will need a combination of four Sidekicks and adults for this activity. Each person will get about 5 cards. Fan out the cards in your hand making sure that the side saying, Are You Brave Like Daniel?, is facing the heroes. The heroes will come up in groups and choose one card from any person's hand. The hero should not look at their card until a signal is given. Here are your instructions for the class.

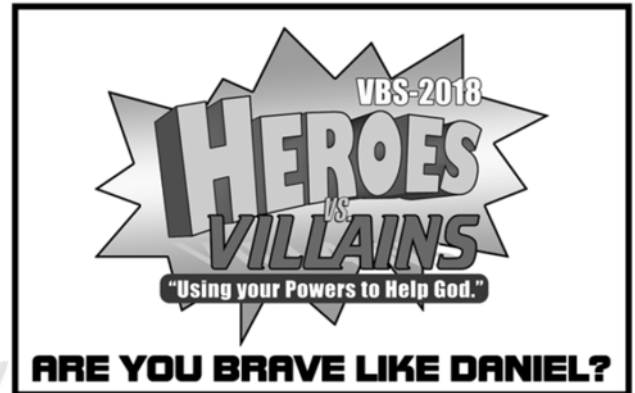
Today we're going to play a game called, Are You Brave Like Daniel? You'll notice that each person standing here is holding about five cards. When I call your group up, each hero is to take one card, but do not look at your card. Then, the group will return to their seats. After all of the groups have chosen a card, we'll start the game.



Okay, Group # ____ (*call on a group*) come and choose your card.

Continue until everyone has a card.

Now, I want group # ____ to stand up. One at a time, I want you to turn over your card and read the statement. You must do what the card states in order for your group to get a point. If you refuse to do it, then your group won't get the point and might lose. Let's see how many brave heroes we have in our class today!



When the class has completed the activity, have everyone return to his/her regular seat in the classroom.

How many of you found it kind of difficult to act out your animal? It takes a brave person to act really silly in front of a large group!



UP, UP, AND AWAY

Today we're going to learn about a Superhero in the Bible named, Daniel. Daniel had to be brave in many ways even when he could have been killed. Our story begins in the book of Daniel. Is Daniel in the New Testament or Old Testament?

(Old Testament.)

Let's pray before we begin our Bible story.

Dear Lord

Thank you for this new day

Thank you for VBS

Thank you for the teachers, children and helpers

Thank you for the things we will learn

Thank you for the fun we will have together

Amen



OK, let's read our story from the Bible.

It was the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon declared war on Jerusalem and besieged the city. The Master handed King Jehoiakim of Judah over to him, along with some of the furnishings from the Temple of God. Nebuchadnezzar took king and furnishings to the country of Babylon, the ancient Shinar. He put the furnishings in the sacred treasury.

The king told Ashpenaz, head of the palace staff, to get some Israelites from the royal family and nobility – young men who were healthy and handsome, intelligent and well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens! – and indoctrinate them in the Babylonian language and the lore of magic and fortunetelling.

The king then ordered that they be served from the same menu as the royal table – the best food, the finest wine. After three years of training they would be given positions in the king's court.

Four young men from Judah – Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah – were among those selected. The head of the palace staff gave them Babylonian names: Daniel was named Belteshazzar, Hananiah was named Shadrach, Mishael was named Meshach, Azariah was named Abednego.

The biblical account of Daniel, the prophet begins as he and other young men from Judah were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. This happened in approximately 604 B.C.

These young men were around the ages of 15 or 16 years old. They lived in a country called Judah and they were relatives of the King of Judah. We don't read anywhere that these young men were doing anything wrong. We can assume that they were living lives that pleased God and were obeying Him.

How do you think Daniel felt when he was forcibly removed from his family and taken to a new city to live with people who worshipped idols?

(Allow answers and brief discussion.)

The Bible tells us that Daniel was taught the Babylonian's' language and was also taught the customs and religion of the Babylonians. King Nebuchadnezzar also changed Daniel's name. The name Daniel means "God is My Judge." Daniel's new Babylonian name is Belteshazzar, meaning "Bel Protect his Life". Bel was the name of one of the gods that the Babylonians worshipped. Let's see what else happened in Daniel's young life.

The king then ordered that they be served from the same menu as the royal table—the best food, the finest wine.



But Daniel determined that he would not defile himself by eating the king's food or drinking his wine, so he asked the head of the palace staff to exempt him from the royal diet. The head of the palace staff, by God's grace, liked Daniel, but he warned him, "I'm afraid of what my master the king will do. He is the one who assigned this diet and if he sees that you are not as healthy as the rest, he'll have my head!"

But Daniel appealed to a steward who had been assigned by the head of the palace staff to be in charge of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: "Try us out for ten days on a simple diet of vegetables and water. Then compare us with the young men who eat from the royal menu. Make your decision on the basis of what you see."

The steward agreed to do it and fed them vegetables and water for ten days. At the end of the ten days they looked better and more robust than all the others who had been eating from the royal menu. So, the steward continued to exempt them from the royal menu of food and drink and served them only vegetables.

It seems like Daniel is starting off on the wrong foot with the King. The king is serving Daniel and the other men from Judah his best food. But Daniel is refusing to eat the king's food. Why do you think Daniel refused to eat the food served by the king?

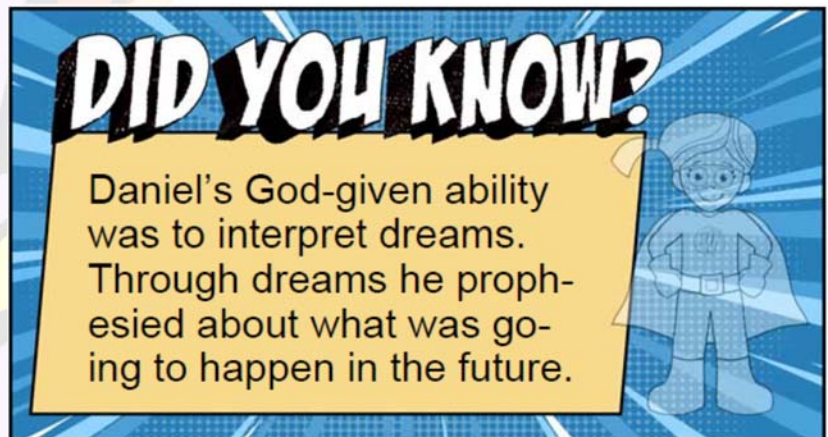
(Allow answers and brief discussion.)

Probably the reason Daniel did not eat the king's food is because the Jewish people had very strict ways in which they prepared their food and also there were laws about what kinds of food the Jewish people could eat.

