



HEROES OF THE FAITH

Large Group

LESSON 3: LARGE GROUP

My Heroes

MAIN IDEA

Outward appearances do not reflect a person's character; it's a pure heart that truly defines a hero.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Luke 16:15
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- 1 Timothy 4:12
- Philippians 2:3-4
- 2 Peter 1:3-8

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Hebrews 12:1, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Sheet of blank posterboard
- Posterboard with the words "Outstanding Achievements", "Courage", and "Noble Qualities" written on it
- Markers, 5 different colors

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome the students to Crossroads and tell them you are glad they came this week.

(Optional) Go through the “Who is Jesus” call and response.

(Optional) As a group, say the memory verse for this week.

Open with prayer for the students.

Today we are going to be talking about your heroes.

To get things started, I need a volunteer to come forward and act out (charades-style – no words!) a personal hero in such a way that the rest of the group can guess who the person being portrayed is. So, for example, you may decide that your hero is LeBron James. You can pretend to dribble and shoot a basketball.

Choose a volunteer.

Give the student volunteer 30 seconds to act out the person they are representing. Give the group 30 seconds to guess correctly or until the time runs out.

Ask the volunteer, **Why did you choose this person to be a hero?**

Allow several students opportunities to volunteer to act out who their hero is. After playing this game for five minutes or so, ask the students to list the qualities of a hero.

Ask, **What makes someone a hero?** Write their answers down with a marker on a poster board or white board.

Next, show the students a second poster board with the following three items listed:

- Outstanding Achievements
- Courage
- Noble Qualities



“Who is Jesus”
Call and Response

DEFINITION

NOBLE QUALITIES:

Having, showing, or coming from personal qualities that people admire (such as honesty, generosity, courage, etc.). He was a man of noble character. It was noble of her to come forward with this information. A noble ideal/ambition/cause/purpose.

Say, **A hero is someone who is admired because they have one or more of these things.**

Return to the poster board on which the students listed the qualities of a hero.

Ask, **Which of these qualities would fit with the definition of a hero?**

Circle these items with a marker of a different color. (Note: it would be a good idea to use a different color and symbol (e.g., circle, square, triangle) for each of the three categories of heroes (Outstanding Achievements, Courage, Noble Qualities).

Which of these qualities do you think would make someone a hero in God's eyes?

Circle these things in a marker of a different color than you have previously used.

In the world's eyes, a hero is one who has one of these things, but in God's eyes, a person cannot be a hero unless they have a right heart—the noble qualities part.

It is important to God that we choose heroes that have noble character and qualities because we tend to copy those who we admire.

In fact, the word "admire" means that we look upon them with favor. We are looking at them as our examples. If a person's heart is not right, nothing else matters.

WRAP IT UP

What do you think it means to have a right heart?

How can someone have a right heart?

Having a right heart is not something that you can just do, or try harder to get. It only comes through a relationship with God first.

Faith in Jesus is the only way for someone to have a right relationship with God and allows you to have a right heart and noble character.

We will discuss more in our small groups how to have a right relationship with God and how you can have a right heart.

Wrap up with prayer and dismiss to small group.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Self-adhesive labels or post-it notes
- Large empty can or cone

LARGE GROUP GAME: WHO AM I?

Materials: Self-adhesive label or post-it note for each person

Object of game: Guess the person's name

How to play: Write on each label/post-it the name of a well-known or famous person. This can be a historical character or current athlete, musician, TV personality, celebrity, etc. Have a good mix of men and women. Keeping the names hidden, stick the post-it notes on the foreheads of everyone in the group. They must then ask the others questions to find out their identity.

Each person takes a turn to ask questions and figure out who they are. For example, "Am I alive?", "Am I female?", "Am I in a band?" Only yes or no questions can be asked. If the answer is no, their turn is over. If the answer is yes, they can ask another question and keep going until they get a no, or guess who they are. Keep playing until everyone has guessed, or if time is short, stop after the first few correct answers.

LARGE GROUP GAME: LINK TAG

Materials: None needed

How to play: All players find a partner and link elbows with them. These pairs spread out around the playing area. The leader selects one pair and within that pair selects one person to be "it" and the other person to be the "chaser".

