

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

**15**

**JESUS DEFEATS DEATH**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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*Taking church to the people*



# JESUS DEFEATS DEATH

## Memory Verse:

"Death, where is the battle you thought you were winning? Death, where is your sting?" —(*Hosea 13:14*) ... But let us give thanks to God! He wins the battle for us because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done. 1 Corinthians 15:55, 57 (NirV)

## Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how extraordinary Jesus was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Jesus 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:

Matthew 26-28

Mark 14-16

Luke 22-24

John 11:45-57

John 12-20

1 Corinthians 15

2 Corinthians 5

Ephesians 1:7-14



# JESUS DEFEATS DEATH

Matthew 26-28

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:** Jesus

**His Heroic Feat:** Obeys God and Defeats Death

Obeying God may not sound very heroic, but who do you know that has defeated death? Let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We've been talking about heroes and heroines from the Old Testament so far, but we are going to talk about the super hero of heroes for our Easter lesson today and the story is found in the New Testament of the Bible. You see, when we talk about the faith of the heroes in the Old Testament, that faith is based on God's promises. Jesus, the Son of God, was one of those promises, even from the very beginning of the world. (Genesis 3:15)

You see, from the very beginning people have chosen to do what they want, instead of living by the guidelines God gives us. In fact, all of us have. (Romans 3:23) The punishment we deserve for doing our own thing is a death sentence. (Romans 6:23) Can you imagine, all of us deserving death for choosing our way instead of God's perfect plan? That's where our hero comes in.

This God, the One we have all sinned against, loves each and every one of us so much that He sent His Son from heaven down to earth. He came for one purpose and His obedience meant everything for us. Jesus lived a perfect life. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Even so, the Jewish leaders were afraid of what might happen if the people continued to follow Jesus. They looked for a way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. Their opportunity came when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, went to them to hand Jesus over to them. Money changed hands and the plan was set.

Meanwhile, Jesus planned to celebrate the Passover with His disciples one more time, before His death. You see, Jesus was in full control of the timing of His death; it didn't catch Him by surprise. So Jesus and the twelve disciples met together to remember God's deliverance of the people of Israel from Egypt. As they did, Jesus took the elements of the Passover meal and tried to explain what was about to happen. He took the flat bread made without yeast and compared it to his body that would be broken. Then He took the wine and compared it to His blood that would be shed while He was on the cross. He told them to remember His death every time they celebrated the Passover.

Then Jesus went out to the Garden of Gethsemane with eleven of the disciples. Judas left after the meal, but met them there in the garden. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss and Jesus was arrested. He was taken from the garden to the house of the Jewish leader. He was questioned there and many lies were told about Him. Nothing was found worthy of sentenc-

ing Him to death until Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. He was taken from there to Pilate, a Roman leader. As he questioned Jesus, Pilate found no reason to sentence Him to death. The Jewish leaders stirred up the people until they cried out for Jesus' death. Pilate sent Jesus to be whipped and then sentenced Him to die the most cruel of deaths, crucifixion. But you see, Pilate had been right in the beginning, Jesus had done nothing wrong. "Christ didn't have any sin. But God made Him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us." (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV) After a lot a prayer, Jesus went to the cross willingly. At any point, He could have called more than 12 legions of angels from heaven to rescue Him, but He didn't. Jesus died there on the cross for you and for me. He was buried close by.

Then, early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and some other ladies went to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus' body for His burial. There was a powerful earthquake and an angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled back the heavy stone that covered the empty tomb. He told the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as He said He would!" (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV)

Jesus is alive! He won the battle over death! Not only did Jesus win the battle, you can, too. You can be made right with God because of what Jesus did. You can be set free because of what Christ has done. Through His blood your sins can be forgiven. (Ephesians 1:7)

### ***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. Jesus obeyed God and in the process, defeated death.

Do you realize that, even after death, you can live again one day? Because Jesus defeated death, anyone who follows Him will one day live with Him forever in heaven!

Because of Adam and his sin in the Garden of Eden, we all die. We are all sinners like Adam. But, because of the death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection, we can all live! (1 Corinthians 15:21) Will you choose to follow Him today?