There was a possibility that the food offered to them was from animals that had been sacrificed to idols. Whether or not it would have been offered to idols, the food would not have been prepared according to Jewish dietary laws ('kosher' as we would say now). Most of the laws are about meat and fish, so vegetables and water would probably be okay, however they were prepared.

And guess what? By the end of ten days, Daniel and the Jewish men were stronger and healthier than the other men who ate from the king's table.

Let's continue reading the story in the Bible.



God gave these four young men knowledge and skill in both books and life. In addition, Daniel was gifted in understanding all sorts of visions and dreams. At the end of the time set by the king for their training, the head of the royal staff brought them in to Nebuchadnezzar. When the king interviewed them, he found them far superior to all the other young men. None were a match for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

And so they took their place in the king's service. Whenever the king consulted them on anything, on books or on life, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his kingdom put together.

Daniel lived in Babylon for about 70 years. So, for the next 70 years Daniel served the kings in Babylon and many other important rulers.

Daniel was a prophet sent by God. He interpreted many of the king's dreams. These interpretations were God's way of telling the people what was going to happen to them in the future.

We're going to skip to Daniel chapter Daniel 6. Darius is now king of Babylon.

Darius reorganized his kingdom. He appointed 120 governors to administer all the parts of his realm. Over them were three vice-regents, one of whom was Daniel. The governors reported to the vice-regents, who made sure that everything was in order for the king. But Daniel, brimming with spirit and intelligence, so completely outclassed the other vice-regents and governors that the king decided to put him in charge of the whole kingdom.

So, Daniel has really made a name for himself. All of the kings from the time Daniel was captured as a young man until he's 70 years old have recognized that Daniel has special skills and talent. Why do you think Daniel has been able to gain so much respect from these kings? God had a very special plan for Daniel's life. Do you think Daniel ever turned his back on God and started worshipping the Babylonians' false gods?

Let's find out.

The vice-regents and governors got together to find some old scandal or skeleton in Daniel's life that they could use against him, but they couldn't dig up anything. He was totally exemplary and trustworthy. They could find no evidence of negligence or misconduct. So, they finally gave up and said, "We're never going to find anything against this Daniel unless we can cook up something religious."

The other men in power were very jealous of Daniel. They tried to find something in Daniel's past that could prove he had broken the king's laws but they could find nothing. So, they decided to trick King Darius into doing something that would cause Daniel's death. Let's take a look at their plan.



The vice-regents and governors conspired together and then went to the king and said, “King Darius, live forever! We’ve convened your vice-regents, governors, and all your leading officials, and have agreed that the king should issue the following decree:

For the next thirty days no one is to pray to any god or mortal except you, O king. Anyone who disobeys will be thrown into the lions’ den.

“Issue this decree, O king, and make it unconditional, as if written in stone like all the laws of the Medes and the Persians.” King Darius signed the decree.

How did the men lie to the king? They told the king that all of his leading officials had signed the decree. But Daniel didn’t know anything about this new law until after the king had already signed it.

When Daniel learned that the decree had been signed and posted, he continued to pray just as he had always done. His house had windows in the upstairs that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he knelt there in prayer, thanking and praising his God.

The conspirators came and found him praying, asking God for help. They went straight to the king and reminded him of the royal decree that he had signed. “Did you not,” they said, “sign a decree forbidding anyone to

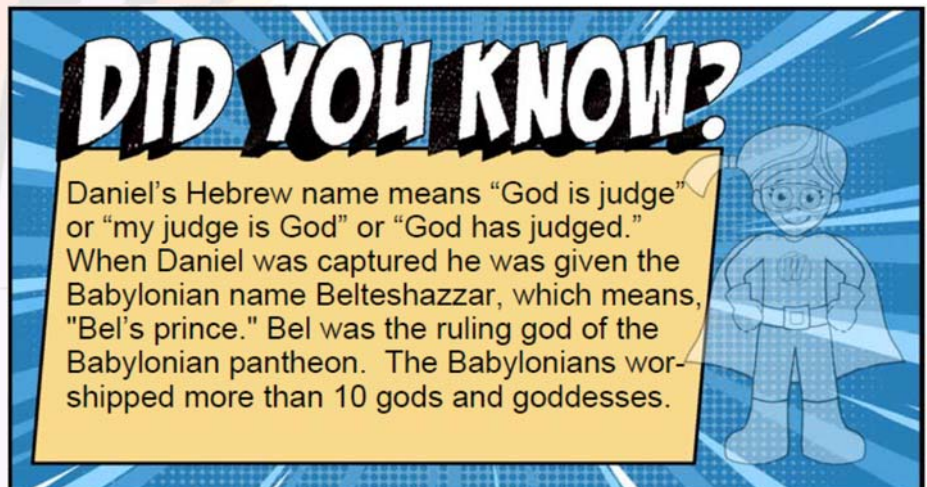
pray to any god or man except you for the next thirty days? And anyone caught doing it would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

“Absolutely,” said the king. “Written in stone, like all the laws of the Medes and Persians.”

Oh no! What is the king required to do now? The king loved Daniel and trusted him completely. King Darius has no idea that he has just signed Daniel’s death warrant!

Then they said, “Daniel, one of the Jewish exiles, ignores you, O king, and defies your decree. Three times a day he prays.” At this, the king was very upset and tried his best to get Daniel out of the fix he’d put him in. He worked at it the whole day long.

But then the conspirators were back: “Remember, O king, it’s the law of the Medes and



Persians that the king's decree can never be changed." The king caved in and ordered Daniel brought and thrown into the lions' den. But he said to Daniel, "Your God, to whom you are so loyal, is going to get you out of this."

Did the trick work? Did the men succeed in making the king follow through with Daniel's death order?

(Some kids will react to this question, knowing or guessing the answer. Give them a puzzle look and say "lets see what happens.")

A stone slab was placed over the opening of the den. The king sealed the cover with his signet ring and the signet rings of all his nobles, fixing Daniel's fate. The king then went back to his palace. He refused supper. He couldn't sleep. He spent the night fasting.

How do we know that the king was really upset about throwing Daniel to the hungry lions? King Darius was very sad. Now he knew that his helpers had tricked him but he could not change the law.

Daniel must have been very frightened when he was put with the lions. Lions could eat him up! Then it got very dark! It got dark because a stone was rolled over the entrance of the den. A seal was put on the stone and wax melted onto it. The king pressed his ring into the wax to form a seal. When anyone looked at the seal they would know that no one was allowed to move the stone and help Daniel. Do you think that Daniel is brave now? He may have been really frightened but he still had faith that God would take care of him.

At daybreak the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. As he approached the den, he called out anxiously, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve so loyally, saved you from the lions?"

