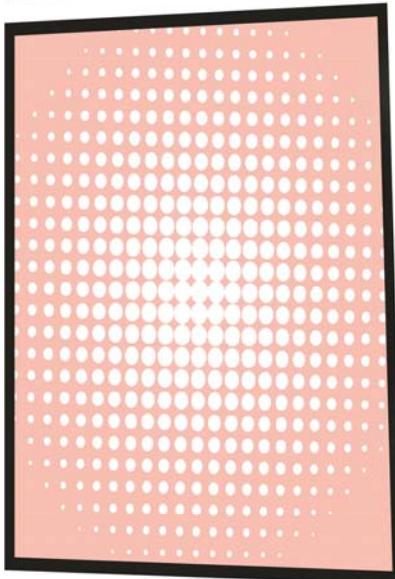


VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

F.A.I.T.H. TEAM PRE-SCHOOL 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

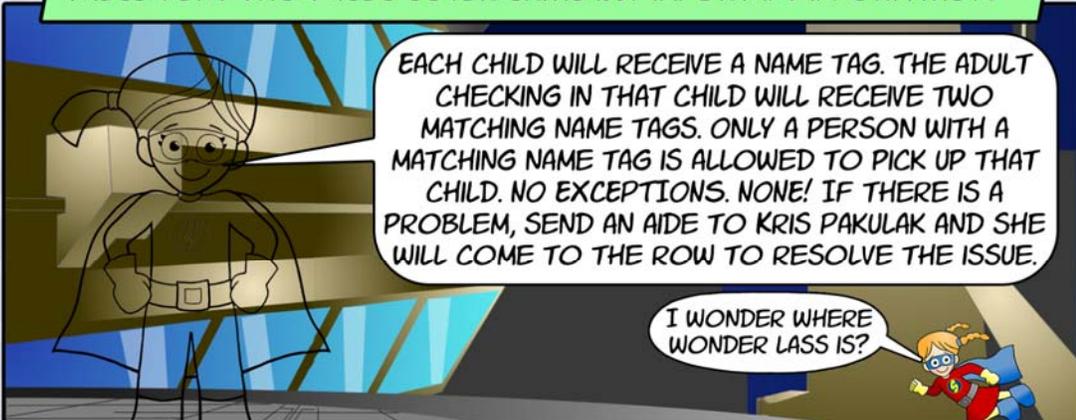


Love Mercy. And walk Humbly with your God."



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:

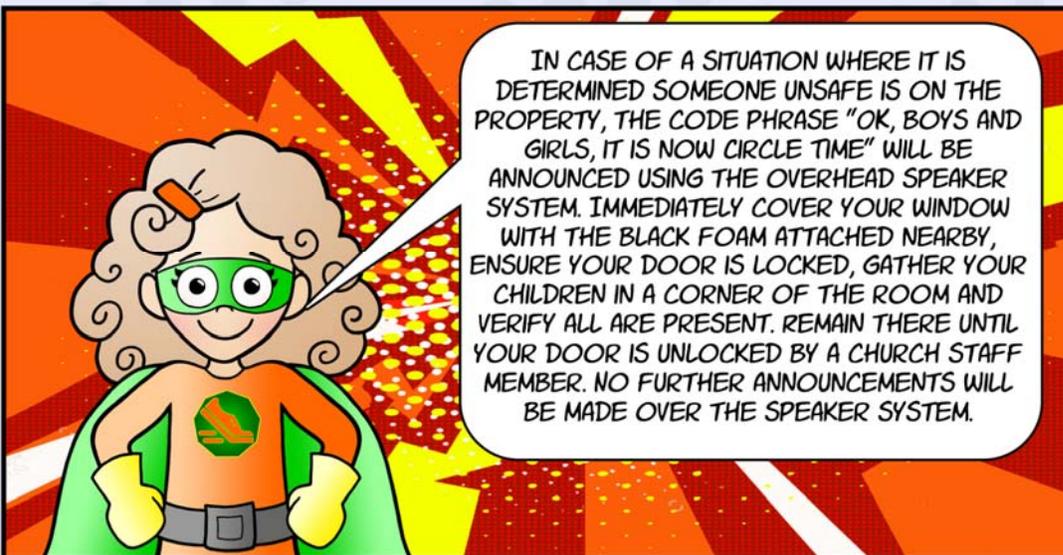


EACH ROOM HAS AN ATTENDANCE SHEET. THIS MUST STAY WITH YOUR CLASS WHEREVER THEY GO. THIS SHEET WILL BE USED TO ENSURE YOU CAN ACCOUNT FOR ALL CHILDREN IN ANY SITUATION.

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."



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

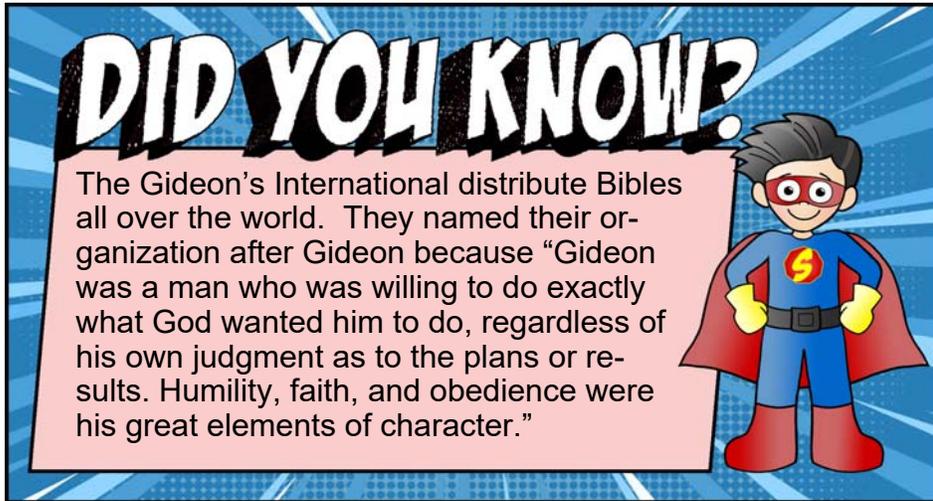
"Using your Powers to Help God."

MONDAY

"But the Lord said to
Gideon, do not be
afraid."
Judges 6:23



GOD'S HEROES HAVE COURAGE



UTILITY BELT

Scissors
Tape
Glue
Crayons
Gideon Trumpet Coloring Sheet
Two-page Gideon Paper Doll Craft
CD with song, "Jesus Is My Superhero"
Friday Take Home Bag for each Hero



FLAME ON

After you have greeted you Heroes and made them feel comfortable, you will teach them the motions for the song, "Jesus is My Superhero," which is on its own CD – not the main VBS 2018 CD. Your Sidekicks will know the motions to the song so have them stand in the front of the Heroes.

This song will be sung the first thing every morning after you get the heroes settled, so be sure to have it ready to play. Don't forget before VBS begins to TEST YOUR PLAYER so you know how it works, and that it does work.

The lyrics and motions are in the introductory section of your curriculum.

Have the heroes stand up and sing the song a couple of times.



Instruct your youth aides to hand out the “Gideon’s Trumpet” coloring sheet from your Monday craft bag.

Let the heroes color the trumpet cone. Following the instructions on the sheet, the cone’s need to be cut out, rolled and taped together. Some heroes may need help doing this. Be sure you write the heroes’ names on the somewhere on the completed trumpets, and then set aside for later use.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

This portion of the lesson should take about 10 minutes.

Begin your lesson time each day with a short prayer. You can use this prayer if you'd like:

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.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen

Have everyone get comfortable, shake out the squirming, take a deep breath, and then tell the Bible story. Be sure to read it in advance and feel free to embellish it with drama and big changes in your voice.

Today we're going to learn about one of God's superheroes from the Old Testament in the Bible. His name is Gideon and his story starts out with God not being very happy with his people, the Israelites.

Gideon lived a long time ago. He lived about 1,000 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.

Gideon had a really important job and a scary one too. But we're going to find out that, even when we're scared, God can give us great courage.



Gideon lived in a land called Ophrah. (*Pronounced "OH-frah"*)

God's people, the Israelites in Ophrah, were not obeying God. Some of them were worshipping false idols and were not worshipping the real God.

There are consequences for not obeying God. That means that when they did something wrong God didn't bless them and allowed let the Midianites, their enemies, to rule over them.

Gideon and the Israelites were very afraid of the Midianites. The Midianites weren't their friends. The Israelites worked very hard and planted crops and took good care of their animals. But the Midianites either stole all their crops and animals or they burned down their crops.

The Israelites were so afraid of the Midianites that they had to hide from them in caves.

After Israel had no food to eat and nothing left they finally cried out to God for help. They definitely needed a superhero from God. God heard their cry. He had a plan.

The cool thing about all this is that even though God wasn't happy with the Israelites, He still listened to them and answered their prayer!

This is where Gideon comes into the story. Gideon was taking care of some wheat in a hidden place so the Midianites wouldn't see him and steal the wheat. All of a sudden, the angel of the Lord came and sat next to him.

The angel spoke to him and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. You are going to be a superhero for your people."

"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why is all this bad stuff happening. Where are all the miracles our fathers told us about?"

The Lord replied to Gideon, "Go with all your strength and save Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you to do it."

Gideon was very afraid of the Midianites. So, Gideon started making excuses to God.

"But Lord, how can I save Israel? My people are the weakest and I am the smallest and the youngest in my family."

I think God probably smiled here to make Gideon feel better and said, "I will be with you, and you will defeat all the Midianites."

Then Gideon asked God for a sign. He wanted to be sure this was really God that he was talking to, so Gideon asked God to show him some signs.