The person who is "it" runs around throughout the pairs. The person who's "it" can, at any time, link up with any pair. If the linked person joins a pair, the person on the pair who the "it" member did not link with must separate from the chain and now be "it".

If the person who's "it" is ever tagged, they become the "chaser" and the other person is "it". That other person is then free to join a pair, causing another player to split off and be "it".

The leader may need to count down from 10 if the person who's "it" is not linking with any pair. Also, changing the "chaser" and person who is "it" may be necessary if players are getting tired. The game lasts until the leader says it's over.

It can be helpful for the leader to watch carefully and manage potentially confusing situations, specifically when the person who is "it" thinks they have linked up and the "chaser" thinks they have tagged them just before linking (creating two people who think they are "it").

LARGE GROUP GAME: KICK THE CAN

Materials: Large empty can or cone

Object of game: Kick the can without being tagged.

How to play: Designate a large playing area. This could be a large classroom, gym, a park, or any open space. Place the empty can in the center of the playing area.

Choose one or more players to be “it”. The number of players who are “it” will depend on the size of the group of kids playing. These players are trying to tag others while protecting the can. The other players scatter within the playing area. The goal for the players who are not “it” is to avoid being tagged by the player who’s “it”.

After counting to an agreed-upon number (e.g., 30 or 60), the players who are “it” begin trying to tag the other players. When the player who’s “it” tags another player, they must sit in a designated spot called jail. If one of the players successfully kicks the can, all the players in jail are freed, and the person who’s “it” must count again while the other players scatter and another round begins. The game continues until either all the players are captured, or a player successfully kicks the can without being tagged.

Variations:

- The captured player joins the person who is “it” to help tag the remaining players until all players have been captured.
- Freeze Tag: Instead of tagging players, the player who is “it” can freeze them by tagging them. Frozen players must stay frozen until another player touches them to unfreeze them.
- Time Limit: Set a time limit for each round. If the person who’s “it” doesn’t find all the players within the time limit, the hiders win that round.



HEROES OF THE FAITH

PRIMARY
Small Group

LESSON 3: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

My Heroes

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Outward appearances do not reflect a person's character; it's a pure heart that truly defines a hero.

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MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Hebrews 12:1, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of the club over the next few weeks?
- Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Cupcakes with a prune inside the middle of each, 1 per child
- Plastic Easter eggs (some of which you will deform and make ugly), 1 per child
- Pennies, 1 per child
- 1 one-dollar coin
- Printout 1, 1 per child
- Pens/pencils, 1 per child
- Bag of candy, 1 per small group
- Device to play music in each small group
- Printout 2, 1 per small group

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks.

Have the students sit in a circle. Distribute to the students the cupcakes that have prunes in the middle.

Say, **I brought a special treat today.**

When they discover that each cupcake has a prune in the middle of it, they will probably complain and whine. Act confused and minimize the prune issue. Then move on to the usual “highs and lows” time.

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the “How Are You Feeling?” chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Show the students several plastic Easter eggs.

Say, **Each one has a prize inside, which you may keep. One of the eggs has a nicer prize than the others.** (Make sure that each egg has a penny inside and that one has a golden dollar coin inside. Be sure that the dollar coin is in the nastiest looking egg.)

After all the students have selected their egg, ask them to open the eggs at the same time to see what each received.

Say, **The nastiest looking egg was the one with something better inside.**

A hero is not really a hero unless they have a noble character—a pure heart.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 together, and explain the meaning of this verse:

God cares most about what is inside a person, not how the person looks on the outside.

Remember the cupcakes. They looked really nice, but they were nasty inside. There are people like this, too. People who do not have a noble character can’t be true heroes.

The egg that looked so bad on the outside had something valuable on the inside.

Dismiss to Large Group.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Pass out Printout 1 to each student. As everyone completes the activities, discuss the questions below as a group.

HELPFUL HINT

Consider going around the small group and asking specific students questions. This will help each one stay engaged with the conversation. Handing out tickets when students respond with answers will also help keep their attention.

- **Would God call these people heroes? Why or why not?**
- **Who is one person you know that God might call a hero?**
- **Why can there be a difference between who we sometimes would call a hero and who God would call a hero?**

We like to call people a hero because of something brave or incredible they do. Although that is a great thing, God looks at the character of someone, not just the outward things someone can accomplish.

