

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

22

NINEVEH REPENTS!

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



NINEVEH REPENTS!

Memory Verse:

I pray to you, LORD! Please answer me. I promise to obey your laws.
(Psalm 119:145 CEV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Jonah was

#2 - Discover what faith led Jonah 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:

Jonah 1-4



NINEVEH REPENTS!

Jonah 1-4

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: Jonah

His Heroic Feat: Prays to God and then Obeys

Praying to God and then obeying may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Deep down in the bottom of a very dark boat in the middle of rough seas during a terrible storm, we find our unlikely hero, Jonah, fast asleep. Jonah is a prophet who received word from God to go to Nineveh, the capitol of the evil country of Assyria. God wanted Jonah to warn them of his judgment.

There is a problem, though. The boat Jonah has boarded isn't headed for Nineveh, it's headed the opposite direction. Jonah is being very disobedient. He has chosen to go his way instead of God's way. You see, Jonah doesn't like the Assyrians. They are evil, mean people. You may say, "That makes no sense, Why wouldn't Jonah be excited to tell the Ninevites that God was about to punish them?" Jonah knows how good God is. Jonah knows that if these evil people listen to him and believe, they might turn to God and ask God to forgive them. So, the God who sees exactly where Jonah is, sends the terrible storm.

The boat is about to sink, and when the sailors realize Jonah is a prophet of God, they want to know what terrible thing he has done to be punished this way! Jonah tells them that he is running from God. He also tells them that the storm will stop if they throw him in the sea. The sailors tried everything else first, and when the storm worsened they begged mercy from God and then picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. The sea immediately became calm.

Meanwhile, God caused a really big fish to come along and as soon as Jonah went under, the fish swallowed him. Jonah prayed to God from inside of the fish. He prayed, "When my life had almost gone, I remembered the Lord. I prayed to you and you heard my prayers . . . I will keep my promises to you. Salvation comes from the Lord!" (Jonah 2:7, 9b NCV)

Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. "Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and the fish threw up Jonah onto dry land." (Jonah 2:10 NCV) Once Jonah was out of the fish, God spoke to him again, "Get up, go to the great city Nine-

veh, and preach to it what I tell you to say." (Jonah 3:1 NCV) This time, Jonah obeyed God. He went to Nineveh.

Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days just to walk from one side of the city to the other. Jonah began to walk through the city. And there were more than 120,000 people who lived there. Jonah shared God's message as he walked. He said, "After forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed!" (Jonah 3:4 NCV)

Guess what happened? The people of Nineveh believed God! Isn't that amazing? God saw how wicked the people were, but they didn't know right from wrong. God warned them what would happen to them because of their wickedness and they believed Him. They stopped eating, they stopped doing evil things, and they cried out to God. "When God saw what the people did, that they stopped doing evil, He changed His mind and did not do what He had warned. He did not punish them." (Jonah 3:10 NCV)

Jonah may not have been very happy about God's plan, but when he submitted to God and prayed to Him and obeyed anyway, amazing things happened! Not only did God give Jonah a second chance, He gave Nineveh a second chance as well.



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. Jonah prayed and then obeyed God.

Do you always want to do what you are supposed to do? Me, either. Jonah had trouble with that, too. You and I can learn something from Jonah. The next time we want to disobey, what should we do? Pray; talk to God, right? We can ask for His help to do the right thing.

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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There is a problem, though. The boat Jonah has is sleeping on isn't headed for Nineveh, it's headed the opposite direction. Jonah is being very disobedient. And the God who sees exactly where Jonah is, sends the terrible storm.

The boat is about to sink, and when the sailors realize Jonah serves God, they want to know what terrible thing he has done to be punished this way! Jonah tells them that he is running from God. He also tells them that the storm will stop if they throw him in the sea. The sailors tried everything else first, and when the storm got worse they begged mercy from God and then picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. The sea immediately became calm.

Meanwhile, God caused a really big fish to come along and as soon as Jonah went under, the fish swallowed him. Jonah prayed to God from inside of the fish. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. "Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and the fish threw up Jonah onto dry land." (Jonah 2:10 NCV) Once Jonah was out of the fish, God spoke to him again, "Get up, go to the great city Nineveh, and preach to it what I tell you to say." (Jonah 3:1 NCV) This time, Jonah obeyed God. He went to Nineveh.