First, he made an altar out of rock to make an offering to God.



He put his offering of meat and bread down on a rock, and then fire came from the rock and completely burned up the meat and bread. And then, POOF!, the angel of the Lord disappeared.

Then Gideon realized that it really was God who had sent the angel.

That same night the Lord told Gideon to take down all of the altars his father and the other people in town had built for a pretend god named Baal. (*Pronounced "bail"*)

The Israelites had even started believing in these fake gods and that's why God had been angry with them. God is the only real and true God and these people were praying and giving offerings to pieces of wood and statues that can't do or hear anything.

So, Gideon took ten of his servants at night and tore down all of the altars.

The people were mad when they realized Gideon had wrecked their altars, but they decided that if Baal was really a god he would punish Gideon. Well, guess what? Nothing ever happened to Gideon because Baal isn't a real God.

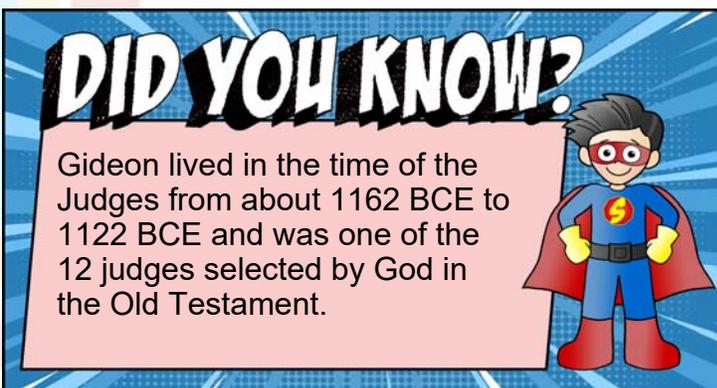
Gideon still wanted to make sure that God would save the Israelites, so he asked for another sign. He placed a piece of wool from a sheep on the ground. If there was dew in the morning only on the piece of wool, and all the ground around it was dry, then he would know that God would save them.

When Gideon checked the wool in the morning it was soaking wet and the ground was dry. Still Gideon asked for one more sign...

This time he asked that the piece of wool be dry, and the ground be wet. Sure enough, the next morning it was just as Gideon asked. He knew God was on his side.

So, Gideon gathered up an army and started out for the Midianite camp. Gideon was probably feeling pretty good about things. He had more than 30,000 men to help him fight. But best of all, God promised He would help Gideon's army to win.

But God had something a little different in mind. He told Gideon he had too many men in his army. God knew that Israel would think they defeated the Midianites on their own without God's help.



So, God said to Gideon, "Announce to the people, 'Anyone who is afraid may go home now.'" Amazingly 22,000 of the men left! That's a lot of people! More than half of the whole army went home. Only 10,000 stayed to fight.

Gideon said to himself, "At least I still have ten thousand men, right?" But not for long. The Lord told Gideon he still had too many men.

When they went down to the water for a drink the Lord told him, "Separate the men that drink the water like a dog and the ones that get on their knees and drink from their cupped hands."

(You might want to take a brief moment and demonstrate the difference.)

Can you believe it that only 300 men got on their knees and drank from their hands? All the rest looked really silly drinking like dogs!

God told Gideon He only wanted the 300 men who drank from their hands for the coming battle. The rest could just go back home. This way, when Israel won, they would know that God was in control. God wanted them to know they could depend on Him to be there to help win the battle

Gideon didn't know how God was going to help them win. There were so many Midianites and he had just 300 men. He became so worried he couldn't sleep. So, God decided to help Gideon and make him feel better about things.

During the night the Lord spoke to Gideon, "If you are still afraid that I'm not going to help you win, go down in the valley with your servant Purah, where the Midianites are staying, and listen to what they're saying. You'll feel much better after that."

Guess what Gideon did? Even though he was still afraid, he obeyed God and took Purah and snuck down to the Midianite camp. *(Purah is pronounced POO-rah)*

Just as Gideon and Purah arrived, they heard one of the Midianites talking to his friend about a dream he had. He was saying, "I dreamt that a round loaf of bread came rolling into our camp. It came so fast that it ran right into one of our tents and made it fall over."

His friend responded, "This must mean the sword of Gideon and that God of his will help him defeat the Midianites."

As soon as Gideon heard this he worshiped God and ran back to the camp. When he got back he called out to his men, "Get up, the Lord has given us the Midianite camp!"

DID YOU KNOW?

The Israelites rebelled against God and were conquered by the Midianites for seven years prior to the battle. Moses married a Midianite (Zipporah) and Zipporah's father (Jethro) was a Midianite priest.



He divided all the men in three groups and gave them all trumpets and empty jars with torches inside. Gideon and his 300 men then surrounded the Midianites.

Gideon started to blow his trumpet. Soon the rest of his men started to blow their trumpets.

They blew their trumpets and yelled, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" Then they broke the jars they were carrying. They held up a torch with one hand and a trumpet in the other hand shouting, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

When the Midianites heard this, they started yelling and running around. Then when all the trumpets started again the Lord caused the Midianites to start freaking out and they started to turn on each other with their swords.

That was the day God made Gideon a superhero. Gideon had defeated the Midianites with God's help. Without God none of this was possible.

I hope that after this Gideon learned his lesson and stopped being afraid. With God on our team we never have to be afraid. With God nothing is impossible!

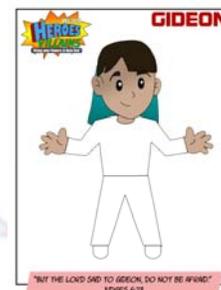
Next time you're in a tough situation and you're afraid, never forget that God can give you courage. He wants to help you. Just ask and He will!



RIDDLE ME THIS

Pass out the two-page Gideon Dress Up Paper doll craft that is in your craft bag.

Have your heroes cut out the pieces from the one page so they are ready to glue on the doll but don't do any gluing yet. Be sure to watch for heroes who need help with their scissors. As they are cutting, explain that you are going to review the story of Gideon and as you do, you will tell them when to glue the next piece onto their sheet. Be sure to encourage the kids to shout out the answers and repeat as necessary.

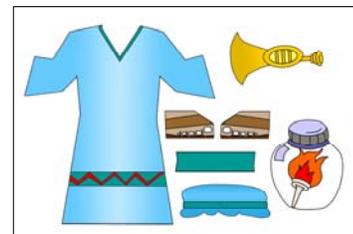


Who is the superhero in our story today? (Gideon)

Who was our villain? (The Midianites)

We're going to get Gideon ready for battle.

I'll let you know how and when to put each piece of armor on Gideon. As I review the story to you really have to listen to me. Are you ready to put on Gideon's armor?



Who was in the story? (*Gideon, God, the Midianites*)

I want you to glue the feet onto Gideon.

What were the Midianites like? (*They were mean.*)

Glue on the outfit.

What did Gideon ask God to do to show him that God was real? (*God soaked the sheep's wool one day and left the ground dry and then the next day God kept the sheep's wool dry but soaked the ground.*)

Glue on the belt.
How many people did Gideon finally take with him to fight off the Midianites? (*300*)

Glue on the hat.

When it was time to do battle, what was the first thing that Gideon and his men did when they reached the Midianite camp? (*They blew their trumpets and shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon."*)

Glue on the horn.

"What did Gideon and his army do to win the fight?" (*They broke jars and lit torches.*)

Glue on the jar.

You did great and I'm so proud of all you. Let's make sure your names are on your sheet and we'll save them until Friday for your moms and dads to see them.



I HAVE THE POWER

Hand out the Trumpets you made at the beginning of today's gathering.

We're going to use our trumpets to help us learn our scripture verse for today.

Everyone please stand up! We're going to march around the room and every time I say our memory verse, I want you to blow your trumpet like this.



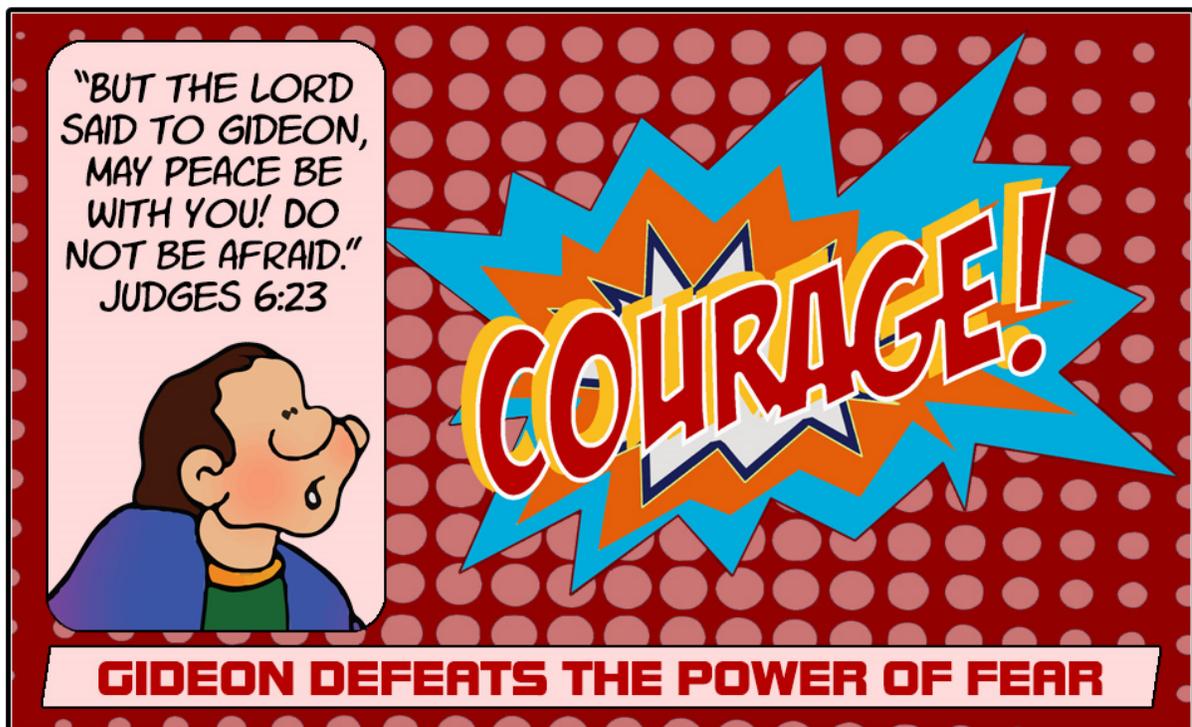
Demonstrate the sound you want them to make using their pretend trumpets.

