

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

35

JOHN . . . SON OF THUNDER!

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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



JOHN . . . SON OF THUNDER!

Memory Verse:

We love because God loved us first. (1 John 4:19 CEV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary John was

#2 - Discover what obedience led John 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 1:1-21:25

1 John, 2 John, 3 John



JOHN . . . SON OF THUNDER!

John 1:1-21:25, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John

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: John

His Heroic Feat: Changed by Jesus' Love

Being changed by Jesus' love may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Lately we have been learning about Jesus' disciples. We've talked about Andrew and his brother Peter. We have also talked about Matthew. There were a total of twelve, but the last one we will discuss was a friend and fellow fisherman of Peter and Andrew. His name was John. After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to follow Him, he went a little further along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and "saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat, mending their nets. Jesus immediately called them, and they left their father in the boat with the hired workers and followed Jesus." (Mark 1:19-20 NCV)

John, and his brother James, must have been something! Jesus gave them the nickname "*Boanerges*," which means "*sons of thunder*." Can you imagine? There must have been some kind of fierce intensity to everything they did, reminding those around them of a thunderstorm! We get a hint of that when the people of a Samaritan village did not welcome Jesus. "When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, 'Lord, do You want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?'" (Luke 9:54 NIV) Jesus scolded them and went on to another village, but we get a glimpse of their intensity!

Even though John had needed scolding, he was part of a special group within the group of disciples. John, along with Peter and his brother James, were called on for special tasks. They were not the favorites, though some may have thought that. Instead, for reasons we don't completely know, they were closer to Jesus than others. These three were chosen from the twelve when Jesus went to the house of Jairus to bring his daughter back to life. They were also on the mountain with Jesus when Moses and Elijah appeared from heaven and Jesus was changed in front of them. And it was these three who were taken further into the garden with Jesus the night before He was crucified.

John learned something special from his time with Jesus. He learned that we are able to love only because God chose to love us first. (1 John 4:19) And in the account of

Jesus' life that John wrote (the book of John), he never refers to himself by name, only as "the disciple Jesus loved." You see John was changed by his time with Jesus. In that account of Jesus' life, "the word *love* is only used six times in the first twelve chapters of John," [once it was used for Nicodemus, and the rest of us, in John 3:16] "but in the Lord's upper room discourse and prayer, recorded only by John (John 13-17), it is used thirty one times." *

As we look at Scripture, we find that John alone had an amazingly close view of the Lord of Love. It was John who sat right beside Jesus at the Last Supper. It was John alone who was admitted beyond Caiaphas' courtyard as Jesus was being questioned. John was the only disciple at the cross when Jesus was crucified and it was to John that Jesus entrusted His mother, Mary. John was also the first disciple at the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection.

When John was an old man he wrote letters to the churches in Ephesus and beyond. It is the message of love that echoes in letter after letter. He mentions *love* 53 times and tells them to *love one another* ten times. "Tradition tells us that when John was a very old man, he would be carried to the church meetings in Ephesus and say to the congregation, 'Little children, love one another.'"*

Have you been changed by Jesus' love the way John was? You can be today. Do you know that God loves you? He loves you so much that He sent His one and only Son. He did that so that you wouldn't perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

*Wiersbe, Warren W. *Life Sentences: What Sentence Will Sum Up Your Life?*
Zondervan: Grand Rapids. 2007. p 255, 258.

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. John was changed by Jesus' love. John's message forever after was "love one another."

How are you at loving others? If you're thinking that you are not so very good at it, maybe you should think about Jesus. He loved you so much He was willing to die for YOU. How could you think about withholding that love from anyone?



NEXT WEEK
The Centurion

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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Lately we have been learning about Jesus' disciples. We've talked about Andrew and his brother Peter. After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to follow Him, he went a little further along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and "saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat, mending their nets. Jesus immediately called them, and they left their father in the boat with the hired workers and followed Jesus." (Mark 1:19-20 NCV)

John, and his brother James, must have been something! Jesus nicknamed them the "sons of thunder." Can you imagine? The things they did reminded people of a thunderstorm! Once, when James and John saw a village that didn't want to welcome Jesus, they asked, "Lord, do You want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:54 NIV) Jesus scolded them and went on to another village, but we understand where their nickname came from!

Even though John had needed scolding, he was part of a special group within the group of disciples. John and Peter and his brother James, were asked to do special things. They were not the favorites, they were just closer to Jesus than others.

John learned something special from his time with Jesus. He learned that we can love only because God chose to love us first. (1 John 4:19) In the book of John, he never calls himself by name, only "the disciple Jesus loved." John sat right beside Jesus at the Last Supper. John was the only disciple at the cross when Jesus was crucified and John was the first disciple at the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection.

When John was an old man he wrote letters to the churches in Ephesus and beyond. He talks about *love* 53 times and tells them to *love one another* ten times. When John was a very old man, people would carry him to the church meetings in Ephesus. John would always tell them, "Little children, love one another."

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Cut out the number "1" from poster board or large pieces of construction paper. Print the memory verse on the number "1."
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "This is My Commandment," "For God So Loved the World," "The Gospel in a Word is Love," "Beloved (1 John 4:7-8)," "Oh, How I Love Jesus," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Bring conversation hearts or heart shaped cookies for snack.
- Make heart shaped invitations to your Bible Study. After class, deliver them to those who haven't come or who are new in your neighborhood.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Luke 9:28-36, 51-55. Also discuss the following statement, "Jesus rebuked them, and rightly so; for what does our Lord's message of love have to do with burning up the people who disagree with us?" Explain how you know John learned the right lesson.
- **For more training:** Read 1 John 4. Mark every reference to "love." Discuss what you learn from the first letter that John wrote.

