

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power



CALEB EXPLORES THE PROMISED LAND

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



CALEB EXPLORES THE PROMISED LAND

Memory Verse:

“He said, ‘Lord, you are the God of Israel. There is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep the covenant you made with us. You show us your love. You do that when we follow you with all our hearts.’” 1 Kings 8:23 (NIV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Caleb was

#2 - Discover what faith led Caleb 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 12:1-7 (as background)

Exodus 6:8, 33:1-2 (as background)

Numbers 13-14



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Numbers 13-14

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Caleb

His Heroic Feat: Follows God With His Whole Heart

Following God with your whole heart may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Once Moses and the people of Israel were free from Egypt and had crossed the Red Sea, God provided for them in the desert. He provided food and water. He provided a place to worship (the Tabernacle) and He provided a set of rules to live by (the Ten Commandments).

It didn't take very long before the people of Israel arrived at their destination. Canaan was the land that God had promised Abraham so long ago. Once they were there, God told Moses to send some men to explore the land. God said, "I am giving it to the people of Israel. Send one leader from each of Israel's tribes." (Numbers 13:2 NIV) Moses did exactly as God said. He sent Shammua, Shaphat, Caleb, Igal, Joshua, Palti, Gaddiel, Gaddi, Ammiel, Sethur, Nahbi and Geuel.

As Moses was sending the men to explore the land, he told them to find out what the land was like. What kind of people lived there; were there many or few? Were they strong or weak? What were their towns like and how were they protected? He even suggested they find out what the soil and crops were like. So the men went and explored the land. For forty days they explored the land from one end to the other.

What they found was amazing! There was milk and honey galore! There were pomegranates and figs. There were bunches of grapes so big it took two men to carry one bunch! The people were really big, too!

When the twelve men returned, they showed the fruit they had brought back with them. They gave a report of all they had seen. They reported on how good the land looked, but then they started talking about how big and powerful the people who lived there were.

Caleb interrupted the report. "He said, 'We should go up and take the land. We can certainly do it.'" (Numbers 13:30 NIV) Caleb understood that God had promised to

give the people this land and he didn't want to wait any longer. There was a problem, though. Ten of the men who went to explore the land were afraid. All they could see were the obstacles. They couldn't begin to see how God might overcome those obstacles. God was ready to do just that, but the bad report from ten of the spies poisoned the camp. The people cried all night long. They wanted to go back to Egypt. They wanted another leader.

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and prayed to God. Joshua and Caleb, two of the twelve who spied out the land, tore their clothes as a sign of sadness. Joshua and Caleb spoke up. They encouraged the people to trust God. He had led them and protected them so far, why would He desert them now?

The people wouldn't listen. They even talked about killing Joshua and Caleb by throwing rocks at them! Then God spoke! God was angry at the people of Israel. He had shown them signs and miracles and they refused to believe. Moses prayed that God would forgive the people and He did. But even in God's forgiveness, He would punish the people. Not one single adult living then would be permitted to enter the land God had promised to give them and the people of Israel would wander in the desert for forty years and then they would enter Canaan. Joshua and Caleb were the exceptions. These two had believed that God would bring the victory. God even said this about Caleb, "But my servant Caleb has a different spirit. He follows Me with his whole heart. So I will bring him into the land he went to. And his children after him will receive land there."

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. Caleb followed God with his whole heart.

Can that be said about you? Our memory verse says that God is the God of Israel. There is no God like Him in heaven above or on earth below. He keeps the covenant He made with us. He shows us His love. He does that when we follow Him with all our hearts. (1 Kings 8:23 NIV)
Don't you want to take part in God's promises the way Caleb did? Will you commit today to follow Him with your whole heart?



NEXT WEEK
Joshua Serves the Lord

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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Moses sent the men to explore the land. He told them to find out what the land was like. What kind of people lived there; were there many or few? Were they strong or weak? What were their towns like and how were they protected? He even suggested they find out what the soil and crops were like. So the men went and explored the land. For forty days they explored the land from one end to the other.

What they found was amazing! There was milk and honey galore! There were pomegranates and figs. There were bunches of grapes so big it took two men to carry one bunch! The people were really big, too! This last thing made the people afraid. Instead of trusting God, they wanted to turn around and go back to Egypt.

Caleb and Joshua understood that with God nothing was impossible. He had led them and protected them so far, why would He desert them now? The people wouldn't listen.

God punished the people. The people of Israel would wander in the desert for forty years and then they would enter Canaan, but not one single adult living then would enter the land God had promised to give them. Joshua and Caleb were the exceptions. These two had believed that God would bring the victory. God even said this about Caleb, "But my servant Caleb has a different spirit. He follows Me with his whole heart. So I will bring him into the land he went to. And his children after him will receive land there."

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Play "Follow the Leader." Review the memory verse as part of the game. Talk about our need to follow our Leader, God, the way Caleb did.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "I Will," "The Lord Has a Will," "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "Mighty to Save," "One Pure and Holy Passion," "Wherever He Leads I'll Go" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make posters of bunches of grapes. Use construction paper, craft foam, cotton balls and purple paint. Be creative! Print the memory verse on the posters.
- **For more training:** Talk about God's promise. Read and discuss Genesis 12:1-7 and Exodus 6:8, 33:1-2 and the reaction to exploring the land (Numbers 13:26-33).
- **For more training:** Talk about the consequences of sin. Read Numbers 14:20-35. Be sure to discuss God's forgiveness as well.

He said, 'Lord,
You are the God of Israel.
There is no God like You
in heaven above
or on earth below.
You keep the covenant You
made with us.
You show us your love.
You do that when we follow
You with all our hearts.'

1 Kings 8:23

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HERO IN TRAINING

Caleb Explores the Promised Land

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 **Mission**[®]
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Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: Numbers 13-14

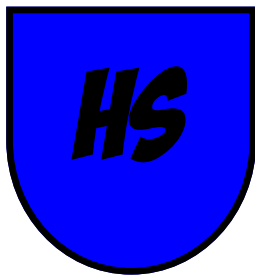
Memory verse:

“He said, ‘Lord, you are the God of Israel. There is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep the covenant you made with us. You show us your love. You do that when we follow you with all our hearts.’” 1 Kings 8:23 (NIRV)

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? _____

Read Numbers 14:6-9 and write what you learn about God.

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Unscramble the missing words to decipher the encrypted message.

“He said, ‘Lord, you are the God of _____.
lesarl

There is no God like you

in _____ above or on _____ below.
vanehe herat

You keep the covenant you made with us.

You show us your _____.
oevl

You do that when we _____ you
lofowl

with all our _____.”
atresh

1 Kings 8:23

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Moses
- twelve men
- explore
- promised land
- Canaan
- report
- God can
- afraid
- forty years

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

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