

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

47

PAUL FIGHTS THE GOOD FIGHT

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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



47

PAUL FIGHTS THE GOOD FIGHT

Memory Verse:

I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.
(2 Timothy 4:7 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Paul was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Paul 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:

Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-30, 11:25-26

2 Timothy 4



47

PAUL FIGHTS THE GOOD FIGHT

Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-30, 11:25-26; 2 Timothy 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: Paul

His Heroic Feat: Fights the Good Fight, Finishes the Race, Keeps the Faith

Fighting the good fight, finishing the race, and keeping the faith 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 saw that a young man named Saul held the coats of those who stoned Stephen. Not only did he hold the coats, but he was there as it happened and he was in full agreement with what was happening. After Stephen's death, "a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem" and the believers were scattered. (Acts 8:1 NASB) "Saul was also trying to destroy the church, going from house to house, dragging out men and women and putting them in jail." (Acts 8:3 NCV) Saul even threatened to kill Jesus' followers. You see, Saul was a very religious Jew. He thought that Jesus' followers were dangerous and disobedient so he got permission to travel from city to city and have them arrested. He thought this was how he should serve God.

On his way to the city of Damascus to arrest believers, a bright light from heaven flashed all around Saul. He fell to the ground and heard Jesus speak to him. Jesus spoke from heaven and asked Saul why he was persecuting Him. Saul realized that he hadn't been serving God at all. When Saul stood up and opened his eyes, he was blind.

"There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision" and told him to go to Saul. (Acts 9:10 NCV) Ananias had heard of Saul and he was afraid. "But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to those who are not Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel.'" (Acts 9:15 NCV) Ananias obeyed God. "He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 9:17 NCV) Saul could see again!

Saul began to preach. He told people what God had revealed to him. He told people that Jesus is Lord. People were amazed when they heard him. Some were angered, though, and they wanted to kill him. "When the followers learned about this, they took Saul to Caesarea and from there sent him to Tarsus." (Acts 9:30 NCV) They helped him escape by night. Saul stayed there almost three years. A believer named Barnabas went to get Saul and they returned to a city named Antioch. For a whole year they taught the believers. At a time when the believers were praying and fasting, "the Holy Spirit said to them, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul to do a special work for which I have chosen them.'" So after they fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them out." (Acts 13:2-3 NCV)

Saul was also called Paul. He and Barnabas traveled for years, telling people about Jesus and starting churches. Once they had moved on from that place, Paul wrote letters to those churches. He encouraged them when they were doing things well and he let them know when he disapproved of bad behavior and disobedience. He continued teaching them, too. Paul went on three different journeys visiting new places and revisiting others. During those journeys and after, Paul had the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with many people, including kings, Jews and those who weren't Jews. He wrote many letters to the churches they started. We have 11 of those letters saved for us as part of the New Testament of our Bible. Some of those letters were written while Paul was in prison. He was arrested more than once for the cause of Christ. In fact, the last letter Paul wrote, was written from prison. It is the letter of Second Timothy.

Paul knew what God had called him to. God had told Ananias, who helped him receive his sight, "I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to those who are not Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel." (Acts 9:15 NCV) At the end of Paul's life he could honestly say, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7 NIV) Paul may have made an impact on the world as Saul the Persecutor, but he made an even bigger impact as a faithful follower of the one, true God. Paul was obedient to the Lord, even when he knew it would lead to his death. Some of his last words were these, "Now, a crown is being held for me—a crown for being right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give the crown to me on that day—not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for Him to come again." (2 Timothy 4:8 NCV)



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. Paul fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. He knew a crown was waiting for him when he saw Jesus face to face.

Is there a crown waiting for you, as well? The crown is not just for Paul, it's for "all those who have waited with love for [Jesus] to come again." (2 Timothy 4:8 NCV) Those are the ones who belong to Him. Do you? Let's talk.

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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Saul began to preach. He told people that Jesus is Lord. He and a friend, Barnabas, traveled together, telling people about Jesus and starting churches. Once they had moved on from that place, Paul wrote letters to those churches. He encouraged them when they were doing things well and he let them know when he disapproved of bad behavior and disobedience. He continued teaching them, too. We have 11 of those letters saved for us as part of the New Testament of our Bible. Let's see. (Open your Bible to Romans. Thumb through 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.) Some of those letters were even written while Paul was in prison. He was arrested more than once for talking about Jesus.

At the end of Paul's life he could honestly say, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7 NIV) Some of his last words were these, "Now, a crown is being held for me—a crown for being right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give the crown to me on that day—not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for Him to come again." (2 Timothy 4:8 NCV)

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Provide coloring pages of runners finishing a race. Print the memory verse at the bottom of the page. Practice the verse and encourage your students as they color.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Listen to Building 429's song "Where I Belong."
- Sing the "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "I Will," "One Pure and Holy Passion," "I'll Fly Away," "When We All Get to Heaven" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make construction paper crowns and decorate them. Read 2 Timothy 4:8.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss the book of Galatians.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss the book of 2 Timothy. If time doesn't permit for the entire book, focus on chapter four, verses 1 through 8. Then follow with Hebrews 12:1-3.
- **For more training:** Read 1 Timothy 1:18, 6:12 and 2 Timothy 4:7. "Fighting the good fight" is something Paul repeats. A word often used of Greek games like running, boxing, and wrestling, "Paul applies the word to the evangelical contest against the enemies of man's salvation." (Zodhiates, Complete Word Study Dictionary, p. 78) Now read and discuss 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

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I have

finished the race.

I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

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HERO IN TRAINING

Paul Fights the Good Fight

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Scripture:

Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-30, 11:25-26; 2 Timothy 4

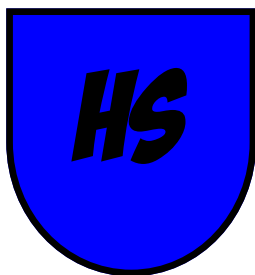
Memory verse:

I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7 NIV)

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? _____

Review the memory verse. At the end of his life, what three things did Paul say he had done? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Unscramble the letters of each underlined word to find out what Paul said at the end of his life.

I have _____ the _____.

I have _____ the _____.

I have _____.

2 Timothy 4:7



What did Paul say was waiting for him at the end of his life
(and all those who waited with love for Jesus to come again)?

Read 2 Timothy 4:8. _____

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Saul

- persecute

- Damascus

- bright light

- blinded

- follows Jesus

- journeys

- letters

- kept the faith

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

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2 Timothy 4:7



What did Paul say was waiting for him at the end of his life (and all those who waited with love for Jesus to come again)?

Read 2 Timothy 4:8. a crown for being right with God

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

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