

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

33

PETER CAN'T KEEP QUIET

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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 *Mission*[®]
Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



PETER CAN'T KEEP QUIET

Memory Verse:

God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns. (Philippians 1:6 CEV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Peter was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Peter 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:

John 21

Acts 2-4



PETER CAN'T KEEP QUIET

John 21, Acts 2-4

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: Peter

His Heroic Feat: Shares Jesus without Fear

Sharing Jesus without fear 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 our last lesson we talked about Andrew. Andrew was one of Jesus' disciples. Do you remember the first thing Andrew did after meeting Jesus? He introduced his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Then Jesus looked at Simon and changed his name to Peter, which means "rock." Simon Peter and Andrew and the other disciples walked with Jesus and talked with Jesus. They learned from Him and they saw Him perform miracles. They even saw people raised from the dead.

Peter had his ups and downs, as most of us do. There were times where he was so strong and had the right answers. For example, when Jesus asked His disciples who they said He was, Peter responded, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." And when other followers were deserting Jesus, He asked the twelve if they wanted to leave Him, too. Again, it was Peter who answered. He told Jesus, "Where would we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Then there were times where Peter messed things up. The biggest example of that is the night of Jesus' arrest. Before the rooster crowed early the next morning, Peter, who had sworn to die with Jesus had, instead, denied Him. This was no surprise to Jesus, though. As the disciples ate their last meal with the Lord, Jesus told Peter that Satan had asked to test them. Jesus said, "I have prayed that you will not lose your faith! Help your brothers be stronger when you come back to me." (Luke 22:32 NCV) Jesus didn't say "if" you come back to me . . . he was encouraging Peter. Jesus knew that Peter would come back to Him.

But then, Jesus was crucified. What would happen to the disciples? At one point, Peter and some of the other disciples decided to try their hand at fishing again. After they had fished all night, Jesus had breakfast ready for them on the beach. Then Jesus singled out Peter and said, "Simon son of John, do you love me no matter what?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, I love you like a brother." Peter's answer doesn't quite match Jesus' question, but it was his honest response. Could Peter serve Jesus faithfully after having denied Him? Jesus asked the same question again and received

the same answer from Peter. Then Jesus asked, "Simon, do you love me like a brother?" And Peter replied, "Yes." Jesus asked three times, the same as the number of times Peter denied the Lord. After each question, Jesus encouraged Peter to take care of His followers. Jesus was telling Peter that things would be okay. You see, Philippians 1:6 says, "God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that He won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns." (CEV) God had begun something amazing in Peter the day he met Jesus. God wasn't finished with Peter yet!

As Jesus returned to heaven, He told His disciples to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit that God would send. They waited in Jerusalem for ten days and then, God kept His promise. It came with a loud noise and "something like flames of fire . . . stood over each person there." (Acts 2:3 NCV) And each of the believers there were filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter and the other disciples stood up and Peter began to share with the crowd that had gathered. He explained that God had poured out the Holy Spirit on them. And then Peter explained what God had done through Jesus. Jesus had lived among them. They had seen Him perform miracles and many of them had seen Him die. Then Peter shared that God had raised Jesus from the dead and that He ascended and was now in heaven.

When Peter had finished, the people felt guilty. They asked Peter and the other apostles what they should do. Peter said, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38-39 NCV) And about 3,000 people began a relationship with the Lord that day.

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. Peter shared Jesus without fear, but he started out as a rough fisherman.

Our memory verse says, "God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that He won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns." (Philippians 1:6 CEV) Has God begun a good work in you? Have you begun a relationship with Him? You can trust God to continue working in your life. He will continue until He calls you home to heaven.



NEXT WEEK
Matthew

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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In our last lesson we talked about Andrew. Do you remember the first thing Andrew did after meeting Jesus? He introduced his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Simon Peter and Andrew and the other disciples walked with Jesus and talked with Jesus. They learned from Him and they saw Him perform miracles. They even saw people raised from the dead.

Sometimes Peter did things very well. Sometimes Peter messed up. Have you ever felt like Peter? On the night that Jesus was arrested, it was Peter who denied three times that he ever knew Jesus. Then, Jesus was crucified. What would happen to the disciples? Peter and some of the others disciples decided to go fishing again.

After they had fished all night, Jesus, who had risen from the dead, had breakfast ready for them on the beach. Then Jesus singled out Peter and asked if Peter loved Him. He did this three times, the same as the number of times Peter denied Jesus. After each question, Jesus encouraged Peter to take care of the people who chose to follow Jesus.

After Jesus returned to heaven, Peter shared with a big crowd. Peter shared what God did when He sent Jesus. Jesus had lived among them. They had seen Him perform miracles and many of them had seen Him die. Then Peter shared that God had raised Jesus from the dead and that He was in heaven.

