

Showing God's Love

By Being Heroes of Faith

(Psalm 118:6-7)

Objective: The students will learn that they can show God's love by being heroes of faith.

Materials: Bible; an action figure or a picture of one.

Pre-Session Warm Up

When you think of a hero, who comes to mind? (Superman, Michelle Kwan, Michael Jordan, my dad.) There are many kinds of heroes today.

What are some of your favorite Super heroes?

What does this person do that makes him a hero to you? (He is very strong; she's not afraid; he saves people; she skates the best; my dad helps me when I need help.)

Heroes are people we admire. But sometimes kids get mixed up about who a hero really is. Sometimes they have heroes who are not really heroes. I know of kids who think heroes are people who shoot guns or use their fists to hit others. Those people are not true heroes.

Today, we are going to learn about real heroes.

Opening Prayer

Lord, please help us to consider who it is that we look up to and want to be like. Give us a desire in our hearts to want to be more like You, Jesus. Amen.

Memory Verse

The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Yes, the Lord is for me; he will help me. I will look in triumph at those who hate me. (Psalm 118:6-7)

Lesson Review

We've been learning about how to show God's love to others.

1. First, we learned that God's love is everywhere and that he wants us to love Him back with all of our heart, mind, and soul.
2. Next, we learned that God knows all about us. He always knows where we are and what we're doing and what we're thinking and feeling. And, even so, He still loves us completely. In the same way, He wants us to love others, even people who do wrong to us and don't deserve our love because that's how He loves us.
3. Third, we learned that because planet earth belongs to God, we can show others that we love Him by taking care of our environment properly. We did an activity that showed the effects of an oil spill on the ocean, birds, plants and animals. We talked about ways to care for God's possessions.
4. Next, we learned that one way of showing God's love is by being a good neighbor—that is, by thinking of others first and sharing what we have with them. We did an activity to show how sharing brings people together and often brings beautiful things into our lives—we put individual drops of food coloring in a dish of milk. Then when we added drops of dish soap it caused the food coloring drops to swirl together to make a beautiful rainbow.
5. Then we learned that we can show God's love by being compassionate to those who are hurting. God wants us to help those who are sad, lonely, scared, shy, or feeling rejected. We put Band-Aids on a broken heart and talked about ways we can help people with hurts on the inside.

6. Next, we learned that we can show God's love by forgiving others when they do wrong things to us. We counted out 490 bird seeds to show just how many times 7 times 70 is – that the number of times God tells us to forgive others!
7. Next, we learned that we can show God's love by using kind words. We put a paper clip on a ramp, but it just sat there like unkind words sit on a hearer's heart. But when we poured oil over the clip, it moved down the ramp, just like how kind words can help move sad things out of a person's life.
8. In the next lesson we learned another way to show God's love is by being a cheerful giver. We learned that when we give people gifts, it makes our gifts become "larger" like seeing them under a magnifying glass. That's because they not only make the person we are giving the gift to feel special, it make us feel good, too.
9. Next, we learned another way to show God's love is by cooperating with each other. During that lesson we formed an assembly line to make a pretend submarine sandwich. God wants us to learn how to get along together—helping one another as we work and play with them.
10. Last time we learned that we can show God's love by helping missionaries tell the Good News about Jesus' love around the world. We discussed what a missionary is. We made foil figures and used them in an activity to discover how we can help them.

Lesson

The Bible is full of stories of real super heroes. Let's see what some people who lived in the Bible did to become heroes.

[Teacher, spilt your class into groups of 3 or 4 children each. Have them read Acts 16:22-34 as a group and answer the following questions. Then meet back as a class and discuss each group's answers.]

1. Who do you think acted with courage in this story? (Paul, Silas, the jailer.)
2. How did Paul and Silas act like heroes? (They weren't scared even when they were beaten. They sang when they were in jail. They told the jailer and others about Jesus even when it was dangerous to do that.)
3. How did the jailer act like a hero? (He helped Paul and Silas after the earthquake. He took Paul and Silas home even when it was dangerous for him to do that.)

Being a hero doesn't mean that you aren't afraid. I'm sure that Paul and Silas were afraid before they were beaten by the mob. But they stood up for what they believed anyway. They went to jail because they preached about Jesus. Then when they were in jail they sang about God and prayed. They weren't just heroes, they were super heroes.

How do you think they became so brave? (Maybe they didn't think about danger; maybe they encouraged each other. They prayed to God.)

Let's read a verse that tells us how we can become super heroes like Paul and Silas. [Review today's Memory Verse.]

What does this verse tell us about how to have courage? (We can have courage because God is with us and helps us. We aren't afraid because God is with us.)

Let's look in the Bible for ways we can become super heroes. Each of the verses we will look up will have one or more characteristics of God's super hero. As we decide on each way we can become a hero, let's write it on our work sheet.

[One by one, read each of the following verses. As a class, decide on what characteristic it talks about. For example, you might decide that *trust* is one characteristic of a hero. Use as many of the following

verses as you need. Also, you can look up additional verses if you have more students.]

- Isaiah 12:2 – Trust in God
- Matthew 5:43-44 – Love your enemies
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 – Stand firm in the Lord's work.
- 2 Corinthians 1:4 – Comfort others.
- Palm 44:8 – Boast in the Lord.
- Matthew 19:21 – Give to the poor.
- Ephesians 4:32 – Forgive others
- Matthew 5:9 – Make peace with others.
- 1 Timothy 6:11 – Work for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.
- Galatians 5:22-23 – the Fruit of the Spirit.

You can be true heroes by asking God to help you build these qualities into your lives.

Closing Prayer

Father, I want to be a super hero. Please help me trust You. Keep me strong and true to Your Word, the Bible. Help me to build all the qualities of a hero that we talked about. Thank You for being with me all the time, helping me to be a super hero. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Super Hero of Faith Quilt

Cut out 4-inch squares of cotton material or colored construction paper. Write a quality of a Super Hero of Faith on a square and paste it onto a piece of card stock or construction paper making a colorful and beautiful a collage. As the children work, talk about these heroic qualities.

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

Review Questions:

1. What are heroes? (People we admire.)
2. How did Paul and Silas act like heroes? (They weren't scared even when they were beaten. They sang when they were in jail. They told the jailer and others about Jesus even when it was dangerous to do that.)
3. How did the jailer act like a hero? (He helped Paul and Silas after the earthquake. He took Paul and Silas home even when it was dangerous for him to do that.)
4. Does being a hero mean that you're never afraid? (No)
5. How did Paul and Silas become so brave? (They trusted God.)
6. What are some qualities of a real hero of faith? (They trust God, they work for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness; they have the fruit of the Spirit.)

Read Acts 16:22–34 as a group and answer the following:

1. Who do you think acted with courage in this story?

➤ Isaiah 12:2:

➤ Matthew 5:43–44:

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:58 :

➤ 2 Corinthians 1:4 :

2. How did Paul and Silas act like heroes?

➤ Palm 44:8:

➤ Matthew 19:21:

➤ Ephesians 4:32:

3. How did the jailer act like a hero?

➤ Matthew 5:9:

➤ 1 Timothy 6:11:

➤ Galatians 5:22–23: