

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

23

HEZEKIAH: LOYAL TO GOD

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



HEZEKIAH: LOYAL TO GOD

Memory Verse:

Whoever tries to live right and be loyal finds life, success, and honor.
(Proverbs 21:21 NCV)

Lesson Goals:

- #1 - Understand how ordinary Hezekiah was
- #2 - Discover what faith led Hezekiah 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:

2 Kings 16-20
2 Chronicles 29-32
Isaiah 36-39
Proverbs 25
Matthew 1:9-10



23

HEZEKIAH: LOYAL TO GOD

2 Kings 18:1-8, 2 Chronicles 29-32, Isaiah 38:1-8

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: Hezekiah

His Heroic Feat: Is Loyal to God

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

Do you remember that, since King Solomon, all of Israel's kings have been compared to King David? There was a king, many years after King Ahab, who didn't follow King David's example. "He did not do what the Lord his God said was right." (2 Kings 16:2b NCV) His name was Ahaz. He sent the temple treasures to their enemies and used other things from the temple of God to worship his own, false gods. When King Ahaz died, his son, Hezekiah, became king after him. Hezekiah was twenty-five when he became king. Instead of following his father's example, King Hezekiah followed King David's example. "Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him . . . either before him or after him. Hezekiah was loyal to the Lord and did not stop following Him; he obeyed the commands the Lord had given Moses." (2 Kings 18:5-6 NCV)

One of the first things Hezekiah did as king was to rededicate and repair the temple and remove the things that his father had used in idol worship. You see, the doors of the temple had been closed and the temple sat unused. Hezekiah also called the Levites back so that they could make themselves ready to serve in the temple. And then, Hezekiah did something that hadn't been done since the time of King Solomon; he prepared for the celebration of the Passover. When God instituted the Passover, it was to be celebrated every year. Many years had passed since the last celebration, so Hezekiah sent out invitations to the Passover as well as a reminder to return to God. Many of the people laughed at Hezekiah and refused to come, but some were sorry for their sins and planned to come to celebrate the Passover.

Those who celebrated the Passover removed the altars in Jerusalem where other gods were worshipped. They celebrated for seven days and "praised the Lord every day with loud music." (2 Chronicles 30:21b NCV) After the Passover celebration, the people gave gifts for the temple and the temple began to be used as it had years before. "Hezekiah tried to obey God in his service of the temple of God, and he tried to obey God's teachings and commands. He gave himself fully to his work for God. So he had success." (2 Chronicles 31:21 NCV)

After Hezekiah did these things, in the fourteenth year of his reign, the leader of Assyria came to attack. His name was Sennacherib. He told Hezekiah and the people that their confidence in God was misplaced. He ridiculed God. He even said God had sent him to march against the country. "When King Hezekiah heard the message, he tore his clothes and put on rough cloth to show how sad he was. Then he went to the Temple of the Lord." (2 Kings 19:1 NCV) Hezekiah prayed to God and God answered. God assured Hezekiah that the battle was His. Hezekiah didn't need to worry. God delivered Hezekiah and the country from the Assyrians!

But right after that, Hezekiah got very ill. In fact, he was dying. And just like he had all through his life, Hezekiah turned to God. He prayed, "Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." (Isaiah 38:3 NIV) God heard Hezekiah's prayer and added fifteen years to his life. God gave a sign to Hezekiah that he would keep His promise, "'I will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.' So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down." (Isaiah 38:8 NCV)

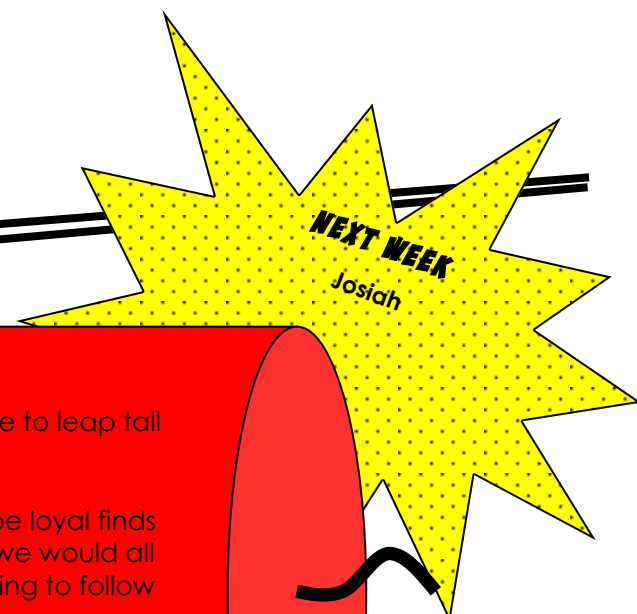
Who is this God who fought battles for Hezekiah, gave him fifteen more years of life and even caused the shadow cast by the sun to back up? He is the God, the only One, who deserves our loyalty. Hezekiah's life was blest because of his loyalty to God. How about you? Are you loyal to God?

