

CHRISTMAS

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

4

YOUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

www.missionarlington.org

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

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



4 YOUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

Memory Verse:

If we obey what God has told us to do, then we are sure that we know Him.
(1 John 2:3 ERV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how extraordinary Jesus is

#2 - Discover what obedience led Jesus 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:

Luke 2:1-20

John 1:1-14

John 3:16

Philippians 2:5-8



4

YOUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

Luke 2:1-20

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: Jesus

His Heroic Feat: Obeys God, Leaves Heaven, and Comes to Earth

Obeying God, leaving Heaven, and coming to earth 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 John 1:1 (AMP) we read that, "In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. "The Word," is the name John the disciple used for Jesus while He was still in heaven. This verse tells us that Jesus is God and that He was with God in the beginning. Jesus didn't simply begin to exist the day the angel Gabriel was sent from God with good news for Mary; He has always existed with God.

But the moment came when God knew it was the right time to send His one and only Son. Jesus didn't stomp and complain and slam the door. Jesus obeyed His Father. Jesus didn't hold on to His position in heaven. Instead, "He set aside the privileges of deity [being God] and took on the status of a slave, became human!" (Philippians 2:7 MSG) Jesus obeyed God, came to earth and began to live in a human body.

You've heard about Mary's pregnancy and Joseph's decision to marry Mary. Now let's see how they get from Nazareth, in Galilee, to the very place God promised that Jesus would be born . . . Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)

You see, "Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list. . . Everyone traveled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.." (Luke 2:1, 3 ERV) Even though Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, Joseph was a descendent of King David and Bethlehem was King David's town. Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they arrived, the town was full of other people doing the same thing - registering for the emperor. Joseph and Mary couldn't find a single room to stay in. The only place available was the stable.

"While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped Him up well and laid Him in a [manger, a] box where cattle are fed." (Luke 2:6-7a ERV)

With the birth of His Son, God made an announcement. Of all the people God could have chosen to announce Jesus' birth to, He chose a group of shepherds. They were in the fields outside of town and they were taking care of their sheep. All of a sudden an angel appeared to them with God's shining glory and they were terrified! The angel told them, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11 ERV) The angel even told the shepherds how they could find Him: He would be the only baby in town wrapped in cloth and lying in a feeding box.

The shepherds wanted to see what God had done. "So they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box." (Luke 2:16 ERV) When they saw their Savior, they told Joseph and Mary what the angels had told them about Jesus. Then the shepherds returned to their quiet fields, but they praised God and thanked "Him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them." (Luke 2:20 ERV)

It was just as the angel had told them because it was just as God had planned. And Jesus was obedient to that plan. God loves you so much that He sent His one and only Son into the world. Jesus obeyed God, left heaven and came to earth, to be born of a virgin. Anyone who believes in Him and accepts Him as their Savior will one day experience eternal, or everlasting, life. Has that been you? What are you waiting for? He is the best Christmas present you will ever receive. Why not make Him your own Savior?

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. Jesus obeyed God, left Heaven and came to earth. Aren't you thankful?

What can we learn from Jesus about being a hero of the faith? We can learn obedience. Jesus knew His birth would lead to His crucifixion on the cross and He came anyway.

Will you commit to obey God no matter what? Our memory verse says, "If we obey what God has told us to do, then we are sure that we know Him." (1 John 2:3 ERV) To do that you must trust Him and He is completely trustworthy. He made you and knows what's best for you. Let's pray and tell God what we have decided.



NEXT WEEK
Christmas Lesson: Simeon

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: Jesus

His Heroic Feat: Obeys God, Leaves Heaven, and Comes to Earth

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

You've heard about Mary's pregnancy and Joseph's decision to marry Mary. Now let's see how they get from Nazareth, in Galilee, to the very place God promised that Jesus would be born . . . Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)

You see, "Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list. . . Everyone traveled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.." (Luke 2:1, 3 ERV) Even though Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, Joseph was a descendent of King David and Bethlehem was King David's town. Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they arrived, the town was full of people. Joseph and Mary couldn't find a single room. The only place available was the stable.

"While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped Him up well and laid Him in a [manger, a] box where cattle are fed." (Luke 2:6-7a ERV)

God announced the birth of His son. There were shepherds in the fields outside of town and they were taking care of their sheep. All of a sudden an angel appeared to them and they were terrified! The angel told them, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11 ERV) The angel even told the shepherds how they could find Him: He would be the only baby in town wrapped in cloth and lying in a feeding box.

The shepherds wanted to see what God had done. "So they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box." (Luke 2:16 ERV) When they saw their Savior, they told Joseph and Mary what the angels had told them about Jesus. Then the shepherds returned to their quiet fields "praising God and thanking Him for everything they had seen and heard. (Luke 2:20 ERV)

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Encourage each student to create his/her own personal seal, much like emperor Augustus Caesar might have used on the official decree to register the entire Roman world. Include the memory verse in that seal.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Away in a Manger," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Bethlehem's Treasure," "Come All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World" or other Christmas songs related to the lesson.
- Make a nativity scene with craft sticks, pipe cleaners, construction paper, etc.
- Bring a shoe box that has been wrapped in craft paper. This is your "manger." Prepare golden yellow strips of paper. During Bible Study, encourage your students to take strips of paper and write on each how they can follow Jesus in obeying the Father. Line the manger with these strips of paper.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Color pictures of candy canes. Then, turn the candy cane upside down to form the letter "J" for Jesus. Encourage your students to draw baby Jesus wrapped in cloths in the crook of the "J." Be sure to include straw!
- **For more training:** Read and discuss the following verses about obedience. (2 Chronicles 12:14; Psalm 119:10, 101, 112; Ecclesiastes 8:12; Romans 6:16; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Hebrews 5:8; 1 Peter 1:14; 1 John 2:3-5; and 1 John 5:2)
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Philippians 2:5-13.