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ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a folding hands booklet. Have each student trace one of their hands onto folded construction paper, lining the thumb up with the folded edge. Cut out each hand booklet and write the memory verse inside.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," "I Will" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make Jonah Jello. Make blue jello cups with gummy fish.
- **For more training:** Read Jonah's prayer in Jonah 2. Discuss what Jonah is saying and why he would have been ready to obey God when the fish finally spit him up on the beach.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Philippians 2:1-18 in light of the lesson.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Matthew 12:38-41, Matthew 16:17, and Luke 11:29-32.

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Psalm 119:145

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Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Nineveh Repents!

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: Jonah 1-4

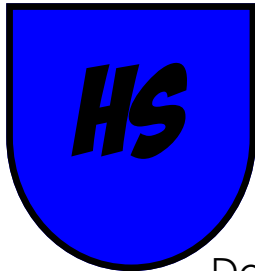
Memory verse:

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(Psalm 119:145 CEV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? _____

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



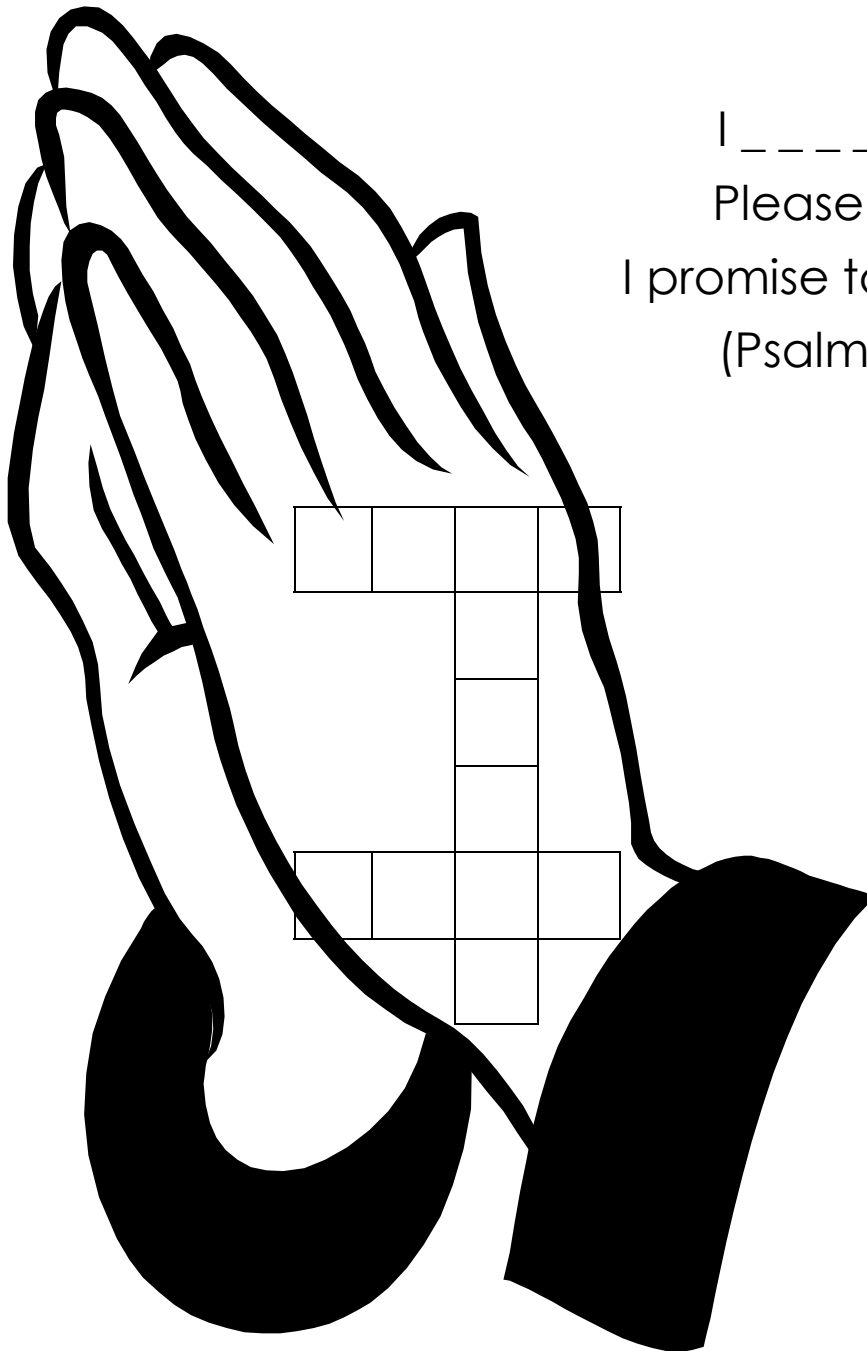
What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read Jonah's prayer in Jonah 2. What did Jonah know about God?