"But the Lord said to Gideon, do not be afraid."

Walk around the room a couple of times and repeat the scripture verse. Then have the heroes sit down and repeat the verse a couple of times. Collect the trumpets and save them in their Friday Take Home Bags.

Get ready to return 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 THE NEXT DAY. HAVE FOUR PARTS ASSIGNED, COSTUMES FIGURED OUT, SCRIPTS HANDED OUT. FOUR COPIES OF THE SCRIPT ARE IN YOUR BINDER AT THE END OF TUESDAY'S LESSON.



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."

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

Picture of idol worship

Faith Shields

White Paper with Scripture Verse

Glue sticks

Blue, Yellow, Red, Orange Tissue Paper

Craft Sticks

Gray Circles for Rocks

Costumes and scripts for Ahab, Obadiah and Elijah

CD with song "Jesus Is My Superhero"

Friday Take Home Bag for each Hero



FLAME ON

After you have greeted the heroes and made them feel comfortable sing "Jesus is My Superhero," as you did on Monday. Repeat if you'd like. When you're ready, hold up the picture of people worshipping an idol.

Do any of you know what is happening in this picture?



Encourage replies and lead the discussion to then point at the idols on your picture.

These are called idols. Idols are things people worship instead of God. They can be made out of many different things and look many different ways, but sometimes people choose to worship idols in their hearts over God.

Remember that all Idols are made by humans. They believe these idols can do things for them, so they pray to them and do things for the idols, believing them to be real and calling them gods.

Idol worship does not just look like these pictures. We can all worship idols because an idol can be anything that we love more than God. You can see on this picture that all of the people are bowing down and worshipping this idol. They should be worshipping God instead.

Today we're going to study about a man named Elijah who became a superhero of God.

But first, let's pray.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this new day.

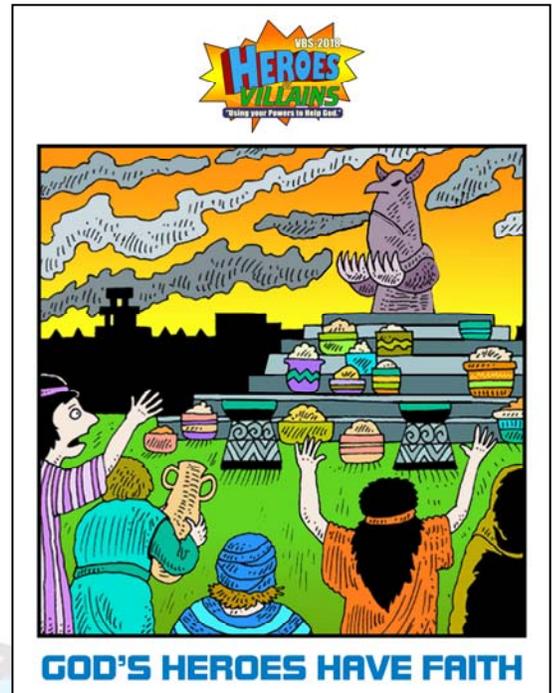
Thank you for VBS.

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.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen



The idol in our story today is named Baal. (*Pronounced "BAIL."*)

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

Hand out the "Faith" shields, one per child, that are in your Tuesday craft bag along with some crayons for each table.

We're going to color a shield of faith that will remind you that you can be a superhero of faith just like Elijah was.

Spend a few minutes coloring the shields and when you're ready, move on to the main lesson of the day.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

Today's lesson is long, so you may need to teach it in two sessions. Perhaps before and after your craft/recreation time? It's really up to you and your sense of how your heroes are doing, paying attention, getting fidgety, etc. There is a place marked in the script that could make a good break.

The script is presented here for you to read through on your own, get some ideas for how to do the skit, and so you know the story. Actor-friendly versions, four copies, are included in this notebook at the end of today's lesson. You should have already handed these out to your actors by the time you went home on Monday, figured out costumes, etc.

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.

Elijah knew that you should only serve God, but another man named Ahab (*Pronounced AY-hab*) believed that you should serve a god named Baal (*Pronounced BAIL*). 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Baal was the name of the supreme god worshiped in ancient Canaan and Phoenicia. In general, Baal was a fertility god who was believed to enable the earth to produce crops and people to produce children.



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!

Wasn't that a great story! A lot of important things sure happened at that altar. I have an idea! Let's make an altar that looks like the altar Elijah made from our story.

Get out the Altar craft and white paper from your Tuesday craft bag. Hand out the paper first. Hand out glue sticks to each of the heroes.

OK, everyone put the paper in front of you. The first thing that Elijah did to build the altar was to stack 12 stones on the ground. I want you to glue your 12 stones on your paper.

Show them the picture of the completed altar craft and where to glue the stones. Give everyone a few moments to finish. Watch for anyone that needs help.

Next, glue the three craft sticks on top of the stones.



Same thing. Watch for everyone to finish, helping as needed.

Now you're ready to glue the blue water tissue paper around the stones.

You probably got the hang of it by now!

And last, glue the red, orange, and yellow tissue paper on top of the craft sticks.

Why do you think we used craft sticks on our altar?
What do they remind you of?

(Wood for the fire.)

Why did you glue the blue paper around the stones?

(It's the water.)

And what do the other colors of tissue paper represent?

(The fire)

Let's read the words on your altar picture. **"Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that you, Lord, are God." 1 Kings 18:37**

Who is our superhero in the story?

(Elijah)

Remember that Elijah had great faith that God was going to burn his sacrifice even though he had poured water all over the altar and made everything so wet it would never burn. But it did, thanks to God!



Great job, everyone!

Make sure that you collect the pictures and save them for Friday.

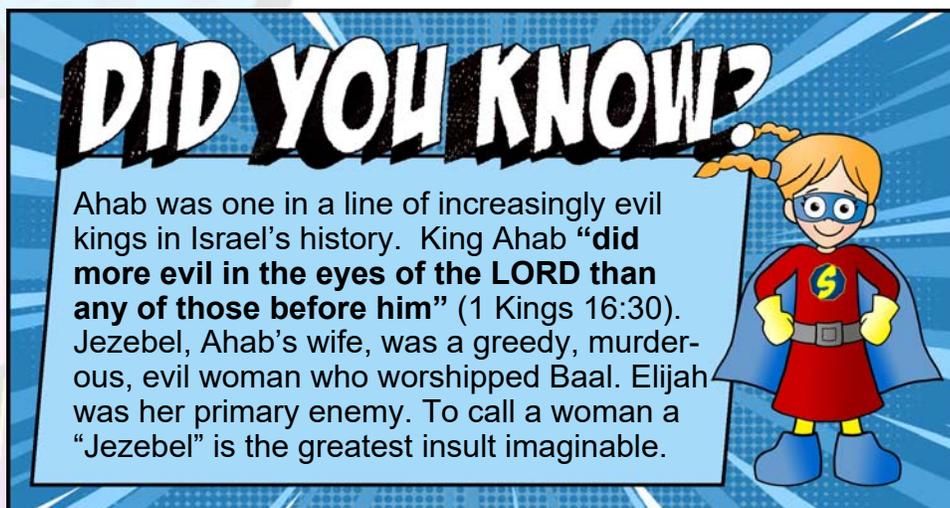


RIDDLE ME THIS

If your skit and craft making runs long, feel free to skip this section of the lesson. You can always go back to it later in the week to review if you need to fill some time.

Retell the story together using various sounds and motions. Go through these actions as many times as desired. Instruct the students to make the sounds as you review the story.

Elijah and Ahab built alters. (Knock on the table or floor.)



The prophets of Baal cried out to their gods. (Say waahhh or make crying sounds.)

But there was silence. (Hold finger to lips and say, "shhh.")

Then Elijah prayed to God. (Wave hands in the air and say, "Praise God.")

And fire covered the altar. (Snap fingers and say, "Snap, crackle, pop")





I HAVE THE POWER

Now we're going to practice our memory verse for today. Each time I say the verse I want you to yell, "Only Worship God!"

Here's the verse. **"Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that you, Lord, are God."**

Repeat this verse several times, then, have the kids say the verse.

Keep an eye on the clock and be sure 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

A superhero character named Solar Girl with blonde pigtails, wearing a red suit with a yellow lightning bolt on the chest, a blue cape, and blue boots. She is standing in a cityscape background. The text 'HEROES VS. VILLAINS' is written in large, colorful, stylized letters. Below it, a quote reads 'Using your Powers to Help God.' At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text '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

A cartoon illustration of a man with a long brown beard and a white head covering, wearing a red robe. He is pointing his right index finger upwards. To his right is a large, jagged speech bubble containing the word 'FAITH!' in large, pink, outlined letters. The background is blue with white polka dots. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text 'ELIJAH DEFEATS THE POWER OF FALSE GODS'.