**NEXT WEEK**  
Samson

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

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:** Jesus

**His Heroic Feat:** Obeys God and Defeats Death

Obeying God may not sound very heroic, but who do you know that has defeated death? Let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Jesus lived a perfect life, but the Jewish leaders were afraid of what might happen if the people continued to follow Him. They looked for a way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. Judas, one of the twelve disciples, came to them with a plan to hand Jesus over to them.

It happened the night that Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples. Jesus and the twelve disciples met together and ate a special meal to remember God's deliverance of the people of Israel from Egypt. Then they went out to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Judas left after the meal, but met them there in the garden. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus was arrested and taken from the garden to the house of the Jewish leader. He was questioned there and many lies were told about Him. He was taken from there to Pilate, a Roman leader. As he questioned Jesus, Pilate found no reason to sentence Him to death. The Jewish leaders stirred up the people until they cried out for Jesus' death. Pilate sent Jesus to be whipped. Then, even though He had done nothing wrong, Jesus was ordered to be crucified, or nailed to a cross. Jesus died there on the cross for you and for me. He was buried close by.

Then, early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and some other ladies went to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus' body for His burial. There was a powerful earthquake and an angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled back the heavy stone that covered the empty tomb. He told the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as He said He would!" (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV)

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# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make potato prints. Cut a medium sized, oblong potato in half lengthwise. Leave one half as it is. On the other half, carve away potato until a cross is left. Dip the uncut potato in paint and transfer the paint to construction paper. Dip the potato half with the cross in paint and transfer it three times to the top of the "hill" transferred from the first potato half. Be sure to print the memory verse at the bottom of the picture.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Listen to Sandi Patti's "Was it a Morning Like This?"
- Sing "What Can Wash Away My Sin," "Low in The Grave," "He Lives" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Bring Easter Eggs. Talk about 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- Re-enact the story.
- **For more training:** Read Exodus 12:1-13. The Passover is just one of the Old Testament pictures that points to Christ. Discuss the similarities between the Passover lamb and Christ. Then read John 1:29 and discuss.
- **For more training:** Read any or all of the following and discuss in light of the lesson. (1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 5, and Ephesians 1:7-14)
- **For more training:** Read John 14. Discuss the "dynamite" power of God available to those who choose to follow God.

"Death,  
where is the battle you  
thought you were winning?  
Death, where is your  
sting?" —(*Hosea 13:14*) ...

But let us  
give thanks to God!  
He wins the battle for us  
because of what our Lord  
Jesus Christ has done.  
1 Corinthians 15:55, 57

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Super Ordinary Power

# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Jesus Defeats Death

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# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:** Matthew 26-28

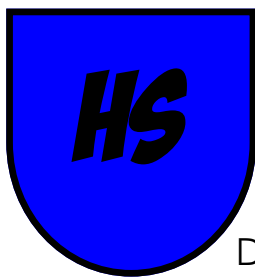
**Memory verse:**

"Death, where is the battle you thought you were winning? Death, where is your sting?" —(*Hosea 13:14*) ... But let us give thanks to God! He wins the battle for us because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done. 1 Corinthians 15:55, 57 (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? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus defeated death. What does that mean for those who choose to follow Him? Find the answer in 1 Corinthians 15:19-21. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# WORD

# SEARCH!

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

- all sin
- become sin
- crucified
- deserve death
- for you and me
- buried
- Jesus sinless
- arrested
- He's alive

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Write the numbered letters in the spaces below.

D E A T H ,  
8

W H E R E I S T H E B A T T L E  
11

Y O U T H O U G H T Y O U W E R E W I N N I N G ?  
7

D E A T H , W H E R E I S Y O U R S T I N G ?  
5 4 6

B U T L E T U S G I V E T H A N K S T O G O D  
9

H E W I N S T H E B A T T L E F O R U S  
13 10 2

B E C A U S E O F W H A T O U R L O R D  
3

J E S U S C H R I S T H A S D O N E .  
12 1

1 C O R I N T H I A N S 1 5 : 5 5 , 5 7

What did Jesus do?

D E F E A I E D D E A I H  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

- all sin
- become sin
- crucified
- deserve death
- for you and me
- buried
- Jesus sinless
- arrested
- He's alive