"O king, live forever!" said Daniel. "My God sent his angel, who closed the mouths of the lions so that they would not hurt me. I've been found innocent before God and also before you, O king. I've done nothing to harm you."

When the king heard these words, he was happy. He ordered Daniel taken up out of the den. When he was hauled up, there wasn't a scratch on him. He had trusted his God.

Then the king commanded that the conspirators who had informed on Daniel be thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. Before they hit the floor, the lions had them in their jaws, tearing them to pieces. King Darius published this proclamation to every race, color, and creed on earth:

Peace to you! Abundant peace! I decree that Daniel's God shall be worshiped and feared in all parts of my kingdom. He is the living God, world without end. His kingdom never falls. His rule continues eternally. He is a savior and rescuer. He performs aston-



ishing miracles in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the power of the lions. From then on, Daniel was treated well during the reign of Darius, and also in the following reign of Cyrus the Persian.

How did Daniel show that he was brave in this story? Did he forget about the God that he had been taught about since he was a little boy? What kinds of things did Daniel do throughout his life to show that he was a brave superhero for God?

Because of Daniel's faith he was a witness for God's mighty protection. He was able to remain a good servant and continue to serve the One True God despite living in among a city full of people who worshipped false gods. He was brave even though he knew that he could be killed for his beliefs.

Is it easy to be brave and live for God even when your friends and classmates don't believe in God? Is it easy to do what you know is the right thing to do even when people might make fun of you or laugh at you because you go to church? We can all be superheroes like Daniel and be brave because, like Daniel, God is always with us to help us do the right thing according to His laws.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Today we're going to begin making something to go into our Mission Is Possible service projects. How many of you know about Mission Is Possible?

(Explain if you need to what Mission Is Possible is – a week-long program in which Faith Fellowship youth live at church and go to other local churches to help them out, including putting on a VBS for other kids.)

We're going to color and decorate masks to put into the Mission bags.

Hand out the masks, one per hero. They are in your Wednesday craft bag. Have the heroes write the VBS theme verse on the front of the mask.

The scripture verse is Micah 6:8. The Lord has shown you what is good. To seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.





I HAVE THE POWER

Daniel 6:26 "Daniel's God is the living God. He lives forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed. His rule will never end."

We're going to play a game with index cards. First, let's get into your groups again. Each group will get several cards. You must build a tower by stacking index cards on top of each other. Here are the directions for the game:

Bend two index cards, then place them on a table, open side down.

Then, place a flat, unbent card on top

Repeat the process until you have used up all of your cards. If your cards fall, you must start over.

After, you have succeeded in building your tower, take the cards and put them in the correct order for the scripture verse.

When your group has put the cards in order, everyone in the group should stand up.

Any questions? Okay, ready, set, go!

Player must build a tower of index cards, with each level consisting of two pre-bent cards with a flat card on top. One or two words of the scripture verse is on each index card. They must build the tower, then put the verse in order.

If you have extra time, you can review the lesson by asking these questions:

Who is Darius?

How many days did Daniel and friends eat the special diet of vegetables and water?

What was the special gift God gave Daniel?

Why were the 2 vice presidents jealous of Daniel?

How old was Daniel when he was taken to Babylon?

How old was he when he was thrown into the lion's den?

Why were they looking for something that Daniel had done wrong in his life?

How did they plan to get Daniel in trouble before the king?

Why was Darius upset when they told him about Daniel praying?

Who did Darius want to protect Daniel in the lions' den?

Why was Daniel safe in the lions' den?

What happened to Daniel's enemies?

Make sure that you give the groups points for giving the correct answer.

Get ready to go to F.A.I.T.H. Headquarters by 11:40 a.m. so you don't miss "Yes to VBS."



TEAM	TODAY'S POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



NOTES



VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

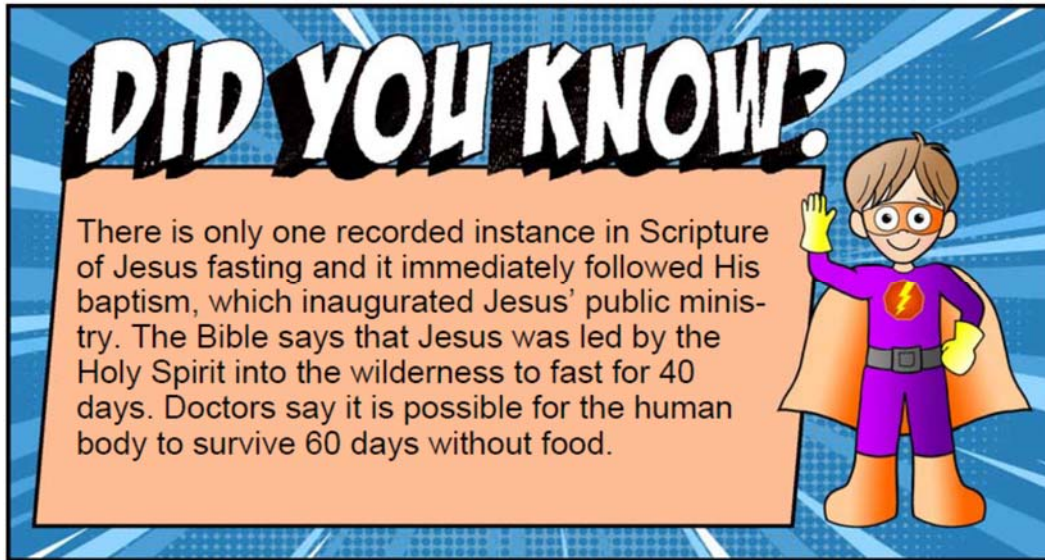
"Using your Powers to Help God."

THURSDAY

"Jesus said to the devil, 'Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!'"
Matthew 4:10



GOD'S HEROES BELIEVE



DID YOU KNOW?

There is only one recorded instance in Scripture of Jesus fasting and it immediately followed His baptism, which inaugurated Jesus' public ministry. The Bible says that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to fast for 40 days. Doctors say it is possible for the human body to survive 60 days without food.



UTILITY BELT

Hershey Kisses Candy, one per child and adult

Paper to make balls, 3 per student

Bags for Mission Is Possible

Items to go into the MIP bags

Before Class: Lay a few pieces of candy, one per hero and at least one extra, in the middle of each table. Make sure that the Sidekicks and Mission Specialists are watching the children carefully to ensure that the candy doesn't "disappear" before the lesson.

Masking tape for the Minute to Win-It Game

Scope out a good place in your room for the game, making sure there is room for everyone.

Choose to aides/sidekicks and prepare for today's play.

Costumes for Jesus and Satan. Jesus can wear a shepherd's costume without the crook and Satan should wear all black.