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Fill in the missing words from the memory verse.
Then fill in the crossword puzzle.



I _____ to you, LORD!
Please _____ me.
I promise to _____ your laws.
(Psalm 119:145 CEV)

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- boat

- stormy seas

- Jonah asleep

- throw over

- storm stopped

- big fish

- three days

- Nineveh

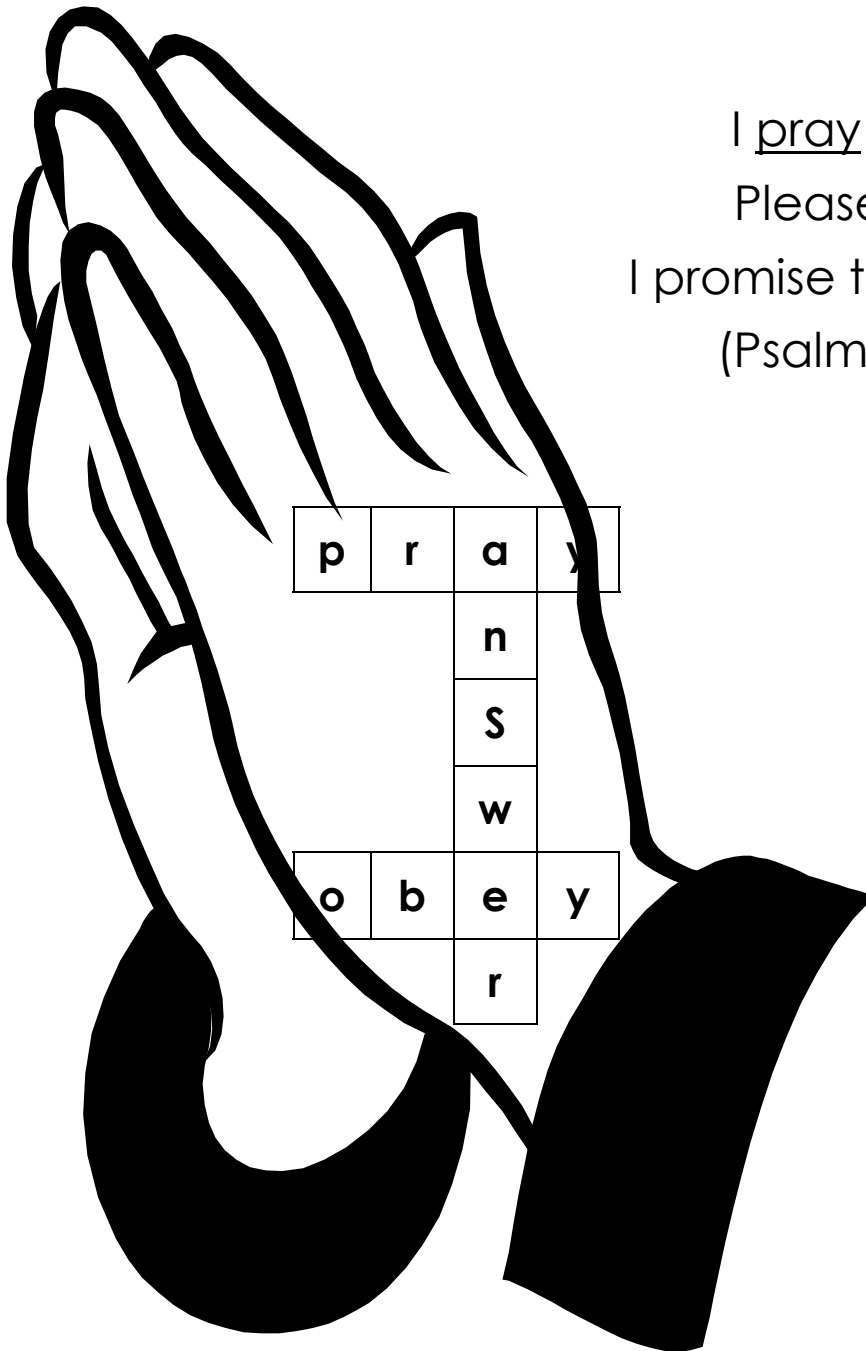
- believed God

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

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WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

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- believed God