When Peter had finished, the people felt guilty. They asked Peter and the other apostles what they should do. Peter said, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38-39 NCV) And about 3,000 people began a relationship with the Lord that day.

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Plant beans in small cups. Print the memory verse on a strip of paper. Then cover the cup with the memory verse.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Bring "Dirt Cake" with gummi fish for snack as a reminder of the breakfast on the each.
- **For more training:** Read the following verses and discuss them in light of our lesson. Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 139:13-17, Acts 17:26, and Philippians 1:6
- **For more training:** Read excerpts from 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Discuss the growth in Peter and how God used him to spread the gospel.

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this good work in you,
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that Christ Jesus returns.
Philippians 1:6

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
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HERO IN TRAINING

Peter Can't Keep Quiet

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Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: John 21, Acts 2-4

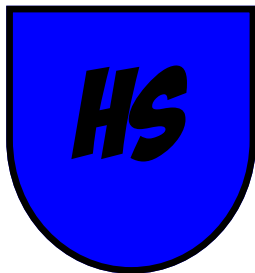
Memory verse:

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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? _____

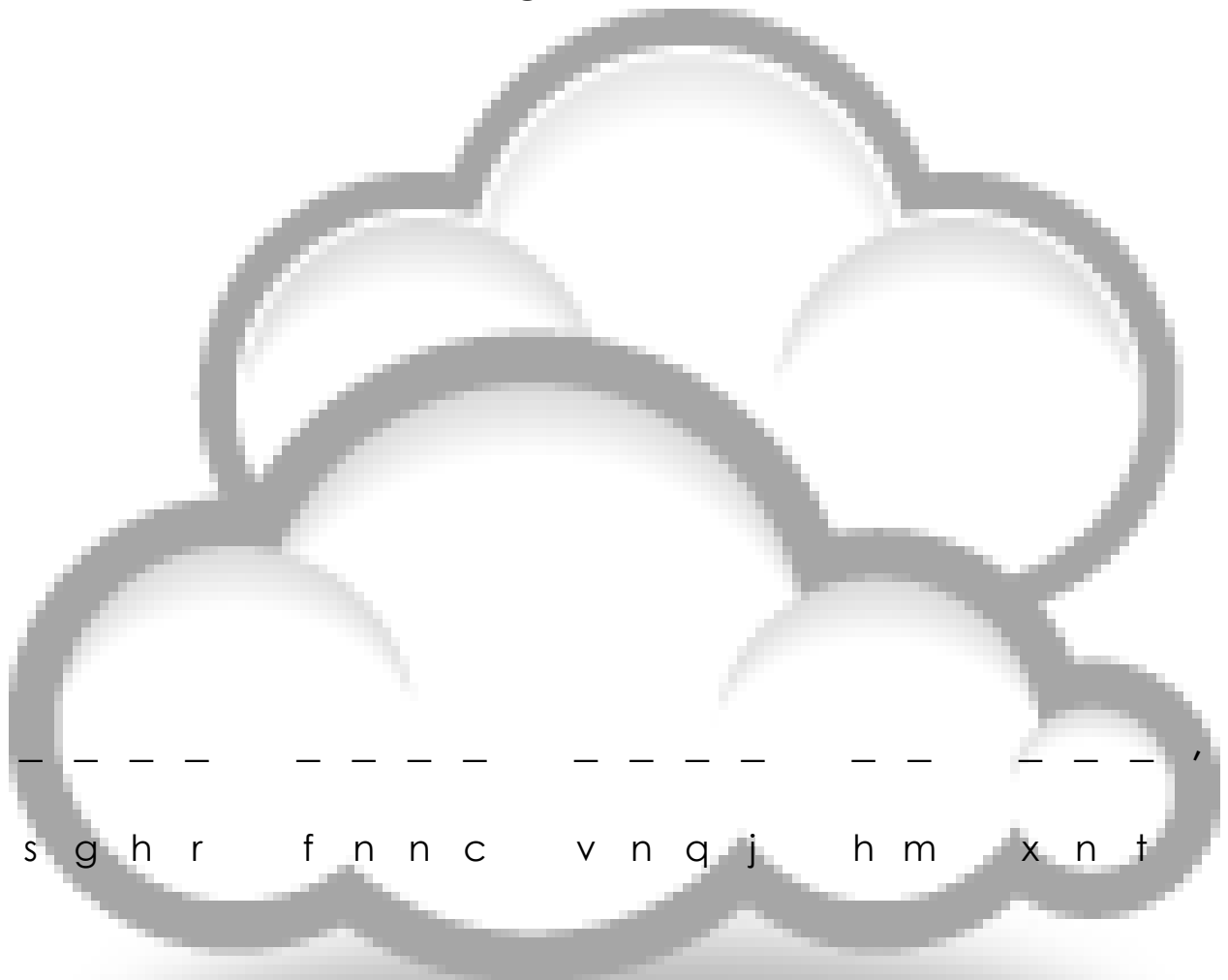
Read Luke 22:31-34 and John 21:15-19. How did Jesus show Peter that He was working out something good in Peter's life? Think about your life. What is God showing you? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

One day, Jesus will return in the clouds! What will Jesus complete on that day? Crack the code (by writing the next letter in alphabetical order) to find the Hidden Message.