Choose two or three heroes to get up and surround Jesus at the end of the play. Make sure they know to come forward after Satan leaves the room.





FLAME ON

Make sure all of the Sidekicks and Mission Specialists know what they are supposed to do before the lesson begins. Quietly, instruct them to take one piece of candy when the Agent isn't looking when you start talking about Satan tempting Jesus. Have them hide the candy behind their back, and then look behind their backs a couple of times, like they're obviously trying to hide something. At some point they should be prepared to admit they took the candy and ask for forgiveness. Remind them not to hold the kiss too tightly or it will melt and there will be an embarrassing party mess.

Today we are going to talk about a time when Satan tempted Jesus. Do you know what being tempted means?

(Allow for responses.)

Being tempted is when you want to do something even though you know it's wrong. Right now, you are probably tempted to eat this candy on the table, aren't you? How many of you would love to be able to eat the candy? How does it make you feel knowing that you aren't allowed to have the candy?

(Wait for responses.)

I bet that right now all you can think about is unwrapping a piece of candy and popping it into your mouth, right?

(Keep building the anticipation...)

I put the candy in front of you, but you can't have it. No one can take the candy yet.

So, right now I am tempting you because I won't let you have it. Even though you really want the candy it would be wrong for you to disobey me and take it. Temptation is when you want to do something really badly, like eating this candy, but you know it is wrong.

Let's see?

(Look around and pretend to count the candy on the tables.)



Wait a minute! I seem to be missing one piece of candy from each table. How did that happen?

(Some of the children will probably have seen the helpers take the candy. If no one noticed, then read the next sentence.)

Did anyone see what happened to the missing candy?

(This is where the Sidekicks and Mission Specialists will come clean about taking the candy.)

Why do you think they took the candy without permission? I think they just couldn't wait to eat their piece of candy.

(There may be some reaction here from the kids. Quickly move on.)

I am not going to tempt you anymore. Everyone can have one piece of candy.

(Allow everyone to grab their piece if they want. As the initial excitement peaks, get their attention again and move on. You're going to ignore what the helpers did for now and deal with it again later in the lesson. If anyone brings up forgiveness or saying I'm sorry, tell them that's a good idea but let me tell you a story about Jesus first.)

Do you think we should forgive the helpers for taking their candy without permission? Yes, I think so too.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

This lesson takes about 15 minutes to present.

Today we are going to learn about a time when Jesus was tempted. Jesus is God's son and He cannot sin, but He still felt temptation. Let's find out how Jesus handled being tempted.

First, let's pray.



Dear Lord
Thank you for this new day
Thank you for VBS
Thank you for the teachers, children and helpers
Thank you for the things we will learn
Thank you for the fun we will have together
Amen

During the play, only the Narrator will be talking. Jesus and Satan will be silent but will act out the script as the play progresses.

It's time for our Bible lesson. Today, _____, will be playing the part of the Narrator and _____ will be playing Jesus. Satan will be played by _____.

Now, I would like to present to you The Test.

Jesus is not just the ultimate superhero of the New Testament. He is the ultimate superhero of all time and space!

For the last three years of his life, he performed hundreds of superhuman deeds. These included bringing dead people back to life, walking on top of water and taking on demons who had been torturing people.

His death on the cross and resurrection was the ultimate act of good defeating evil.

One time, Jesus had to meet up with Satan, and one of them would come out on top! This wasn't about fighting with hands or with weapons. This had to do with temptation and faith.

Let's see how the Bible describes this confrontation.

Enter Jesus, who gets down on his knees to pray.

Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test.

Jesus went out into the desert to speak to God, His Father. He was so busy speaking to God that he didn't eat or drink for forty days. God was protecting Jesus from hunger and thirst. So far, everything is good.



Satan didn't like it. He decided to use this time to tempt Jesus into sinning.

Enter Satan who walks around Jesus, staring, with a menacing look.

Satan stops and taps Jesus on the shoulder.

Satan tells Jesus, "Since you are God's Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread."

Satan knows how hungry and thirsty Jesus is. He's thinking, "Let your son Jesus get super hungry. Then we'll see how much he follows you. I bet he'll follow me."

Satan says sweetly to Jesus. "Awwww, you poor thing. You're hungry, aren't you? I know! Let's turn these rocks into bread. God doesn't want you to be hungry. And after all, since you are his son, anything you want will be okay with him, and he will help you do it."

Jesus stands up and faces Satan.

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth."

Jesus is thinking "Okay, number one: If I do like Satan says, that would mean that I found bread more important than talking with God. I'd be thinking with my stomach and not with my spirit. God led me here to spend time with Him, not to eat."

Jesus told Satan, "You are so disgusting."

Satan, looking offended, shakes his head.

Satan says, "But I'm only trying to help you. I didn't make you hungry. Your father did that! I'm just trying to help you out."

Jesus answered, "I'm spending time with God, My Father, which is a lot more important than food."

Sometimes the best thing to do when Satan tempts you is to ignore him. Don't argue back, just walk away! It makes him mad.

Jesus turns His back on Satan and walks away.



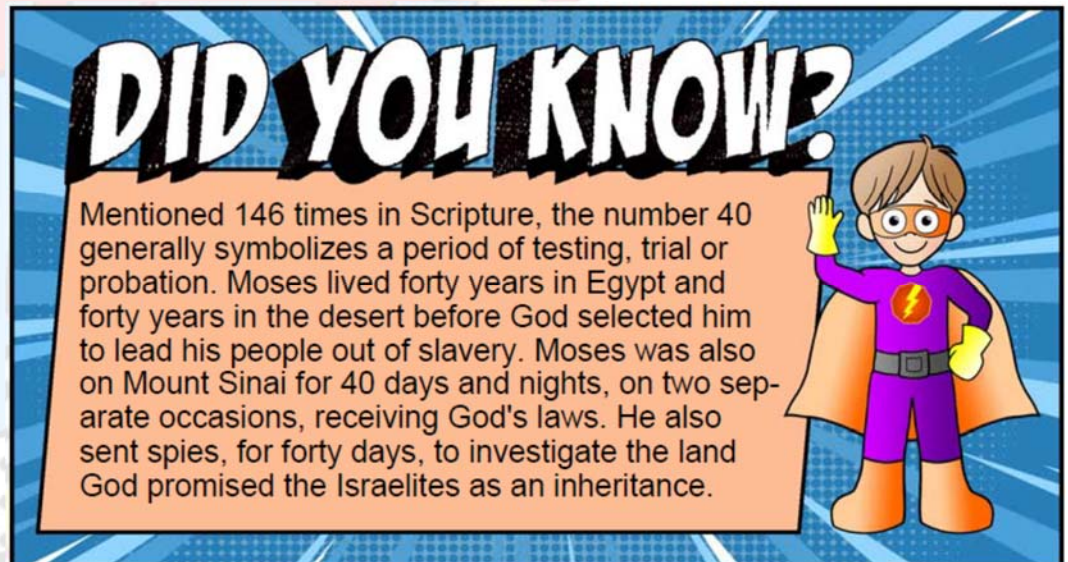
For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, “Since you are God’s Son, jump.” The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: “He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone.”