Read the 1 Samuel 16:7 outline (consider asking a student to read).

- **Is it easy to judge people on how they look?**
- **What does it say about how God looks at someone?**

Read Philippians 2:3-4 out loud.

- **Is it easier to be selfish or think of others more than yourself?**

It is easier to think about what you want than the needs of others. God values humility and selflessness, but most people desire attention and fame and grow in pride. It's easy to be selfish.

Heroes in God's eyes are people who have a strong character, people who are humble and selfless rather than prideful and selfish.

ACTIVITY: PASS THE PARCEL

Take a bag of candy and instruct students to pass it around until you say “stop”. The student holding the bag of candy when you say stop is allowed to grab one piece of candy from the bag (you could consider keeping a tally instead to keep the bag of candy closed until the end of the activity).

Start playing music and have the children pass the parcel (bag of candy) around the circle. When the music stops, the child holding the parcel gets to pick one piece of candy (or you can keep a tally as mentioned previously).

Repeat the process, starting the music again and stopping it at intervals for several minutes. Encourage the children to pass the parcel quickly and not hold onto it for too long. Praise the kids for taking turns and being patient.

Alternative: As the parcel is passed around, stop the music for the same one or two students. Give the students the opportunity to keep the candy for themselves or share the candy with the whole group.

Consider passing out candy to all the students after the game.

Say, **This activity shows how it can be tempting and easier to keep the candy for yourself than share with others. Good character is not something that you can choose to have, it's something that needs to be developed over time.**

ILLUSTRATION: PRACTICE

Does anyone play an instrument or a sport? Can you immediately know how to play the drums or guitar?

Say, **If you could play an instrument just by choosing one, then everyone could play instruments.**

You need to practice and practice consistently over a long period of time. The same goes for playing a sport. Some people can pick up a sport easier than others, but to be really good at a sport, it takes time to practice to get better.

To be a hero of good and noble character, you can't just choose to be one. You need to spend time working on building a godly character over time.

- **How can someone build a godly character?** (By reading their Bible and praying)
- **Can you build a godly character by yourself?**

To have a good, noble character, we need God's help. We need to spend time with God and learn from him what it means to have a good, noble, and godly character. Just like someone taking lessons to learn an instrument or someone playing sports learning from a coach, we need to learn from God by listening to him.

Read 2 Peter 1:3-8 out loud.

- **Who gives us what is needed for living a godly life?**
- **What are some of the promises God has given us?** (He will always be with us, he will forgive us if we confess our sins, he will give us what we need if we ask.)
- **How do you think God's promises can help us escape corruption?**
- **What are some of the things listed that help us respond to God's promises?**
- **What is the result of growing in these characteristics?** (You will be more productive and useful in your knowledge/relationship with Jesus.)

ACTIVITY: FINDING GOOD QUALITIES

Cut up Printout 2 prior to club. Using Printout 2, have the students create 2 columns of characteristics. Show them the difference between the godly, noble character of a hero and other characteristics people have.

You could also have students match up the opposite characteristic in each column.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Tell the students, **I am glad you are here, and you are important, both to me and to God.**

Read 1 Timothy 4:12 aloud.

Say, **Even though you are young, you can still be an example to others. It's so important to love God and grow in a close relationship with him.**

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

- **Do you have a Bible at home?**
- **Are there 5 minutes that you can find to spend time reading your Bible this week?**
- **What time is best for you?** (help students pick a specific time during the week.)

I want to encourage you to spend this time reading your Bible. If you are not sure where to read, start in the Gospel of Mark, and just take 5 minutes to read and a few minutes to pray with God.

Print out the memory verse. Practice the memory verse for this unit (Hebrews 12:1).

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



HEROES OF THE FAITH

INTERMEDIATE
Small Group

LESSON 3: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

My Heroes

MAIN IDEA

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Prepare your heart to teach.
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Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



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Say, **We will all be sharing our high point and our low point from the previous week (i.e., the best and worst thing to happen from the previous week). You should share your high and low points first, and then invite a student next to you to continue with this. Go around the circle to give each student a chance to speak.**

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I want to encourage you to spend this time reading your Bible. If you are not sure where to read, start in the Gospel of Mark, and just take 5 minutes to read and a few minutes to pray with God.

