



**HEROES**

OF THE

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power



**ABEL OFFERS BETTER SACRIFICE**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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*Taking church to the people*



# **ABEL OFFERS BETTER SACRIFICE**

## **Memory Verse:**

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

## **Lesson Goals:**

#1 - Understand how ordinary Abel was

#2 - Discover what faith led Abel to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

## **Audience:**

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

## **Scripture to Study:**

Genesis 1-3 (as background)

Genesis 4:1-16

Hebrews 11:4



# ABEL OFFERS BETTER SACRIFICE

Genesis 1-3, 4:1-16; Hebrews 11:4

What is a hero or heroine? Is a hero just some fictional character created by comic book authors? Do heroes and heroines only exist in mythology? The answer to both of those questions is NO! A hero is someone of outstanding courage or character. A hero is brave and compassionate. Did you know that there are heroes and heroines in the Bible? All of them are brave and courageous and more. Throughout this next year, we will discover little known heroes and heroines and revisit some that you may think you know very well.

**Our hero:** Abel

**His Heroic Feat:** Offering a better sacrifice to God

Offering a sacrifice may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

In the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, He also made the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. Adam and Eve walked with God in a special garden. In that garden, God gave them a rule; Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Because of their disobedience, God sacrificed, or killed, the first animal. He did it to make clothes for Adam and Eve to wear. God also ran Adam and Eve out of the garden - it was part punishment, part protection. Life was difficult for Adam and Eve, but in time, they had children. They named their first child Cain and their second Abel.

Cain and Abel were different, like most siblings. They both "farmed," but Cain worked the ground and Abel took care of the sheep.

One day, probably the Sabbath day when God had rested\*, the two brothers gave something back to God. "Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock." (Genesis 4:3-4 NLT) God was pleased with Abel and his offering. God was displeased with Cain and his offering. Cain was mad! Who knows if Cain stomped around and blamed everyone else like we sometimes do. The Bible does tell us, though, that Cain couldn't hide his feelings. His face showed his anger.

Was God being unfair? No! God cannot be unfair. So why did God like Abel's offering and not Cain's? It was all about the gift. Cain brought what his own hands could grow and cultivate. Abel brought an animal. No amount of care makes one animal be born before another one or in better condition. Abel brought back to God the best of what God had blessed him with. Cain's fruit was probably very beautiful fruit,

but he had cultivated and tended it. The thing is, there were no written rules, yet, about what to give, but God had set an example. What did God sacrifice when Adam and Eve sinned? How did He cover them? What did He make their clothes from? An animal. So you see, Abel, by faith, brought an animal sacrifice to God. Cain didn't. Cain did things his own way, hoping to be accepted. Abel's actions still may not seem very heroic, but Abel followed God's example. There was no one else to follow; they were the first. Abel chose well. Abel did the right thing.

Let's think about Cain and Abel's gifts this way. When you really love someone, do you just do things the way you want to, when you want to or do you do what is asked of you, when it is asked? That was the difference between Cain and Abel's gifts. Cain did things his own way, but Abel chose to do things God's way. Able gave out of a heart of love.

Hebrews 11:4 tells us that it was Abel's faith, acting on his belief, that caused God to accept his gift. It even tells us that after all these centuries, Abel's faith is still remembered, even though he died a long time ago. Abel's faith and his gift to God points us to something else, though. Abel's gift was a "blood-gift." His gift was an animal whose blood would be poured out to God. Thousands of years later, blood would be poured out not only for Abel, but for you and for me as well. It happened when Jesus died on the cross. He died there because you and I are sinners in need of someone to save our souls. Will you take a step of faith the way Abel did and find that God is pleased with you because of the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His sacrifice on the cross? Let's talk.

\*McGee, J. Vernon. GENESIS Chapters 1-15. Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville. 1991. p. 102.

### **YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!**

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Abel's heroic act doesn't seem to stack up with leaping tall buildings, but it was an amazing step of faith. Abel decided to do things God's way, not his own way. Did you know that God's way of saving us doesn't seem to make sense. It seems so easy. But when you take a step of faith and come to God believing that He is who He says He is, willing to let Him be in control of your life, something amazing happens - God gives you the Holy Spirit!

Read Acts 1:8. When Jesus talks about the power of the Holy Spirit, it is the same word we get our word "dynamite" from! Now that's power! God can do amazing things through you, if you will let Him. Are you ready?



**NEXT WEEK**  
**Enoch Disappears!**

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

What is a hero or heroine? Is a hero someone who shoots a web from his hand and leaps over tall buildings? NO! A hero is someone who is courageous and brave. Did you know that there are heroes and heroines in the Bible? All of them are brave and courageous and more. Let's meet our first hero now.