Satan taps Jesus on the shoulder and Jesus turns around.

So, Satan sees that food will not tempt Jesus to sin so he says, “You are much too strong to care about a silly thing like food. My bad! But, you see, you’ve been talking with God the Father for such a long time now. Forty days, isn’t it?”

Jesus nods yes.

Satan continues, “And your reward is...that you’re hungry and thirsty? You’re starting to look a little dehydrated! Your reward ought to be that you own the entire planet. You ought to get great rewards.”



Satan takes Jesus by the arm

and pulls him over and points. “Well, guess what? I can make you fly! You can barely walk, poor man, and I can fly. Let me take to you the top of the temple.” *Satan does something like flapping his wings.* “And let me show you the Holy City from my perspective!”

Satan took Jesus up to the top of the Temple. It was really high up. Now, Jesus wasn’t just hungry and tired. He was starting to feel a little dizzy.

Satan kept tempting Jesus. “You don’t have to worry. If you fall. Your Father will send his angels! They’ll catch you. Just go ahead...let yourself drop.”



Jesus rolls his eyes again and shakes his head. Jesus responds. "Somehow...the guy seems to speak the truth. But it's all lies and temptation!"

Fortunately, Jesus had a superhero's ability to think on his feet. Even though he was so weak.

Jesus still dizzy points at Satan.

"Okay, number one: You don't do stupid things like throw yourself off a building. Not if you're me, not if you're anybody. You do not honor God by doing stupid, risky stunts. Number two: If I throw myself down, it means I was not strong enough to stand up to you. Uh...I don't think so.

Satan mockingly says to Jesus. "Why on earth not? Are you saying your heavenly father couldn't save you?"

Jesus looks to Heaven talking to God. "I can understand why we have to work together to save people. He was on my last nerve half an hour ago. I can imagine what he's doing to the simple people of this planet!" *He looks back at Satan.* "You don't put God to a test. I am not nose-diving off this temple, and God the Father is not playing parachute. So there."

Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God."

You see Satan could fly. He knew that Jesus could fly too. He was hoping for some show-offish fly-off with Jesus chasing him in the air. Problem? Superheroes have class. They do not show off. They do what they need to do to try to save people, and they don't go around showing off.

But the definition of obnoxious plays in here. The worst trait of obnoxious beings is that...they don't give up and go home easily.

For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, "They're yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours."

Satan won't give up. He says. "My word, Jesus. You have a lot of will power. But we also know...you have a lot of superpower. You ought to be able to use your superpowers in a great, great way! Here is one way...why don't you put yourself in a position to... own the world? Who would be better than you to run all of planet earth?"



That Satan. He sure knows how to manipulate. I mean...doesn't he sound like he knows what he's talking about??? Here's the catch...

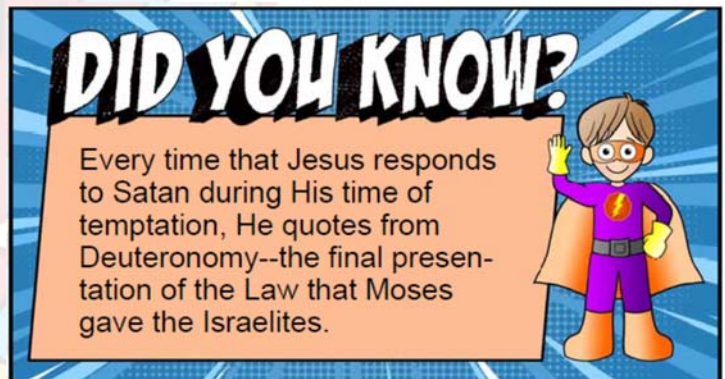
Satan says to Jesus with a huge, sweeping gesture. "I will give you all the kingdoms of the world..."

Did you catch that business about "I will give you..."? Satan is the world's biggest liar right now. He acts like he owns the place, just because God hasn't kicked him out yet. Oh! And here's an even better catch:

Satan says to Jesus. "I will give you all these kingdoms...if you will bow down and worship me."

Seriously. Wouldn't you rather kiss the foot of a rabid raccoon, with a bad flea-and-tick infestation and a case of the swollen hair follicles, than kiss the foot of this lying, thieving, manipulating sad sack??

Jesus was gaining strength. "That's it. I'm done! You shall worship only God and nobody but God. Anybody who worships you ought to have his head examined. Do you really think that I'm so starved, dehydrated, and emaciated that I would serve you? Get out! Now..."



Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness." The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.

Satan leaves the room.

Actually, Jesus was being pretty nice, all things considered, which is what Superheroes do. Now he just had to worry about getting something to eat and regaining His strength.

Angels come forward and surround Jesus with things to eat, fresh water and comforting words.



Jesus takes a bow.

After Jesus recovered He left the mountain and continued His earthly ministry. He performed hundreds of miracles. He healed the sick, raised the dead, made the blind see, he made crippled people walk.

He calmed storms, walked on water, fed huge crowds with a little bit of food.

But the best thing Jesus did was he came back from the dead himself. He conquered death. Jesus is the only one who can save you from your sins and take you to heaven for eternity.

And He wants also to be our best friend. The guy who took on Satan in the wilderness will eventually come back and sit on a throne. And he hopes that we are all with him, helping him out, keeping him company, and celebrating how good defeated evil forever and ever.

This is the end of our play, The Test. Let's give all of our actors a big round of applause for the wonderful job they did acting.

If any of you would like to know how to give your life to Jesus and make Him the Superhero and Best Friend in your life, here are the steps:

You just need to remember ABC.