Print out the memory verse. Practice the memory verse for this unit (Hebrews 12:1).

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

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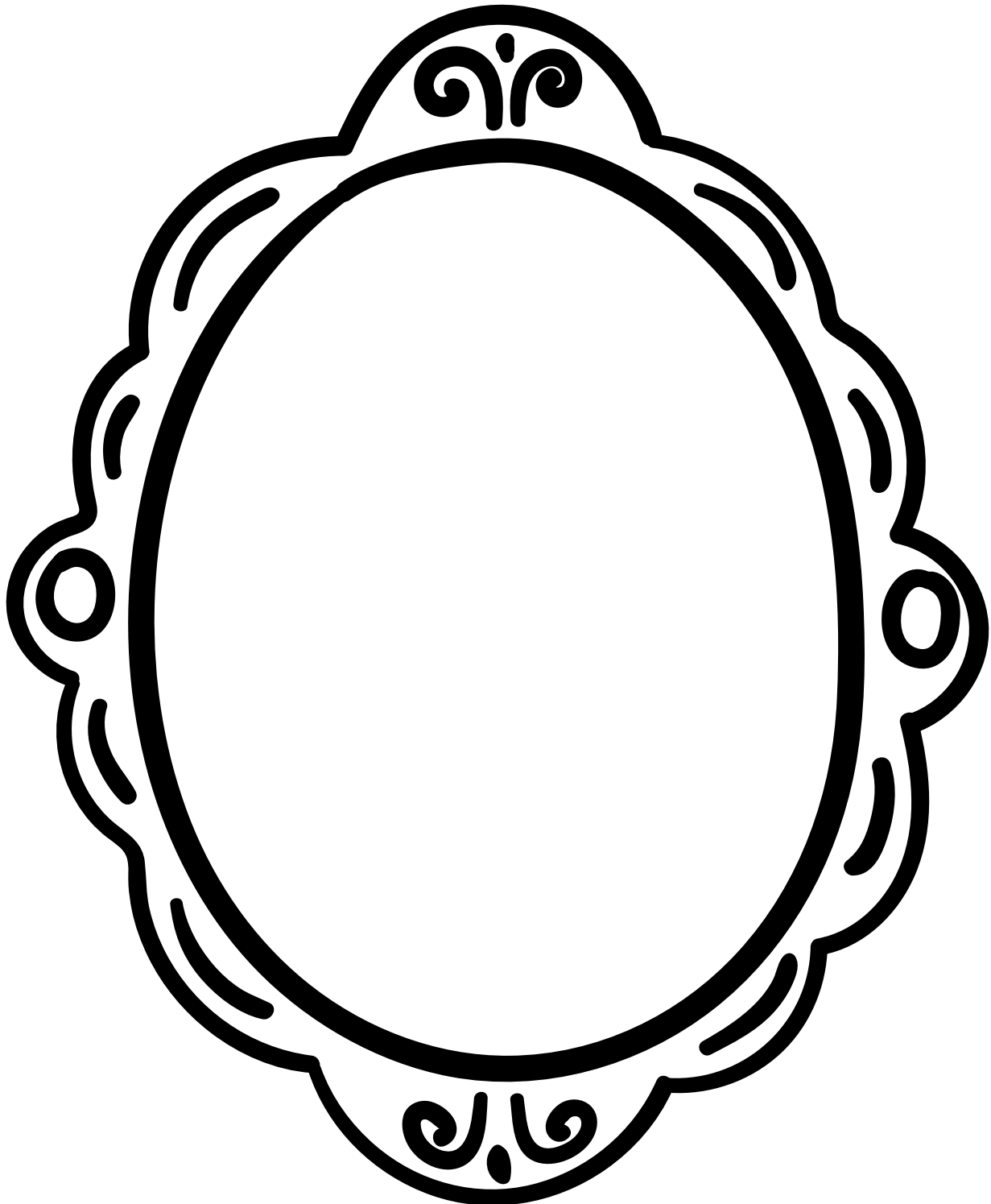
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Printout 1

Who are some of your heroes? Draw pictures of them:



Printout 2



Selflessness



Selfishness



Humility



Pride



Generosity



Greed



Kindness



Rudeness



Honesty



Dishonesty



Forgiveness



Unforgiveness



Love



Anger