**Our hero:** Abel

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Cain and Abel were different, like most siblings. They both "farmed," but Cain worked the ground and Abel took care of the sheep.

One day the two brothers gave something back to God. Cain brought some of his crops and Abel brought some of his animals. God was happy with Abel and his offering. God was not happy with Cain and his offering. Cain was mad! Cain couldn't hide his feelings. His face showed his anger.

Was God being unfair? No! God cannot be unfair. So why did God like Abel's offering and not Cain's? It was all about the gift. Cain brought what his own hands could grow and cultivate. Abel brought back to God the best of what God had blessed him with. There were no written rules, yet, about what to give, but God had set an example. What did God sacrifice when Adam and Eve sinned? How did He cover them? What did He make their clothes from? An animal. So you see, Abel, by faith, brought an animal sacrifice to God. Cain didn't. Abel was heroic because He trusted God and did things God's way.

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make super hero capes from paper grocery bags. Encourage your students to create their own shield or emblem for the back of their cape. Instruct students to print the memory verse on their shield. Be sure to include the reference
- Make dynamite. You'll need paper rolls like those from paper towels or toilet paper. Cover the roll with red paper or paint with red paint. Cover one end of the roll and attach yarn or curly ribbon as the fuse. Talk about the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer and how ordinary boys and girls can be heroes through that power.
- Bring rolls of candy or cookies to class, one per student. Instruct students to roll red construction paper around their snack. Provide a white or black pipe cleaner or yarn for the "fuse" to your dynamite snack. Be sure to review the lesson application.
- Bring a fruit basket and a stuffed lamb. Talk about the difference between the two gifts and the need for a blood sacrifice. (Pointing to the death of Jesus.)
- **For more training:** Discuss Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (NLT) Talk about dynamite and its power. Then, look at Acts 4. What happened because of the power of the Holy Spirit?

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***FAITH.***

Anyone  
who wants to come to Him  
must believe that God exists  
and that He rewards those  
who sincerely seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

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# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Abel Offers Better Sacrifice

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# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:** Genesis 4:1-16, Hebrews 11:4

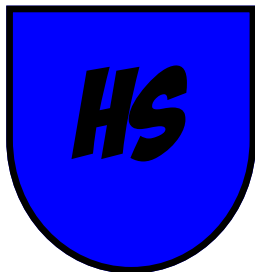
**Memory verse:** And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

**Our Hero:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our hero do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

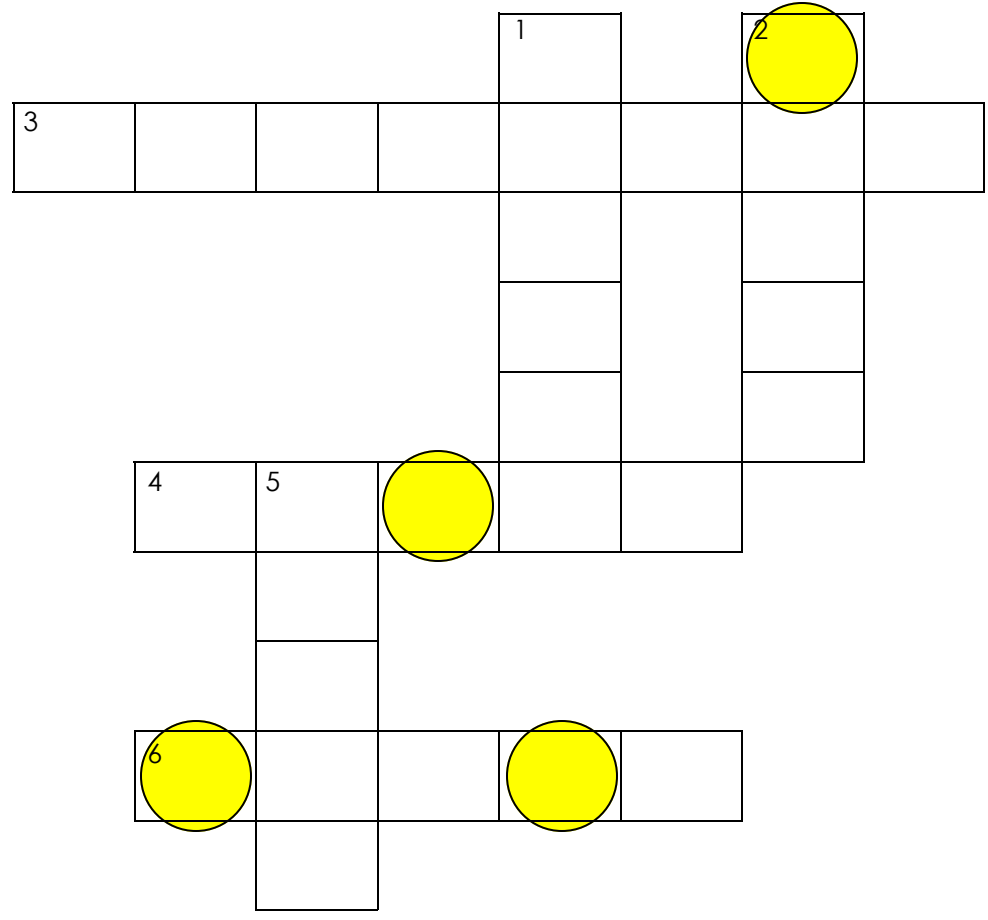
What power do Heroes of the Faith possess? \_\_\_\_\_