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. Hezekiah was loyal to God.

Our memory verse says, "Whoever tries to live right and be loyal finds life, success, and honor." (Proverbs 21:21 NCV) I'm sure we would all agree that we want life, success and honor. Are you willing to follow Hezekiah's example of loyalty to God?

Following Hezekiah's example begins with a relationship with the All-powerful God of the universe. He sent His own Son to die for the sins you have committed. Will you surrender to Him today?



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: Hezekiah

His Heroic Feat: Is Loyal to God

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

We meet a new king, today. His name was Hezekiah. He was twenty-five when he became king. Because his dad had been a bad example, Hezekiah chose not to follow his example. Instead, Hezekiah obeyed God. Hezekiah was loyal to God.

One of the first things Hezekiah did as king was to repair the temple. You see, Hezekiah's father had taken things from the temple and given them away to their enemies. He didn't take care of the temple. The doors of the temple had been closed and the temple wasn't used.

Hezekiah cleaned the temple. He got rid of the things that were for other gods. Hezekiah also called the Levites back to work. They were special people who served in the temple.

Then Hezekiah rededicated the temple to God. They gave the animal sacrifices that God used to require. Then they sang and blew trumpets. "All the people worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters blew their trumpets until the burnt offering was finished." (2 Chronicles 29:28 NCV) They even used Psalms from King David to praise God.

What do you do at church? Do you bring gifts to God? Do you sing to Him and play instruments? Do you read from the Psalms?

Have you ever thought about helping to clean at church? Are you careful with how you treat things at church? You can be loyal to God the way Hezekiah was.

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print each word, and the reference, on separate pieces of colored paper. Practice placing the verse in the correct order, practicing as you go.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Listen to Michael Card's "Then They Will Know."
- Sing "The Battle Belongs to the Lord," "I Will," "Mighty to Save," "Our God" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make a list of chores for your Bible study area. Encourage your students to volunteer for specific tasks.
- **For more training:** Read Matthew 1, focusing on verses 9-10. Talk about Hezekiah's loyalty and his place as an ancestor of Jesus.
- **For more training:** Read Proverbs 25. Review the highlights of our lesson on Solomon. Discuss how these verses came to be in the Bible (see v. 1).
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Isaiah 39. (This will lead us into the lessons on Josiah, Daniel, and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.)
- **For more training:** Read Isaiah 36-37. Compare and contrast Sennacherib's message to God's message.

Whoever
tries to live right
and be loyal
finds life,
success, and honor.

Proverbs 21:2

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HERO IN TRAINING

Hezekiah: Loyal to God

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: 2 Kings 18:1-8, 2 Chronicles 29-32, Isaiah 38:1-8

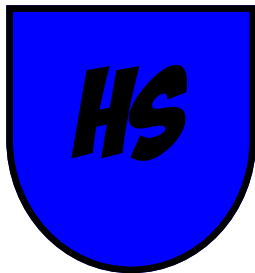
Memory verse:

Whoever tries to live right and be loyal finds life, success, and honor. (Proverbs 21:21 NCV)

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 Isaiah 38:15-20. What does Hezekiah know about God? List them below. _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete the memory verse.

2	23	1	4	17	3	22	11	6	26	13	7	21	10	9	20	18	12	25	14	19	5	16	8	24	15
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Whoever tries to live right and be loyal finds . . .

— — — —
7 6 3 17

— — — — — —
25 19 1 1 17 25 25

a n d — — — — —
11 9 10 9 12 .

Proverbs 21:21

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Hezekiah
- followed David
- cleaned temple
- Passover
- enemy attack
- Sennacherib
- God in control
- sickness
- fifteen years

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete the memory verse.

2	23	1	4	17	3	22	11	6	26	13	7	21	10	9	20	18	12	25	14	19	5	16	8	24	15
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Whoever tries to live right and be loyal finds . . .

l i f e
7 6 3 17

s u c c e s s
25 19 1 1 17 25 25

a n d h o n o r .
11 9 10 9 12

Proverbs 21:21

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

- Hezekiah
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