NOTES



VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

WEDNESDAY

"Daniel's God is the living God. He lives forever."

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

Scripture verse stickers, **Daniel 6:26 Daniel's God is the living God. He lives forever.**

Two-sided circle with happy and sad face to color

Large Craft Sticks for the Happy/Sad faces

Small Craft Sticks for the Lion Mask craft

White Paper Plates

Yellow & Orange Construction Paper in baggie

Brown Construction Paper for ears in baggie

Scissors

Glue

Crayons

Daniel and the Lion's Den Story Craft

Stapler

CD with song "Jesus Is My Superhero"

Friday Take Home Bag for each Hero





FLAME ON

Greet your Heroes and gather to sing and dance to “Jesus is My Superhero” as you did the day before. Repeat the song a couple of times if you’d like. Then have everyone sit down for you to introduce today’s lesson about TRUST.

How many of you know the difference between a lie and the truth?

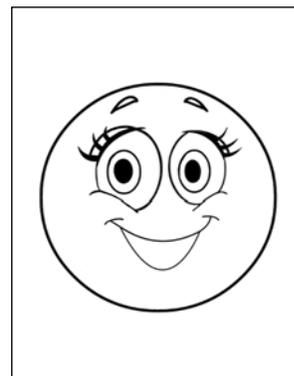
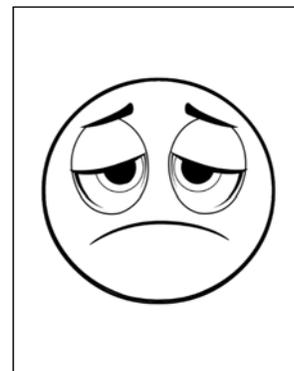
Encourage answers and lead the discussion for a few moments.

Let’s see how well you can tell the difference between what’s the truth and what’s a lie. You will be judge. But first, we’re going to give you two faces to color. A happy face and a sad face. (Show them an example from your Wednesday craft bag.)

Let’s take a few minutes so you can color your faces. Be sure to color each side. When you have finished coloring, cut out the faces around the circle, and then we’re going to glue the circles back-to-back with a large craft stick in between.

Pass out the circles that are in your Wednesday craft bag. Allow about five minutes for the heroes to color both sides of the circle. When it looks like everyone is ready to continue, start the next activity.

Now we’re going to play a game. I’m going to make a statement. If what I say is TRUE, then show me your happy face. If what I say is a LIE or NOT TRUE, I want you to show me your sad face. Everyone ready?



It snows here in Florida every winter. (*Lie*)

The Minions are great big dinosaurs. (*Lie*)

Mickey Mouse has a friend named Donald Duck. (*True*)

My teacher flies a helicopter to school. (*Lie*)

Gideon had 300 men to fight the Midianites. (*True*)



It's okay to steal from a grocery store if I want something. *(Lie)*

Dogs have ten legs. *(Lie)*

It's okay to laugh really loud when we're praying to God. *(True)*

Dolphins live in the water. *(True)*

You don't have to obey your parents. *(Lie)*

Great job! Did you think it was hard to tell the difference between a lie and truth?

Allow just a couple of brief responses.

Well, today we're going to learn about a brave superhero from the Bible named Daniel. Even though some really mean men told lies about Daniel, we're going to find out that always trusting in God and staying true to Him is the best way to live. Daniel is our superhero of trust.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

You're about to read the story of Daniel and the Lions. It will take about 10 minutes to read. Be sure to read the story in advance so you are familiar with it. Feel free to embellish the story with lots of drama and dramatic changes in your voice. This will help keep the younger heroes interested in the story.

Today we're going to learn about a superhero in the Bible named Daniel.

But 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.

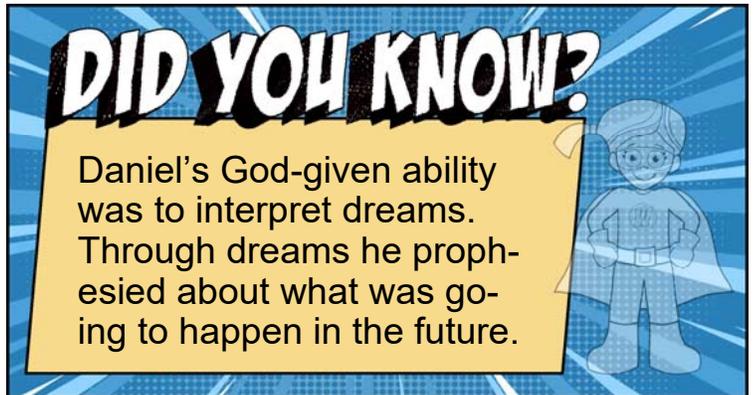
Thank you for the fun we will have together.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen



Daniel was about 15 years old and lived in a country called Judah. He was part of the family of the King of Judah. Unfortunately, most of the people living in the land of Judah were not obeying God so, God allowed the Babylonians to conquer them.

Do you remember the story about Gideon that we told on Monday? Remember that a lot of the people turned away from God and were worshipping false gods and idols? Well, sadly, the people in Judah were like the people in our story on Monday.



Can anyone tell me what happened when people in the Old Testament did not obey God?

(God allowed their enemies to take their land and sometimes their people.)

One day an army of Babylonians came and captured Daniel and some other men and took them away. Daniel was only a teenager when these men took him far away from his home and family and made him a slave.

Daniel lived a long time in Babylon. The king of Babylon was named Darius. *(Pronounced DUH-rye-us)*

King Darius liked Daniel because Daniel was honest and a very hard worker. In fact, King Darius liked Daniel so much that he gave Daniel a very important job. King Darius made Daniel the person in charge of the whole country!

There were some other servant men who worked for the king and they didn't like Daniel at all. They were very jealous of Daniel because they knew the king liked Daniel better than them. So, guess what these other servants did? They tried to find something that would get Daniel in trouble.

What do you think they did to try to get Daniel in trouble?

(Encourage responses. Maybe offer a silly example and a serious one.)

Well, they tried to get him fired, but Daniel always obeyed God, and the mean servants couldn't find anything to do to get Daniel in trouble.

Finally, these men had a secret meeting. They said to each other, "We can't find any reason for the king to fire Daniel. The only way we can get him to disobey the king is if we make a law against Daniel's God."

Now here's something you should know about King Darius. The people in Babylon didn't believe in Daniel's God. They all believed in false idols. Remember how we talked about idols yesterday?

Should we worship idols?

(Encourage responses and very brief discussion.)

Who should we worship?

(Encourage responses, the answer being God, of course.)

So, these mean servants went to see King Darius. They said to him, "O great king, you are so wonderful that no one should pray to anyone but you." The king said, "That sounds like a great idea!" Then the men continued, "All of your workers have agreed that this should be done and that anyone that prays to any other god should be thrown into the lions' den."

The workers lied and said that everyone who worked for the king agreed to only worship the King and not worship God. But, of course, they never even talked to Daniel. They knew that Daniel would never agree to worship only King Darius. Daniel loved God and knew it was wrong to worship any idol or put any king before God. Even if it was King Darius!

The king didn't know those evil men had never talked to Daniel. So, he made a new law and now the law couldn't be changed. The law said, "Anyone who worships anything or anybody except King Darius will be thrown into the lions' den and be killed!"



When Daniel heard about the new law he did what he always did. He went home to a room upstairs and opened the windows that looked out over the city. Three times that day he went down on his knees and prayed to God just like he always had.

Daniel was a very brave superhero in the Bible. He trusted his God to protect him.

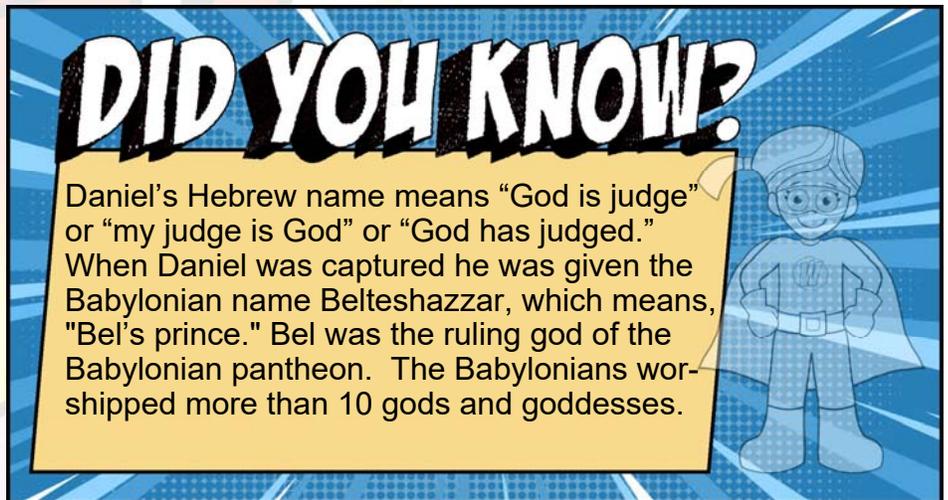
What do you think happened next in the story?

(Encourage responses and very brief discussion.)

Who was Daniel's God that he worshipped?

(Encourage responses, the answer being God, of course.)

That's right. Daniel worshipped the One True God. He is the same God that we worship today at Vacation Bible School. Let's get back to our story.



Those evil men went as a group to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking God for help. So, they ran straight to the king and told him, "Your worker Daniel is ignoring your command. We have seen him praying to his God three times today."