Do you have the power? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to the cross word puzzle to find the Hidden Message?



**ACROSS**

- 3 God was not pleased with Cain's \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Abel became a shepherd, someone who takes care of \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Abel brought \_\_\_\_\_ to God

**DOWN**

- 1 Cain became angry with God and told Him he was only happy when he received \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Cain told God he was \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Eve was the mother of all \_\_\_\_\_ beings

God said \_\_\_\_\_ had faith.

# WORD

# SEARCH!

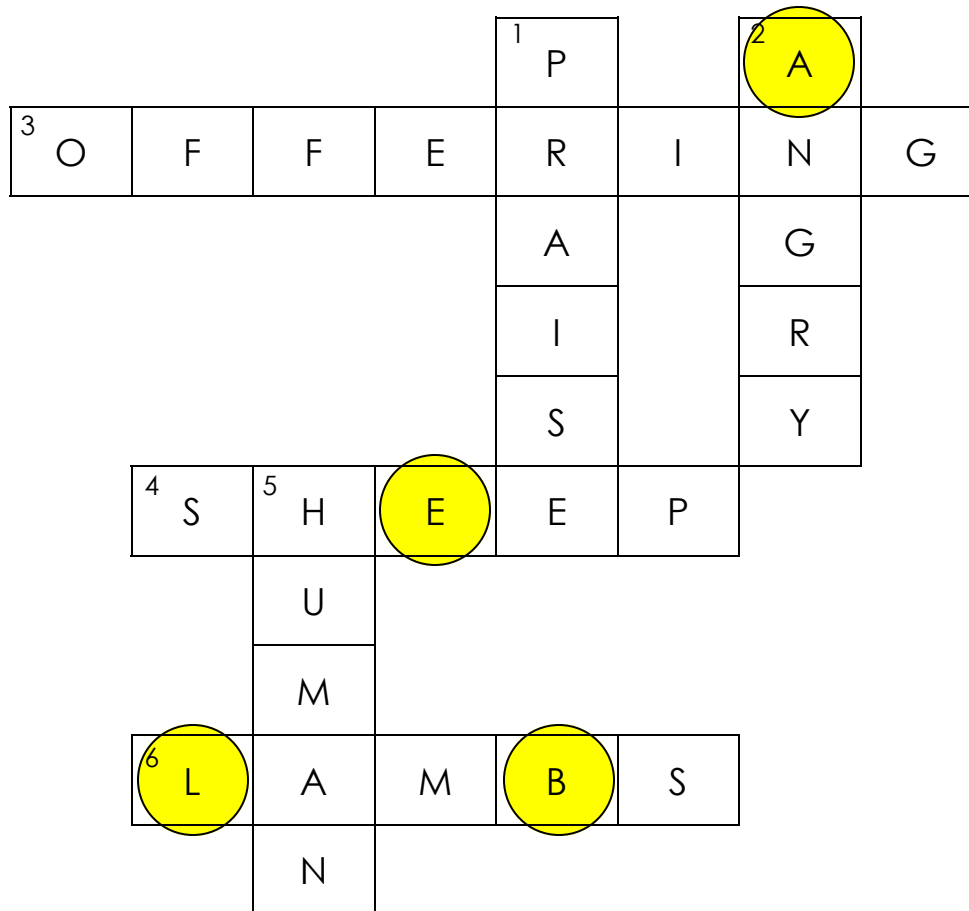
I A C N F F E R I N G F O  
N G E A B L E N I A C F R  
A C C B E P T E D B O E C  
M A B E L I S A H E R O R  
X I P L E A B S A L A M S  
E N H E P T M A L I X A M  
P A E L P M A X E S D O G  
G N A H E R L O A A C C E  
O G N I R P S O F C R E T  
D R O C X A M P L C F O R  
R Y G N A C A N E E R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

- Cain
- Abel
- offering
- crops
- lambs
- Abel is accepted
- Cain angry
- God's example
- Abel is a hero

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to the cross word puzzle to find the Hidden Message?



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# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

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