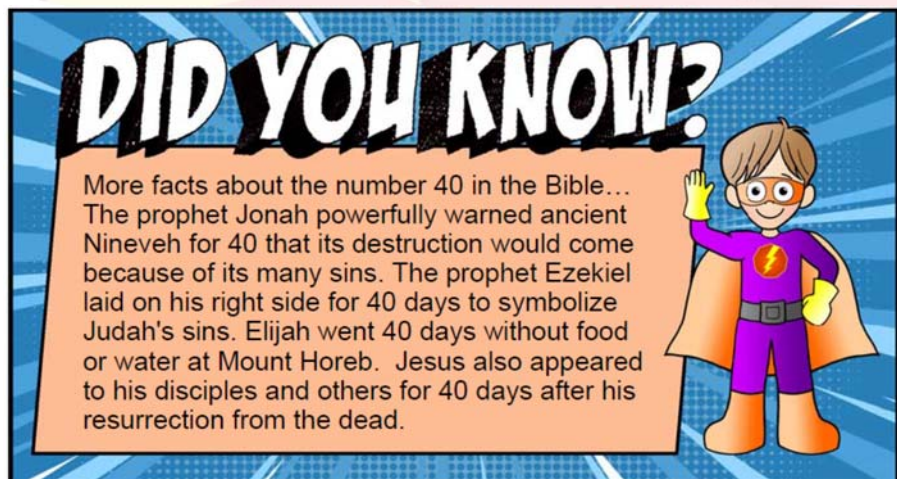
The first thing you do is A – Admit.

Admit honestly to God that you have sinned and disobeyed Him.

The Bible says:

Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death (everlasting punishment).”



No sin is allowed in heaven.

The second step is B – Believe.

Believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. His blood was shed to pay for your sins.

The Bible says:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Because Jesus loves you so much, He took the punishment for you so that you can be forgiven.

And the last step is C – Choose.

Choose to trust Jesus alone for the forgiveness of your sins.

The Bible says:

Romans 10:13 “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned.”

When you trust in Jesus Christ alone to save you, God forgives you! You become His child, and He promises you a home in heaven forever! Put your trust in Jesus as your Savior from sin. Do it today, and begin following Him by obeying His Word, the Bible.

If any of the children have questions about the ABC's, make sure you take the time to answer all of their questions regarding salvation. If you feel uncomfortable or don't know quite what to say, inform Kris or Pastor Ann and they will make time to answer the individual child's questions.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Make sure you do this activity after the heroes come back for recreation/craft.

You're going to divide your class into the four teams. Two of the teams will fill the mission bags while the other two teams will play the game. Then, switch teams.



I want you all to get into your teams. In a minute I'm going to ask team ___ and team ___ to come over to the tables with all of the bags and mission items. The other two teams will play a game. Then, we'll switch so that everyone gets a chance to play the game and fill the mission bags.

We'll instruct you on how we want you to fill the mission bags when you get over to the tables. But let me explain the game. I'm going to give each of you three sheets of paper. When it's your turn to play the game, I want you to crumple your sheets of paper into three balls.

Each one of these balls represents something that tempts you to sin. I want Team ___ to stand on this side of the line and the other team to stand on this side. When I say "go" I want you to throw your balls of temptation back over the line. The challenge is to keep the temptation balls on the other side of the line. When I say "stop" you are to freeze and stop throwing the balls. Then, we'll count how many balls of paper are on each side. The side with the least amount of balls is the winner.

Ready, Set, Go!

Time the teams for about a minute. Then, count the balls. Make sure you divide the class time so that all of the four teams have a chance to play the game. Remember to keep score so that you know which teams get the points for the day.



I HAVE THE POWER

If you have time, you can practice the scripture verse. See if any team can memorize the verse together so that the team can get points.

Matthew 4:10 "Jesus said to the devil, 'Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!'"

Get ready to go back to F.A.I.T.H. Headquarters by 11:40 so your heroes don't miss singing "Yes to VBS."



TEAM	TODAY'S POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



NOTES



VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

FRIDAY

"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down."


1 Samuel 17:46



GOD'S HEROES ARE STRONG

DID YOU KNOW?

David had the “Force” with him when he slung his stone at Goliath. Medical science says a force greater than 3,000 Newtons (674 pounds) hitting the forehead would cause the blunt trauma necessary to kill. Modern day measurements using an ancient sling design recorded an impact force of 3,620 Newtons (813 pounds). And down went Goliath.




UTILITY BELT

Copies of script for David the Giant Killer Skit

Note cards for Mission is Possible

Markers

Costumes for the skit

Sword, Spear, Shield, Armor, Sling, Stone, Crown

Butcher paper, at least nine feet long

Attach the paper to the wall and make a mark at the nine-foot height. Write Goliath on the 9-foot mark.

Make a throwing line with masking tape on the floor for the game. Make sure it's far enough apart from Goliath's head to make it challenging, but doable. See game directions under the Riddle Me This section of this lesson.

Choose actors from your helpers or heroes if they want to participate





FLAME ON

As the heroes enter class today, measure their heights on your butcher block paper attached to the wall. Next to their name have them write one of their weaknesses. For example, I'm not great at math, science, baseball, etc. It might be easier to have them do this in groups while the others start writing their notecards for Mission is Possible.

Today I want you to get into your groups before we do anything. I know you are all excited about Waterday. I'll let you know when it's time to get ready. How many of you wore your suits under your clothes? Raise your hand if you'll need to change before going outside to the slides.

Make a note of how many will need to change clothes and make sure they will all be ready when it's your time to go outside.

Yesterday we filled the Mission is Possible bags and today we're going to add a note that will go into the bags. You can either write your own personal note or just write "Jesus Loves You", or "Jesus Is Your Superhero", or some other uplifting message about God's love. You can even write one of our verses from this week.

I want groups to come up to the wall where the butcher paper is attached and get measured. Then write next to your height something you're not very good at doing or something you feel is a weakness you have. While one group is being measured I want the other groups to work on their cards.

Pass out the notecards and start calling up the groups to be measured. While the heroes are being measured, take the actors for the skit out into the hallway and let them practice the skit. Assure them they do not have to memorize the lines. They can hold their scripts and read from them. Collect the completed notecards and put them into your craft bag for today.





UP, UP, AND AWAY

Let's pray before we begin our Bible lesson for today.

Dear Lord
 Thank you for this new day
 Thank you for our VBS
 Thank you for the teachers, children and helpers
 Thank you for the things we will learn
 Thank you for the fun we will have together
 Amen

Today we're going to hear about a giant named Goliath. How many of you believe that giants are real? Skeletons that ranged in length from 7 to 10 feet tall have been found all over the United States and other countries around the world. So, we can be sure that the Goliath in the Bible was a real giant of a man!

The Bible states that he was over nine-feet tall! How many of you are as tall as this man? *Point to the 9-foot mark on the wall.* Would you be afraid of a person if he was this tall? When you measured your height you also wrote down one of your weaknesses or something that you're really not very good at doing.

In our story today, David, the shepherd boy, had many weaknesses. First, he was only about 17 years old. Not even old enough to fight in the army. We know he was probably only a little over 5 feet tall because that's how tall the people were back in those days. Plus, he was the baby of the family and not very well respected by his older brothers. The only thing he was really good at was tending his father's sheep.

Let's read the Bible story from 1 Samuel and find out a little more about David and Goliath.