If we obey
what God
has told us to do,
then we are sure that
we know Him.

1 John 2:3

CHRISTMAS

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

A Savior is Born!

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

www.missionarlington.org

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

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

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture:

Luke 2:1-20

Memory verse:

If we obey what God has told us to do, then we are sure that we know him. (1 John 2:3 ERV)

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 Philippians 2:5-11. What do you learn about Jesus from these verses?

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Cut out the phrases below and reorder them to find the memory verse.
Print the memory verse in the spaces below.

are sure that we	told us to do,	
God has	know Him.	1 John 2:3
then we	If we obey what	

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Jesus left heaven
- Joseph
- Mary
- Roman census
- Bethlehem
- no room in the inn
- Jesus born
- Savior
- shepherds visit

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Cut out the phrases below and reorder them to find the memory verse.
Print the memory verse in the spaces below.

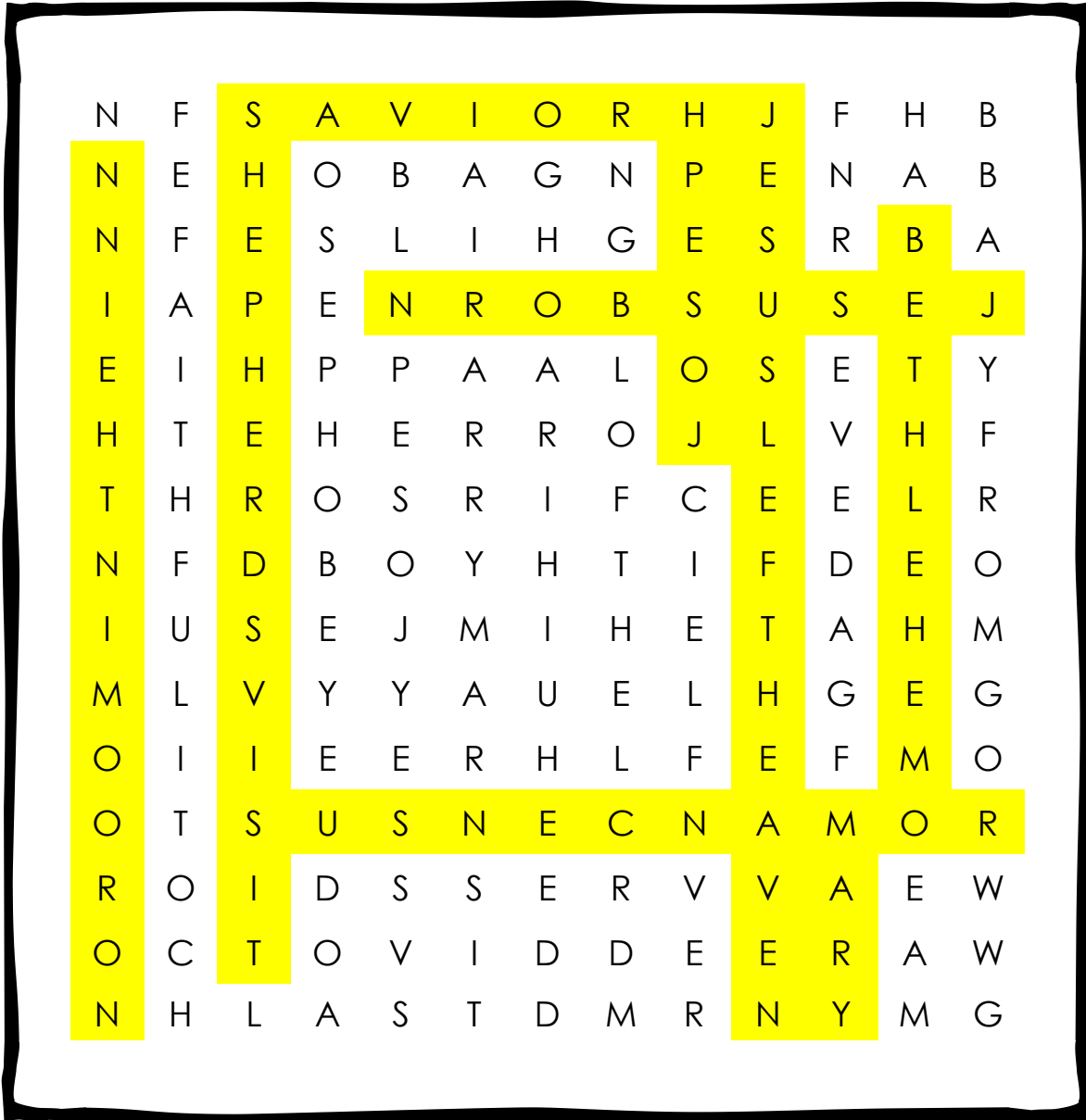
are sure that we	told us to do,	
God has	know Him.	1 John 2:3
then we	If we obey what	

If we obey what God has told us to do,
then we are sure that we know Him.
1 John 2:3

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page



- Jesus left heaven
- Joseph
- Mary
- Roman census
- Bethlehem
- no room in the inn
- Jesus born
- Savior
- shepherds visit