We love
because
God loved us
first.

1 John 4:19

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

John . . . Son of Thunder!

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Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: John 1:1-21:25, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John

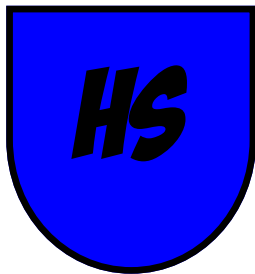
Memory verse:

We love because God loved us first. (1 John 4:19 CEV)

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 John 13-17. Mark every time Jesus talks about love. What is repeated the most? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Read the memory verse, 1 John 4:19. Unscramble each word to find out why is it that we are able to love?

because . . .

odg doevl su siftr.

because . . .

-----.

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Sea of Galilee
- James and John
- "Follow Me"
- Sons of Thunder
- fire from heaven
- the disciple
- Jesus loved
- love one another
- changed by love

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Read the memory verse, 1 John 4:19. Unscramble each word to find out why is it that we are able to love?

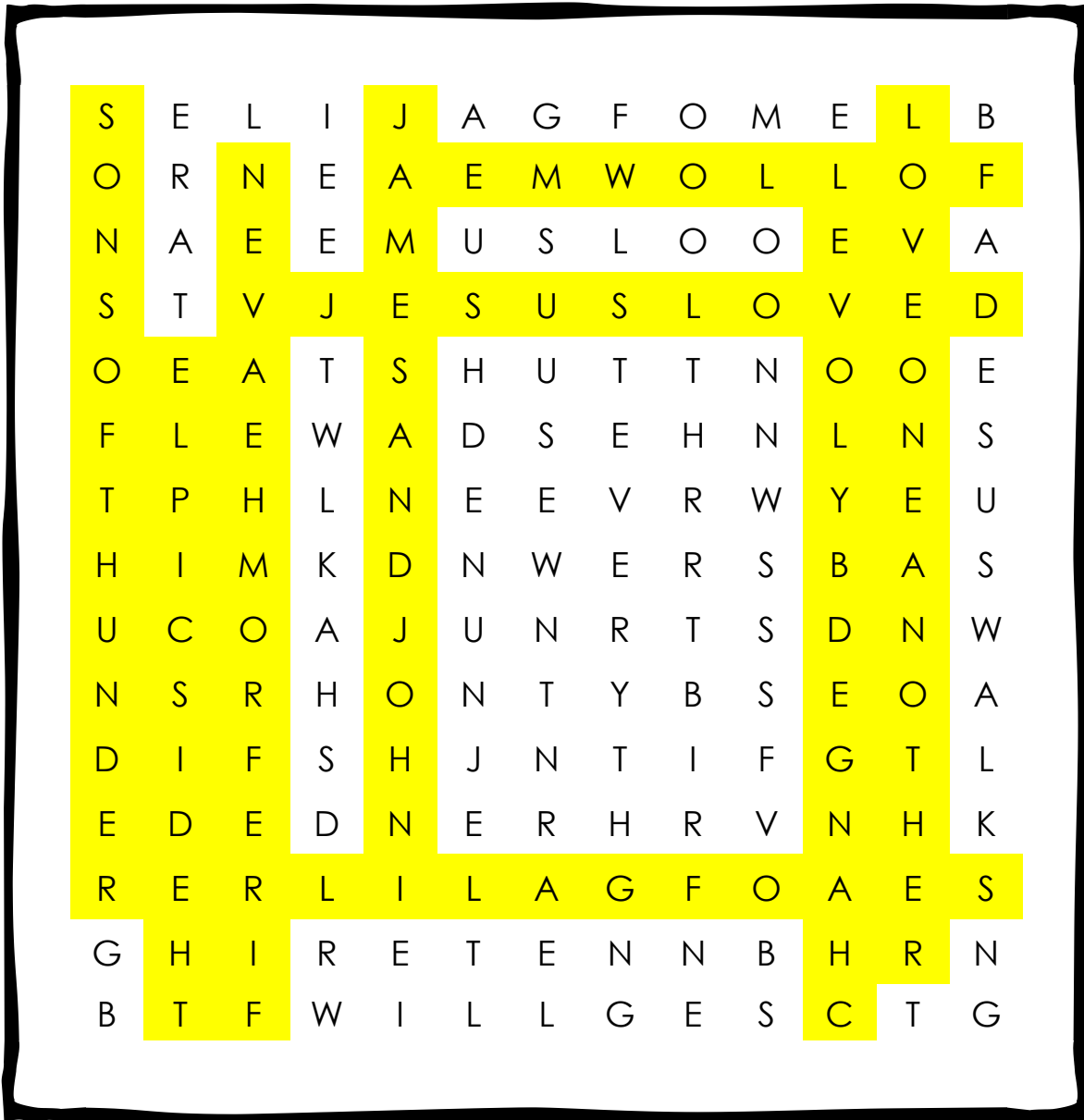
because . . .

God loved us first.

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page



- Sea of Galilee
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