When the king heard this, he was very sad. He really liked Daniel and he didn't want him to die. He tried everything to get the law changed to stop Daniel from being thrown in the lions' den, but the men came to him and reminded him that the law could not be changed, and Daniel would have to be punished.

So, at the end of the day the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "I hope your God who you serve and pray to will rescue you!"

A large, heavy stone was rolled in front of the lion's den and the king went back to his palace with tears in his eyes. That night King Darius couldn't eat or sleep he was so worried for Daniel. Do you think Daniel was afraid?

(Encourage responses and very brief discussion.)

The next day, as soon as the sun came up, the king got up and ran to the lions' den. As he got closer he shouted, "Daniel, has your God who you serve and pray to rescued you from the lions?" The king waited quietly for a response.

Then all of a sudden Daniel said, "O king, live forever! My God sent an angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me because I have done nothing wrong."

The king jumped with joy and immediately ordered that Daniel be removed from the lion's den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, there wasn't even a scratch on him because Daniel had trusted in God.

The king knew the men had tricked him into punishing Daniel, so the king punished the evil men.

After that the king made a new law and he said, "Daniel's God is great, and I order that everyone in my kingdom must respect the Lord God, who rescued Daniel from the hungry lions."

What a great story that was! Let's see if you can answer a few questions about it.

Who were the liars in the story?

(The mean servants who lied to the king.)



How did their lies get Daniel in trouble?

(They told the king that Daniel had agreed to stop worshipping God and only worship King Darius.)

Why is Daniel a superhero in our story?

(He didn't stop worshipping God. He was obedient to God and didn't worship any idols.)

How do we know that God protected Daniel?

(He protected Daniel in the lion's den.)

Why is it important to always stand up for the truth?

(Obeying God's truth is always better than telling lies or being disobedient.)

Why was it important for Daniel to trust in God?

(Encourage responses and very brief discussion.)

Why is it important for you to trust in God?

(Encourage responses and very brief discussion.)





RIDDLE ME THIS

Now we're going to make a sort of mini-comic book that will help us remember the story of Daniel and the Lions.

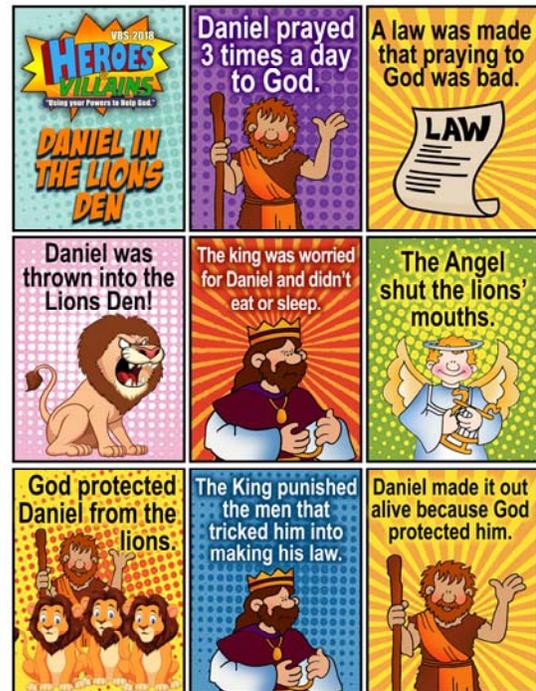
(Hand out the page with the story squares that's in your Wednesday craft bag.)

On this page the story is all mixed up. We're going to cut out the squares and then put them in the correct order. Then we'll stack the squares in order and staple it together for you to take home on Friday. So, let's first cut out the squares.

(Help the Heroes cut out the nine squares and lay them down on the floor in front of each Hero so they can see the pictures.)

Now let's review our story. As we do we're going to put our story book in order.

(Hold up your sheet of paper with the story squares.)



The first picture that tells what the story is about.

(Point to the first square, Daniel in the Lion's Den.)

The name of our story today is Daniel in the Lion's Den, so this square should be number one in our story. Can you find it?

(Make sure everyone finds the first square to begin building their book.)

Who can tell me which page comes next in our story?



(Point to the next page, Daniel prayed three times a day to God. Again, be sure all the young heroes find the next square and places it next to the previous square as they put the story in order. Continue in this way until all nine squares are found and in place.)

The rest of the order is:

A law was made that praying to God was bad.

Daniel was thrown into the lion's den.

The king was worried for Daniel and didn't eat or sleep.

The angel shut the lion's mouth.

God protected Daniel from the lions.

The king punished the men that tricked him into making the law.

Daniel made it out alive because God protected him.)

Now let's put our mini-comic book together. Stack your cards in order with the first one on top. Then have one of us come staple your comic book together.

(Some of the younger heroes may need some help. Make sure their story is in order before stapling the booklet together. Collect the booklets and save in their Friday take home bags.)



I HAVE THE POWER

For this final activity we're going to make a lion's mask. If you think you don't have enough time to do the craft, you can save it for another day – Friday may be ideal – and today just have the kids march around the room repeating the Bible verse and roaring like a lion.



To make the lion mask, hand out the paper plates with the circle cut out, the baggie with the construction paper strips, and the large craft sticks.

We're going to make a lion's mask to help us remember the scripture verse in our story today. Listen carefully and we'll do everything together, one step at a time.

First, take out all the yellow and orange rectangular shapes in your baggie.

(After announcing each step, allow time for the kids to complete and be sure to watch for heroes who need a little more help and guidance.)

Now glue the shapes around the outside of the circle just like this.



Hold up the picture of the completed lion mask.

Next glue on the brown ears.

Now tape or glue the large craft stick to the back of the mask. Some of them may need help with this.

Glue the scripture verse to the front of your mask.

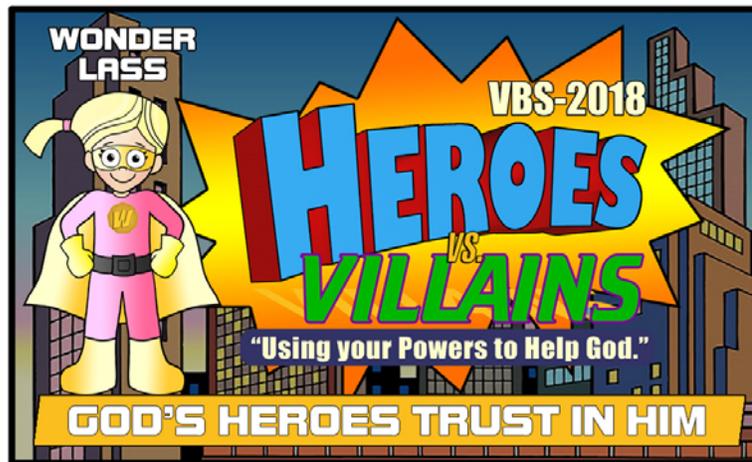
Our scripture verse today is from Daniel 6:26 – **Daniel's God is the living God. He lives forever.**

Everyone stand up, put your mask in front of your face and repeat after me: **Daniel's God is the living God. He lives forever.**



Repeat the verse several times. March around the room. When finished, collect the masks and place them in the Friday take home bag. Always remember to write the hero's name on his/her mask.

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



NOTES



VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

THURSDAY

"Jesus said to the devil,
'Go away from me,
Satan!'"

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

Large poster board with scripture, two per classroom

Two-sided yes or no temptation signs to color

Paper to make balls, three sheets per student

Poster board with daily Bible verse sticker

Get your CD ready for the first song, "Jesus Is My Superhero."

Before Class: Lay one Hershey's chocolate kiss per hero and at least one extra in the middle of each table. Make sure the Sidekicks and Mission Specialists are carefully watching the children as they come in to ensure the candy doesn't "disappear!"





FLAME ON

Sing the super hero song.

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 candy 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.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

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 feels temptation. Let's find out how Jesus handles being tempted.

Begin your lesson time each day with a short prayer. You can use this prayer if you'd like:

But 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.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen

Now I want to tell you a true story about Jesus. It begins right after he started going around and telling others about God's love. He was led into the wilderness where there was nothing to eat or drink. He was in a big desert, far away from anyone else.

He stayed there for 40 days and 40 nights. That's more than a month long! And the whole time he went without anything to eat or drink. What does it feel like to be hungry?

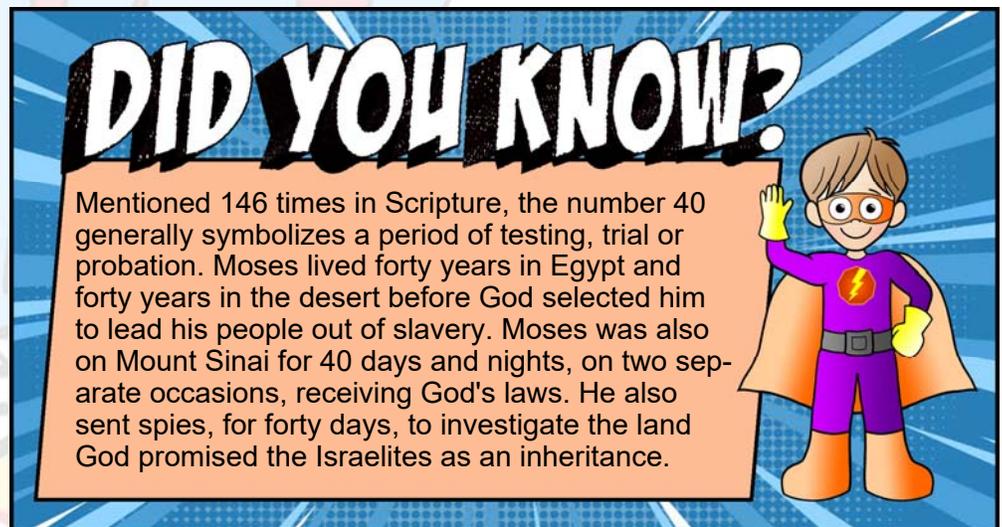
Allow some responses.