God is the one who began . . .



. . . and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns.
(Philippians 1:6 CEV)

WORD

SEARCH!

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


- Simon Peter
- Jesus
- began good work
- "Son of Living God"
- Jesus prays
- not lose faith
- Do you love me?
- three times
- "Follow Me"

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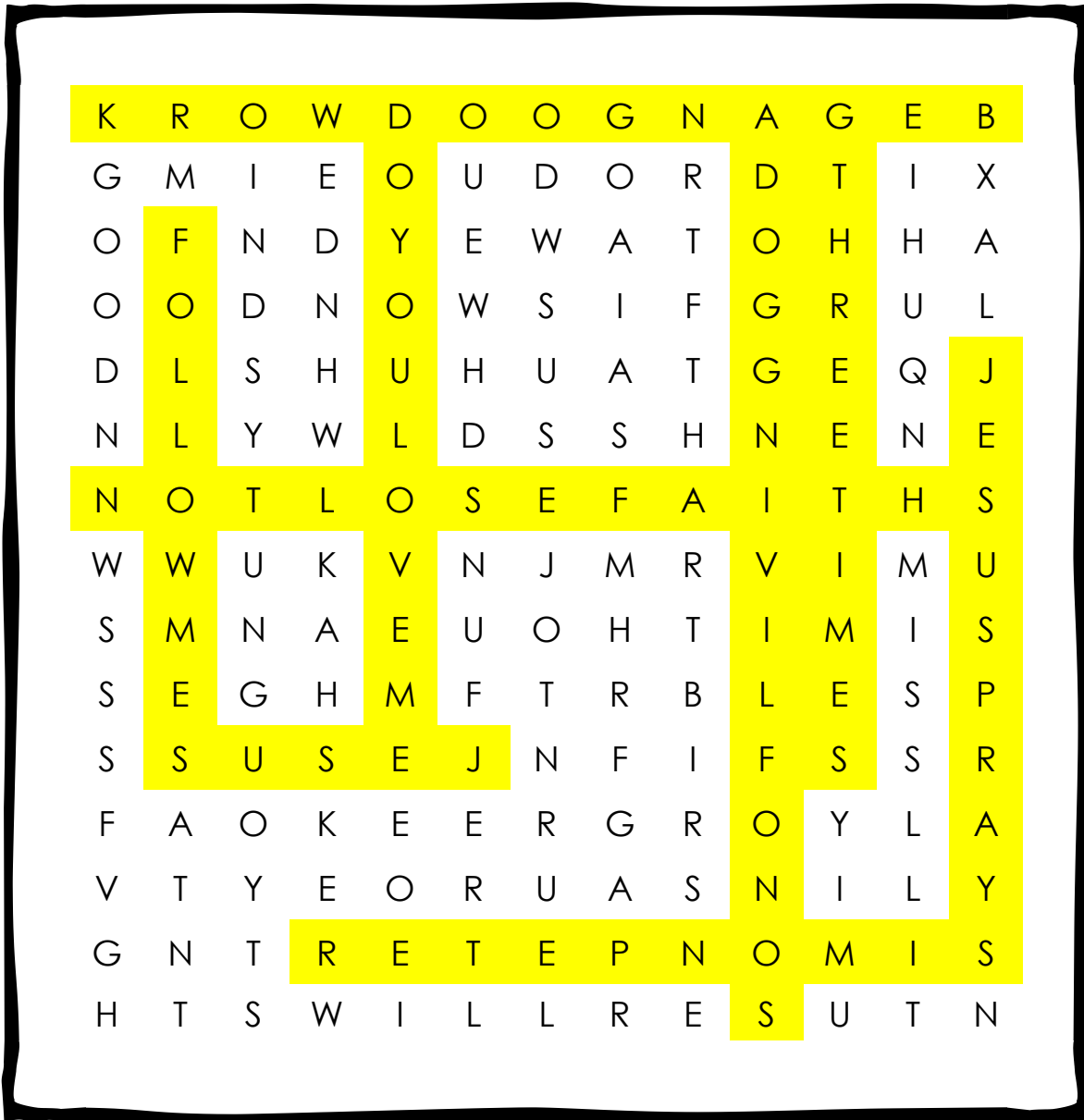
t h i s g o o d w o r k i n y o u ,
s g h r f n n c v n q j h m x n t

. . . and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns.
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WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page



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