DID YOU KNOW?

Skeletons of giants have been found practically everywhere, in North, and South America, in Europe, in Asia, in Australia, in Africa. Some of the skeletons were 10 to 12 feet with feet 18 to 20 inches long.



The Philistines drew up their troops for battle. Saul and the Israelites came together, camped at Oak Valley, and spread out their troops in battle readiness for the Philistines. The Philistines were on one hill, the Israelites on the opposing hill, with the valley between them.

A giant nearly ten feet tall stepped out from the Philistine line into the open, Goliath from Gath. He had a bronze helmet on his head and was dressed in armor—126 pounds of it! He wore bronze shin guards and carried a bronze sword. His spear was like a fence rail—the spear tip alone weighed over fifteen pounds. His shield bearer walked ahead of him.

Goliath stood there and called out to the Israelite troops, “Why bother using your whole army? Am I not Philistine enough for you? And you’re all committed to Saul, aren’t you? So, pick your best fighter and pit him against me. If he gets the upper hand and kills me, the Philistines will all become your slaves. But if I get the upper hand and kill him, you’ll all become our slaves and serve us. I challenge the troops of Israel this day. Give me a man. Let us fight it out together!”

When Saul and his troops heard the Philistine’s challenge, they were terrified and lost all hope.

Enter David. He was the son of Jesse the Ephrathite from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse, the father of eight sons, was himself too old to join Saul’s army. Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to war. The names of the three sons who had joined up with Saul were Eliab, the firstborn; next, Abinadab; and third, Shammah. David was the youngest son. While his three oldest brothers went to war with Saul, David went back and forth from attending to Saul to tending his father’s sheep in Bethlehem.

Each morning and evening for forty days, Goliath took his stand and made his speech.

One day, Jesse told David his son, “Take this sack of cracked wheat and these ten loaves of bread and run them down to your brothers in the camp. And take these ten wedges of cheese to the captain of their division. Check in on your brothers to see whether they are getting along all right and let me know how they’re doing—Saul and your brothers, and all the Israelites in their war with the Philistines in the Oak Valley.”

David was up at the crack of dawn and, having arranged for someone to tend his flock, took the food and was on his way just as Jesse had directed him. He arrived at the camp just as the army was moving into battle formation, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines moved into position, facing each other, battle-ready.



David left his bundles of food in the care of a sentry, ran to the troops who were deployed, and greeted his brothers. While they were talking together, the Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath, stepped out from the front lines of the Philistines, and gave his usual challenge. David heard him.

The Israelites, to a man, fell back the moment they saw the giant—totally frightened. The talk among the troops was, “Have you ever seen anything like this, this man openly and defiantly challenging Israel? The man who kills the giant will have it made. The king will give him a huge reward, offer his daughter as a bride, and give his entire family a free ride.”

David, who was talking to the men standing around him, asked, “What’s in it for the man who kills that Philistine and gets rid of this ugly blot on Israel’s honor? Who does he think he is, anyway, this uncircumcised Philistine, taunting the armies of God-Alive?”

They told him what everyone was saying about what the king would do for the man who killed the Philistine.

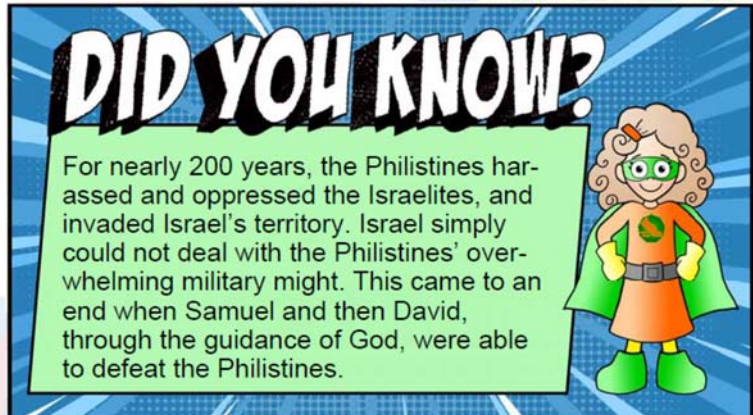
Eliab, his older brother, heard David fraternizing with the men and lost his temper: “What are you doing here! Why aren’t you minding your own business, tending that scrawny flock of sheep? I know what you’re up to. You’ve come down here to see the sights, hoping for a ringside seat at a bloody battle!”

“What is it with you?” replied David. “All I did was ask a question.” Ignoring his brother, he turned to someone else, asked the same question, and got the same answer as before.

The things David was saying were picked up and reported to Saul. Saul sent for him.

“Master,” said David, “don’t give up hope. I’m ready to go and fight this Philistine.”

Saul answered David, “You can’t go and fight this Philistine. You’re too young and inexperienced—and he’s been at this fighting business since before you were born.”

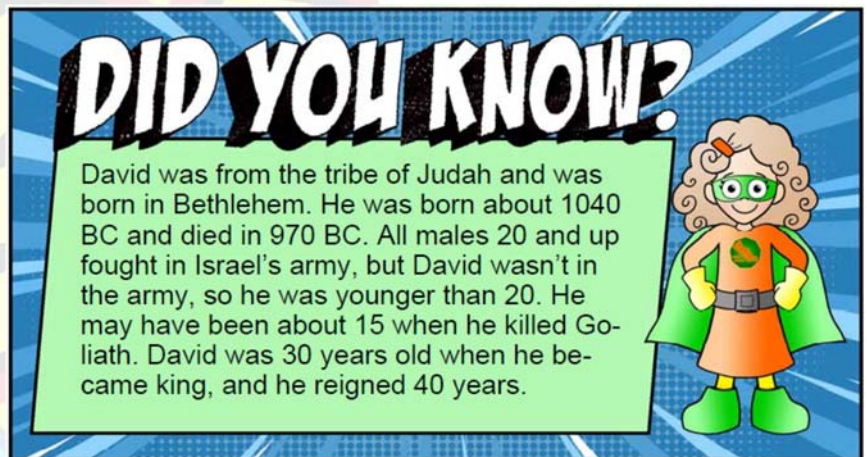


David said, “I’ve been a shepherd, tending sheep for my father. Whenever a lion or bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I’d go after it, knock it down, and rescue the lamb. If it turned on me, I’d grab it by the throat, wring its neck, and kill it. Lion or bear, it made no difference—I killed it. And I’ll do the same to this Philistine pig who is taunting the troops of God-Alive. God, who delivered me from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear, will deliver me from this Philistine.”

Saul said, “Go. And God help you!” Then Saul outfitted David as a soldier in armor. He put his bronze helmet on his head and belted his sword on him over the armor. David tried to walk but he could hardly budge. David told Saul, “I can’t even move with all this stuff on me. I’m not used to this.” And he took it all off.