How many of you have gone to the beach on a hot day, or played out in the sun for a while and then gotten really thirsty?

Show of hands.

What do you do when you're thirsty?

Allow some responses.



I know that I get hungry after just a few hours of not eating, but Jesus went without food or water for 40 days! How do you think he felt?

Allow some responses.

So, Jesus was very, very hungry and very, very thirsty. Then Satan, the devil, came to see Jesus. What do you think Satan looked like when he came to see Jesus?

Allow some responses.

Well, the Bible doesn't really describe Satan, it just tells us over and over again that Satan was really bad!! He was worse than any mean person you've ever seen, even on TV or at the movies.

Satan tempted Jesus in three different ways. The first time Satan tempted Jesus, He told Jesus to turn a stone into bread. Now, remember, Jesus hadn't had anything to eat for over a month! Do you think Jesus was tempted to turn the stone into bread and eat it?

Allow some responses.

Jesus told Satan, "**you can't live on bread alone.**" And He did not turn the stone into bread.

The next time, Satan took Jesus up to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms and riches and gold in the world. Satan told Jesus that if He would worship him, he would give Jesus all the kingdoms and glory in the world.

That means that Jesus could be rich and have all the food He wanted on Earth. It would be like you could go live at Disney World and eat anything you want, and that you could go on all the rides whenever you wanted and keep all the toys you wanted.

But Jesus said, "**Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.**" It would be wrong to worship anyone but God. Jesus told Satan He would never worship anyone but God. So, Jesus did not worship Satan, even though He was very hungry and tired and thirsty.

Finally, Satan took Jesus to the city of Jerusalem and made Him stand in the highest point in the temple where people came to worship God. He teased Jesus and told Him to prove that He really was God's son. He told Jesus to jump off the top of the temple and let the angels catch Him.



Now, you know the angels would certainly have caught Jesus when He jumped and not let anything bad happen to Jesus. But wouldn't jump. Instead He said, **"it is written: do not test God."**

You see Satan was trying to make God do something. God does not obey Satan and Jesus would not give into Satan either. Three times Satan tempted Jesus, and Jesus wouldn't do what Satan wanted. Now, Jesus certainly did feel tempted to sin because He was human. But He did not sin because He was God. Jesus knows how it feels to be tempted, just like you were tempted to eat the candy this morning.

You know, whenever you are tempted to sin Jesus can help you. Like the song we sing every morning, Jesus will always be our Superhero. He is the only one that we can trust to forgive us from our sins and to help us be superheroes too.

There is a big difference between being tempted and actually sinning. We are tempted every-day of our lives to do something wrong, but God gives us the power to avoid temptation and not sin, if we only believe in Him.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Pass out the double-sided temptation signs found in your Thursday Craft bag.

We're going to pass out some signs for you to color. On one side Professor Lightning says "Yes!" and on the other side he says "No!"

Make sure everyone has a supply of crayons and give everyone a chance to color both sides. Keep an eye on the clock. You may need to finish the coloring another time when you get a chance.

Hold your sign in your hands and let's all stand up. Let's think of some ways that we are tempted.



If I say something that might tempt you to do something wrong, you hold up your sign that says, "No." But if I say something that is okay to do and is not wrong, I want you to hold up the side that says, "Yes". Ready?

- Go to bed on time.
- Tell your mom you brushed your teeth when you didn't.
- Say mean things to your brother, sister or a friend.
- Read your Bible.
- Never clean up your toys.
- Stomp your feet when you're angry.
- Pray every day.
- Steal some candy.
- Be nice to a new kid at school or church.
- Eat cookies when nobody is looking.
- Watch a bad tv show.
- Make your bed.
- Yell in the car while your mom's driving.
- Come to VBS!

We've all been tempted. But it's not wrong to be tempted. It's only wrong when you do what you know you're not supposed to do. Then it's called sin.



Let's talk about what happened this morning with the candy. When you first came in and saw the candy on the table did any of you want to just grab a piece of candy and start eating it? You were tempted to eat the candy, weren't you?

Allow for responses.

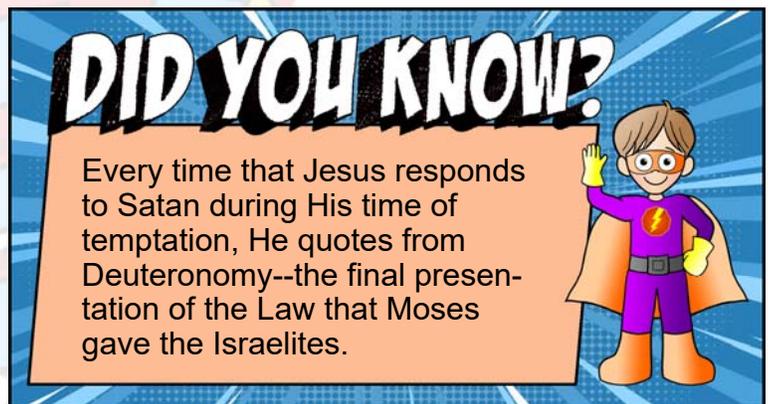
It was okay to feel you really wanted to eat your candy. But was it okay to take the candy without permission?

Allow for responses. Interact and ask them why or why not?

When _____ (*name of your helper*) was tempted, took the candy and hid it in their hand, then the temptation became sin.

What do you think you should do after you have sinned?

You may need to repeat the situation, so it is very clear they did not sin because they did not take the candy without permission. Only the helpers sinned.



When you do something wrong the first thing you need to do is tell someone you're sorry.

Pause here and have the helpers ask for forgiveness and say they are sorry.

Then after you have said you are sorry you need to ask that person to forgive you. Then, the last thing you need to do is ask Jesus to forgive you. Once you have asked Jesus to forgive you, He forgives you. And, then, He forgets all about your sin and the thing you did wrong.

Pretty nice, huh?

But there's something even better to know.



In our story today when Jesus was tempted by Satan and refused to do what Satan told Him to do, Jesus was showing the world He is the only one who can never sin.

Because Jesus could never do anything wrong, He is the only person who ever lived who can make our sins go away forever.

Does anyone know how to make our sins go away forever so that we can go to Heaven?

Allow some responses. Some kids might know, some won't. React accordingly.

Here are the steps. It's easy. Just remember A – B – C.

A is for Admit. Just honestly admit to God that you have sinned and disobeyed Him. It's OK. You're not alone. The Bible says, "**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**" *(That's from Romans 3:23 if anyone asks.)*

B is for Believe. You need to believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. His blood was shed to pay for your sins. The Bible says, "**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.**" *(John 3:16)*

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

And C is for Choose. You must choose to trust only Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. The Bible says, "**Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" *(Romans 10:13)*

When you put all your trust in only Jesus Christ to save you, God forgives you! It's just that simple. And you can do it just by praying and asking Jesus to come into your heart and he will save you from your sin.

You will have to decide right then if you want to lead your very young ones in a prayer to accept Jesus into their hearts. Or at the very least just pray to thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.



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



I HAVE THE POWER

Now we're going to play a fun game.

Divide the class in half. Hand out three pieces of paper to each hero and let the heroes make balls by wadding up the paper.

I want you to wad your paper up into a ball. We're going to pretend that these balls of paper are our temptations. When I say go, I want you to throw your paper balls at this poster board shield one at a time. After you have thrown your balls, you can pick them up and throw them at the shield again.

Make sure the helpers holding the signs hold them up in front of their faces.

Ready, set, throw!

Let the heroes have fun by throwing the balls until it's complete chaos. Then collect the balls and throw them away.



Let's read what is written on the poster boards.

Jesus said to the devil, 'Go away from me, Satan!' -- Matthew 4:10

When you feel tempted to do something wrong just remember to say this scripture verse and Jesus will help you to resist the temptation. It's like what you just did throwing paper balls pretending they were temptations.



The helper was able to resist the temptations because they were protected by the shield, just like God can help you resist temptations and not sin. Our Bible verse today will remind you of how Jesus could not be tempted and help you not to do things you know are wrong.

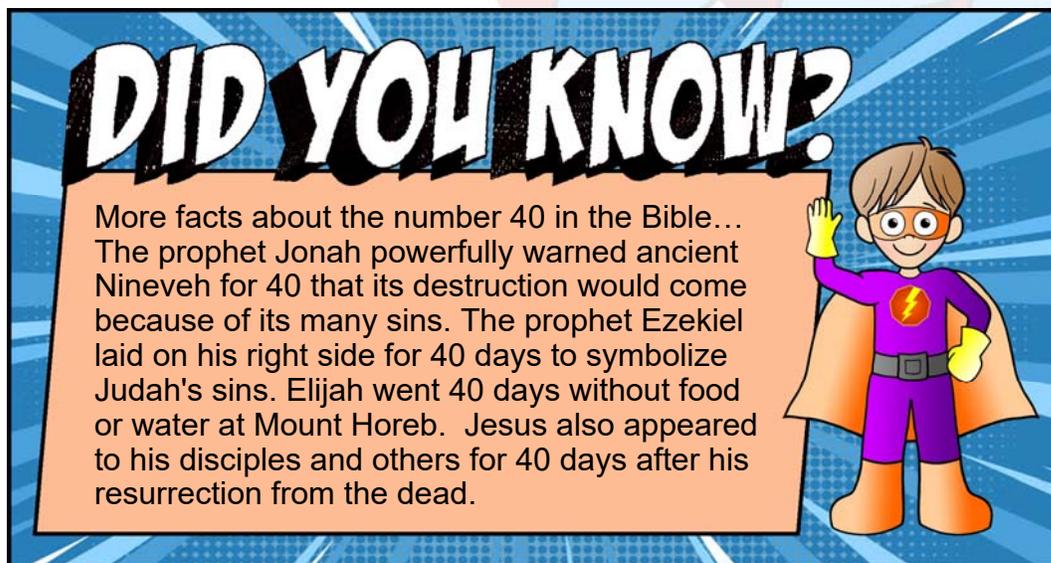
Was that fun? We have just a little more time so we're going to make a superhero mask!

Pass out the masks from your Thursday craft bag.

You can color your mask any color you want. When you are finished you can wear your mask to F.A.I.T.H. headquarters to show everyone you are a superhero for God's team, and then you can take them home with you today.

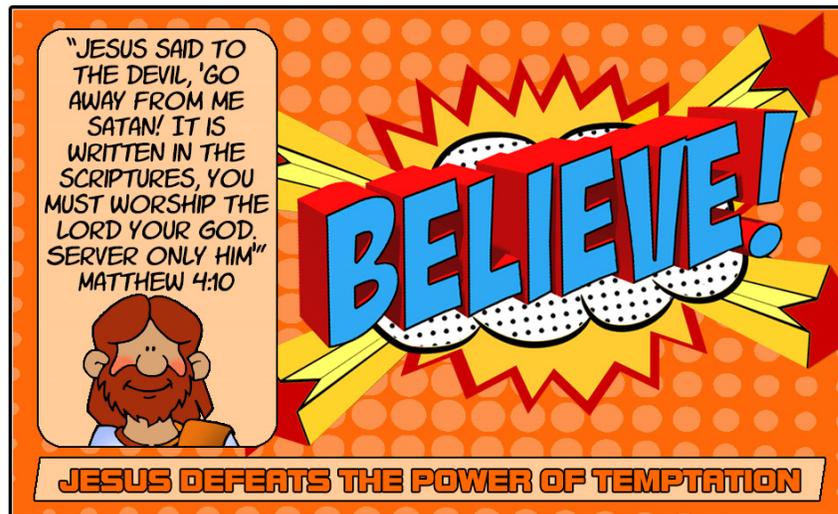
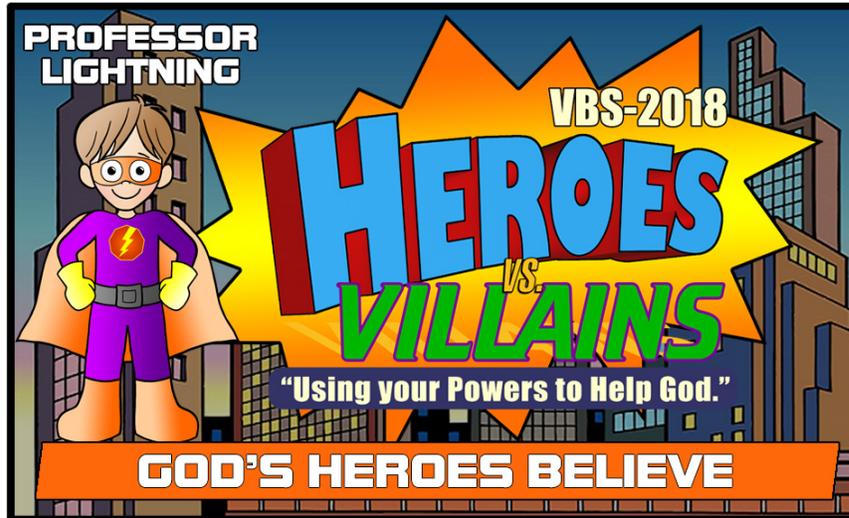
If there is time, you can practice your memory verse for today, or spend more time coloring the masks or the Yes/No sheet from earlier in the lesson. Be sure to be back to F.A.I.T.H. HQ by 11:40 in time to sing "Yes to VBS."

SPECIAL NOTE: On Friday you will use a large sheet of butcher paper to measure how tall each hero is and compare that to how tall Goliath was. You may want to put up that paper today before you leave for the day. See Friday's Flame On! for more details.



DID YOU KNOW?

More facts about the number 40 in the Bible... The prophet Jonah powerfully warned ancient Nineveh for 40 that its destruction would come because of its many sins. The prophet Ezekiel laid on his right side for 40 days to symbolize Judah's sins. Elijah went 40 days without food or water at Mount Horeb. Jesus also appeared to his disciples and others for 40 days after his resurrection from the dead.



NOTES



VBS-2018

HEROES VS. VILLAINS

"Using your Powers to Help God."

FRIDAY

"This day the Lord will
deliver you into my
hands."

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

Craft sticks

Ribbon pieces

Colored Pom poms, 5 per child

Colored cardstock, one per child

Glue

Glue Dots

Crayons

One large piece of butcher paper, 10 feet in length

I am a Superhero of God cards, one per child

David and Goliath Booklet paper.

Get your CD ready for the first song, "Jesus Is My Superhero."





FLAME ON

Sing the super hero song.

If you haven't already done this on Thursday, be sure you do this before the heroes arrive from the opening briefing on Friday.

Attach butcher paper on a wall in the classroom, making sure the heroes can back up to the paper while standing and be measured. Draw a line at the nine-foot mark from the ground up and write "Goliath" next to the mark

Have each hero stand with their back to the wall and mark their height on the paper. Then write the name of the hero on that line. You can have the class color one of the VBS coloring sheets to keep them busy while everyone is being measured.

When you have everyone measured, continue with the lesson.

Do you believe in giants? Raise your hand if you think giants are real. Let's look at the paper on the wall where you were measured. Did you know that in the Old Testament of the Bible giants were real? Some people were as tall as this.

Point to the nine-foot line, and then point to the line of the tallest hero.

If the giant were just this tall, we wouldn't be so scared of him, would we? But because the giant in our story was this tall, we might be afraid that he's stronger than all of us. Even I would be afraid of him!

How many nine-foot-tall people do you see every day? We might not see any people that big and strong, but there are still a lot of things in our life we might be afraid of. Can you think of anything in your life that is stronger than you?

Allow time for responses. Write down some of their responses on the butcher paper.

Today we're going to find out how we can face those giant things in our lives.

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.



Instruct your Sidekicks to hand out the I am a Superhero of God cards in the Friday craft bag.

I want you to write down the answers to the sentences on your papers that were just handed out. Let's take a look at the first sentence.

Read the first sentence.

My name is _____. Write your name on the blank line.

On the next line you're going to write how tall you are.

Make sure everyone is helping the heroes with the height that was measured for them.

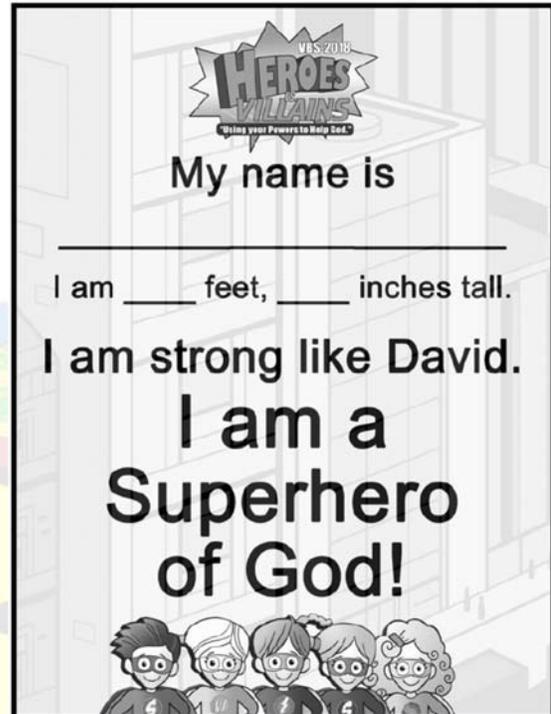
I am _____ feet and _____ inches tall.

After everyone has had time to record his/her height, read the next two sentences on the paper.

I am strong like David.

I am a Superhero of God.

Collect the cards so they can be put in the Friday take home bag and then move on to the main part of the lesson. Remember to keep an eye on the clock for your scheduled water play time.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

Let's listen while I read our Bible story for today.

Today we're going to study about a real giant who was in the Philistine army. How many of you are as tall as this man? Would you be afraid of a person if he was this tall? First, let's pray.



Dear Lord,
Thank you for this new day
Thank you for our VBS school
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

Now I want to tell you a true story from the Bible.

A man named Saul was the leader of the army of Israel. In fact, he was the king.