Then David took his shepherd’s staff, selected five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the pocket of his shepherd’s pack, and with his sling in his hand approached Goliath.

As the Philistine paced back and forth, his shield bearer in front of him, he noticed David. He took one look down on him and sneered—a mere youngster, apple-cheeked and peach-fuzzed. The Philistine ridiculed David. “Am I a dog that you come after me with a stick?” And he cursed him by his gods.



“Come on,” said the Philistine. “I’ll make roadkill of you for the buzzards. I’ll turn you into a tasty morsel for the field mice.”

David answered, “You come at me with sword and spear and battle-ax. I come at you in the name of God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel’s troops, whom you curse and mock. This very day God is handing you over to me. I’m about to kill you, cut off your head, and serve up your body and the bodies of your Philistine buddies to the crows and coyotes. The whole earth will know that there’s an extraordinary God in Israel. And everyone gathered here will learn that God doesn’t save by means of sword or spear. The battle belongs to God—he’s handing you to us on a platter!”



That roused the Philistine, and he started toward David. David took off from the front line, running toward the Philistine. David reached into his pocket for a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine hard in the forehead, embedding the stone deeply. The Philistine crashed, face down in the dirt.

That's how David beat the Philistine—with a sling and a stone. He hit him and killed him. No sword for David!

When the Philistines saw that their great champion was dead, they scattered, running for their lives.

This story sounds like it could be made into an Iron Man movie or another superhero movie, doesn't it?

Today, we have the privilege of having some very special actors.

Have someone bring the actors into the room.

I would like to introduce you to: *Introduce the actors by their stage names, Goliath, David, etc.*

Our story takes place as the Israelite and Philistine armies have moved into position and are facing each other, ready for battle. We pick up the action as David, a young teenager enters the battlefield to bring his brothers some food from home.

Let the action begin!

David

Hi, big brother. Dad told me to bring you some food and see how Army life is treating you.

Eliab

What are you doing here, David? You just want to see a battle! A lot of help you're going to be! Leave the food and go back home. All you're good for is taking care of the sheep.

David

Hey, are you guys seeing any action?



Eliab

Nope, not yet. The Philistines have this 9-foot giant over there who keeps yelling at us. We're all kind of scared. Hey, look, here comes King Saul!

Saul

Come on everybody, let's go. Let's get this battle started.

(The two armies get up and start yelling at each other. Then Goliath swaggers in and the two Philistines stand behind him).

Goliath

Hey, did you Israelites come here to fight Philistines? Well here I am – a real live Philistine. You guys pick somebody tough and have him fight me. If he kills me, you win the war. Of course, if I win, then we win the war. Ha ha!

Eliab

Come on everyone. We need to go hide. That guy is scary!

(The Israelites run away from Goliath).

Israelite 1

Did you see that guy? He's nine feet tall. And that spear is as big as a telephone pole.

Goliath

Chicken! Every last one of you is chicken!! I could take you out with one swing of my sword! You guys are a bunch of wimps!

Israelite 2

King Saul has offered a big reward for anyone who fights him – and wins. Does anyone want to go fight the giant?

Everyone steps back away shaking their heads 'no', and grumbling, "Nope, not me".



David

Well, somebody should go out there and fight him. I can't believe our army is so afraid of one huge giant. Have you forgotten that God has already promised that He will help us win any battle?

Eliab

David. Go home! You're no help. Look at you. You're dressed in shepherd clothes and you don't even have a weapon. You're an embarrassment.

David

King Saul, I want to fight that giant.

Saul

Are you kidding? You're just a kid, and Goliath has been a soldier all his life. Look at him! We're going to need a superhero to fight this battle.

David

I've killed lions and bears when I was taking care of my father's sheep. God saved me from them, and God will save me from Goliath.

Saul

Well, it looks like nobody else is volunteering to fight. I mean, what do we have to lose? Oh, that's right! If you lose, we all lose! All right, you can do it. Here, you can use my armor.

(David pretends to put on Saul's armor. He can hardly walk, it is so heavy. He slowly walks around all bent over.)

David

I can't even move in this thing. I'm not used to all this heavy weight. I'll take my chances and do it my way. I'll be right back.

(David takes the armor off. He walks in the back of the room pretending to collect stones from the river.)



Israelite 1

Gee thanks, Eliab. We need a superhero and all we got was your little brother.

Israelite 2

Yea. We're all going to die!!!

(David returns with his slingshot and stones.)

Goliath

What? Can't you come up with anybody better than this? I'm gonna kill you dead, boy.

David

You've got a sword and spear, but I've got God on my side. God will help me and show the world that He is all anybody needs. He is the supreme Superhero!

(Goliath raises his spear. David throws a rock with his sling and hits Goliath. Goliath falls down. David goes over, bends down and takes a look at Goliath).

David

Yep, he's dead. Look, you Philistines. We won because we have God on our side. No one can stand against us when God's fighting with us!

(The Philistines run out of the room.)

(The actors walk out of the room giving each other high fives, then, they turn around and reenter the room.)

Let's give all of our actors a round of applause.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Earlier when you measured your height on the wall you wrote one of your weaknesses on the paper by your name. Now, I'm going to hand out some paper and I want you to write down your weakness at the top of this piece of paper. Next, I want you write down today's scripture verse at the bottom of the paper. When you have finished tear your paper in half and make two small balls.



Now we're going to play a game. I want two teams in the front of the classroom.

While two of the teams are playing the game, I want the other two teams to be practicing the scripture verse. Your team will get extra points for memorizing the verse.

Each team will have the chance to throw your weakness ball and your scripture ball through the hole in Goliath's head. Your team gets a point every time you make it through the hole.

Every player gets two chances to make it through.

Call up two of your teams. You will need one or two of your assistants to hold the giant's head. After two of the teams have competed, switch teams. Make sure you keep score.



I HAVE THE POWER

When all teams have had a chance to finish the game, have them return to sit with their groups. Make sure you cover the scripture verse if it is posted in the room.

Why do you think it's important to memorize scripture? In 1 Samuel 17:46 the Bible tells us that it was the Lord who gave David the strength to kill the giant, Goliath. **"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down."** When you are feeling like you're just not good enough, remember this verse. God is always with you to give you strength and make you a Superhero for Him.

Now we're going to see which team has memorized the scripture verse. Let's have Team ____ stand up first.

Have each team say the memory verse and decide which one knows it the best. You can give each team points if they have memorized it.

Prepare to return to F.A.I.T.H. Headquarters by 11:40 so your heroes can be there in time to sing "Yes to VBS."



TEAM	TODAY'S POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



NOTES