One day Saul and his army gathered together and camped in a place called the Valley of Elah. (*Pronounced ee-LAH*)

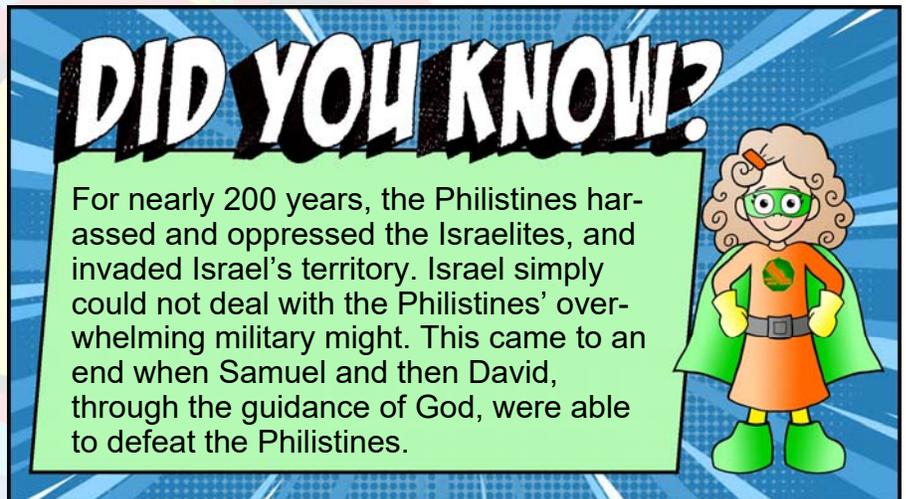
They lined up their men to fight against the Philistine army. The Philistine army was camped on one hill. Israel's army was on another hill and the valley was between them.

There was a mighty hero named Goliath. He was a hero in the Philistines' army and he was more than nine feet tall. He wore a bronze helmet on his head and he wore a coat of bronze armor.

Goliath's armor weighed 125 pounds. That's as much as most of our teenage helpers!

On his legs he wore bronze guards. He carried a bronze javelin on his back. His spear was huge! The point of his spear weighed 15 pounds. A man walked along in front of him and carried Goliath's shield.

Goliath stood and shouted to the soldiers of Israel. He said, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? I'm a Philistine. You are servants of Saul. Choose one of your men. Have him come down and face me. If he's able to fight and kill me, we'll become your slaves. But if I win and kill him, you will become our slaves and serve us."



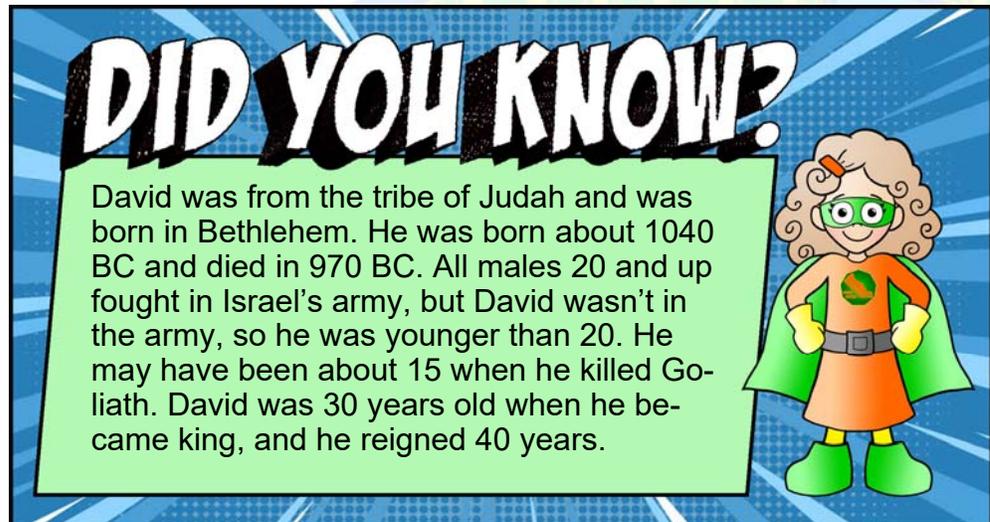
Goliath kept shouting at the army of Israel. "This very day I dare the soldiers of Israel to send a man down to fight against me. I am the strong Goliath. The strongest man alive."

Saul and the whole army of Israel heard what Goliath said. They were terrified. Every single morning and every single evening Goliath came forward and stood there. He did this for 40 days.

Now there was also a young shepherd boy named David. His brothers were in the army of Israel. One day David's father told David to go check on his brothers. He said, "Go take some food to your brothers in the army. They are probably very hungry and tired. Then come back home and tell me how your brothers are doing."

David obeyed his father and went to visit his brothers and take them some food. When he got to the army camp, he heard this horrible sound. It was the giant Goliath screaming at the army.

David asked his brothers, "Why are you afraid of Goliath? Don't you remember that you have God on your side? God will make you strong enough to defeat this giant and the Philistine army!"



But David's brothers and the other men in the army started laughing at David and making fun of him. They said to him, "You are just a young shepherd boy. You aren't even very strong. How do you think you will ever defeat the giant Goliath?"

But David begged King Saul, the leader of the army. "Please let me at least try. One time when I was out tending my sheep I fought and killed a huge lion. Another time I had to fight and kill the bears that were trying to kill my sheep. Please let me try."

So, King Saul said, "Okay David but first put on this heavy armor to protect you from Goliath." David put on the armor. But the armor was so big and so heavy that David couldn't even move in it!

So, David said to the King. "I can't even move in this armor. How can I fight the giant? Please let me take off the armor and fight the giant without it."



Then David took off the heavy armor and picked up his wooden staff. He went down to a stream and chose five smooth stones. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag. Then he took his sling in his hand and approached Goliath.

David said to Goliath, "You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He's the one you have dared to fight against."

"This very day the Lord will hand you over to me. I'll strike you down. I'll kill you. Then the whole world will know there is a God in Israel. The Lord doesn't save by using a sword or a spear. And everyone who is here will know it. The battle belongs to the Lord. He will hand all of you over to us."

As Goliath moved closer to attack, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet him. He reached into his bag and took out a stone. He put it in his sling. He slung it at Goliath. The stone hit Goliath on the forehead and the stone sank into his forehead. Goliath fell to the ground on his face.

So, David won the fight against Goliath with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine giant down and killed him. He did it without even using a sword.



RIDDLE ME THIS

When you are finished reading the story, ask the children the following questions so that you can know they understood it. Pass out the David and Goliath booklet, then ask the following questions.

"Who was in the story?" (*David, Goliath, the armies*)

"Was Goliath good or bad?" (*Bad*)

Why was Goliath bad? (*He was against God. He was fighting God's people.*)

Was Goliath strong or weak? (*Strong*)

What did David do to Goliath? (*He beat him.*)

How did David defeat Goliath? (*With 1 stone and a slingshot*)

	David and Goliath "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands." 1 Samuel 17:46 1		David took five smooth stones and his slingshot to face Goliath. 6
	Saul and the army of Israel gathered together to fight against the Philistine army. 2		David said to Goliath, I come to fight you in the name of the LORD. 7
	Goliath was a Philistine soldier standing nine feet tall! 3		David hurled a stone at Goliath using his slingshot and killed the giant. 8
	Every day, Goliath shouted to Saul's army, "You will never defeat me!" 4		David was able to kill Goliath because he had God on his side. 9
	Everyone was afraid of Goliath. But David was not afraid of the giant man. 5		David is a Bible super hero. You can be God's super hero too! 10



Who else was on David's team? (God)

Would David had been able to kill Goliath if he hadn't had God on his side to make him strong? (No)

We're going to make a booklet about our story to help us remember that with God we can all be strong and defeat the giants in our life.

Help the heroes cut out the pages of the booklet and then staple the booklet together in the top left corner. Be sure to write their names on the back. Place the completed booklets in their Friday take-home bags.



I HAVE THE POWER

Let's all stand up. We're going to practice our memory verse for today. We're going to march around the room like we are nine feet tall and strong. I want you to stomp really loud like giants and repeat after me, **This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands.**

Walk around the room stomping and repeating really loud the memory verse Repeat the verse several times. Then have the heroes return to their seats.

Wow! You heroes are really strong. I know that God is so happy to have you in His army of superheroes.

Now we're going to make a picture to remind us of how brave and strong David was in our story.

Pass out the slingshot craft from your Friday craft bag.

Here's how you're going to make your craft picture. Glue your craft sticks together to make a "Y" just like this.

(Show them how to glue the three sticks together to form a "Y".)

Now take your ribbon and use your glue dots to glue the ribbon to the ends of two craft sticks like the one I'm showing you.



Some of the younger heroes might need some help.

Now, I want you to glue your three sticks that are shaped like a “Y” to your paper. Make sure you don’t glue the ribbon part to your paper. We want it to stick up from the paper.

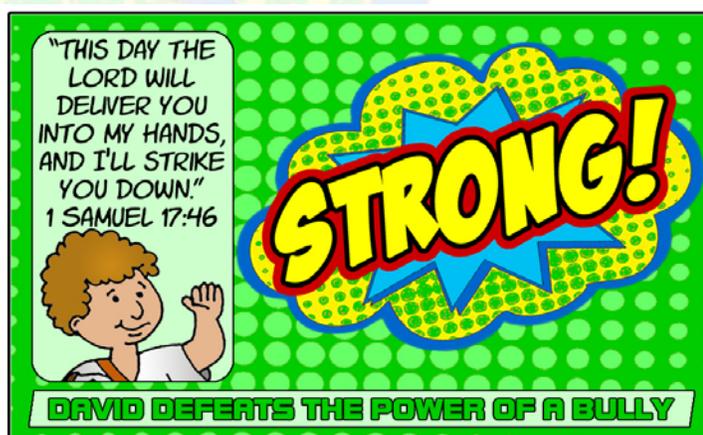
Next, I want you to glue your five pom-poms to the paper. Can anyone tell me what the pom-poms represent?

Allow for answers.

That’s right, the five stones that David collected in the stream of water. How many stones did David need to kill Goliath? Yes, just one.

Make sure the names are on the papers. Set the papers aside to dry.

Keep an eye on the clock and be sure you’re ready to go and have all your heroes at F.A.I.T.H. HQ by 11:40 so they can sing “Yes to VBS.”



NOTES

