



YOU, A HERO? The Difference of One

March 28, 2020

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Proverbs 29:18 (NIV) • “Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.”

Isaiah 8:20 (NIV) • “Consult God’s instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.”

Acts 9:15 (NIV) • “This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles.”

Philippians 4:6, 7 (NIV) • “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12 (NIV) • “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22 (NIV) • “But test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.”

(See additional passages in student lesson.)

B. WHAT’S TO BE SAID ABOUT “YOU, A HERO?”

Children associate heroes with fictitious characters or real people doing unreal, noteworthy things. They usually don’t see themselves as having any kind of hero potential. The past two lessons have focused on the qualities of heroism, and on Jesus, the ultimate hero. This lesson is about giving the students the spiritual motivation needed to see the hero potential they have through the power of Christ. Christian heroes are merely disciples, disciples of Jesus. Just as ordinary men and women with flaws helped Jesus change the world, ordinary e-teens have what it takes to change the world. Heroism is not a lot of hypothetical idealism. It is real, very real, when you are a hero for Jesus.

While you are teaching this lesson it is important to build the confidence of your students and to present Jesus as a very accessible person with a genuine interest in young people. This is one lesson in which the atmosphere should be one of seriousness. Ensure that you have enough adults to keep things under control and to make sure certain students are not ridiculed by others.

C. WHERE WE’RE GOING WITH “YOU, A HERO?”

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Realize that by being a disciple of Jesus, they are a Christian hero.

2. Accept the fact that heroes for Christ are continually challenged.
3. Understand that God is looking for willingness to be transformed, not perfection.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) index cards, pencils; (Activity B) paper shields, pens, crayons.

Connecting • (Kingdom) chalkboard, whiteboard, or flipchart; (Life) “Revision of the Hebrews 11 Hero Database” handout, p. 140; student lessons; Bibles.

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE’VE BEEN

Allow 10 minutes at the beginning of class for students to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and

to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Give each student an index card and a pencil. Have them think of things that make a person important—such as being a millionaire, having a sports car, finding the cure for cancer, and so on. Have each person write on their card one thing that makes a person important.

Go • Next, have them play “rock, paper, scissors” in an attempt to collect as many cards as possible. If the students don’t know how to play the game, explain that every round of the game involves two people. At the count of three, the two students must show either a “rock” (fist), “scissors” (two fingers), or “paper” (a flat hand). Rock breaks scissors, scissors cut paper, and paper covers rock. If both students show the same item, they start over. The winner gets the loser’s card. Repeat for a few minutes, rotating partners and making sure each student has the same number of chances. Then see who has the most cards.

Debriefing • **Ask: Who ended up with what? If all you had in the world were the items listed on the cards in your hands, how would that make you feel?** (Note: Some students may have nothing in their hands. So expect a variety of answers and different levels of enthusiasm.) **Money is something the world values a lot. If you had an infinite supply of money, what would you do with it?** (I would buy myself everything I’d ever wanted; I’d buy stuff for my family; I’d give to the church; I’d save; I’d give to the poor.)

Say: It’s great to have or accomplish all these things. They make us feel good about ourselves. But it is important to remember that God does not base His evaluation of our worth or significance on accomplishments. He sees not what we have or what we have done, but what we can become through His power. He doesn’t look at what you are now,

an e-teen who has to rely on parents for so much. He sees all that you can do with Him for the kingdom.

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Fill a piece of paper by drawing the shape of a shield. Make copies enough for all the students. Distribute them. On the back of the shield, have the student write their name. On the front, in the middle of the shield, have the student write the initial of their first name prominently in the middle of the shield.

Get set • **Say:** Pass the shields around. When you get someone else's shield, think about something that person has done that reflects Jesus or a talent that they have that can be used for Jesus. Write a note about it on the shield and pass it on. Pass the shields around until they get back to their owner. (If you have a large class, you may want to do this in smaller groups.)

Go • **Say:** Read the list of all your assets, all your potential. Now that you have this affirmation from your friends here, do you think you are ready to face the world and be a hero for Jesus? Most will say no or hesitate.

Say: It's OK if you don't feel ready yet. Being a hero is easier in theory than it is in practice! But the Bible gives us simple guidelines to help us get some of the courage we need. Have someone read **1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22**. Discuss different scenarios in which this simple advice could help you be a hero.

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

Most treasures are not sitting out in the open waiting to be found. Usually precious stones, metals, and natural resources have to be searched and dug for. Often tons of dirt must be moved out of the way before finding these treasures.

Ask: How does this illustration show God's search for heroes? (God doesn't deliberately come around looking for flaws, warts, and blemishes. He looks for the gold He created, that is under all the grime of fallen human nature. In fact, we wouldn't even still be considered gold if He didn't come looking for us.) **How can we reflect God in how we look at people?** (The more God-given qualities we look for in other people, the more likely they are to let God uncover more.)

Ask someone to find and read **Acts 9:15**. The man that God is referring to in this text is Paul. **Ask:** How would you feel if you heard a voice from heaven say something like this about you? (Scared, freaked out, surprised, etc.) **Say:** Of course, once you realized it was really the voice of God, you'd be crazy not to respond positively. Even if you were scared, you'd want to do the right thing. **Ask:** So what would you have to change in your life to respond positively to God? (Let Him help me use my time more wisely, be more careful how I choose my friends, try to make better decisions in my life, be honest in sharing Jesus with others.)

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Ask three students to come to the chalkboard or flipchart and draw an illustration for you. One is to draw a rowboat, one a sailboat, and one a steamboat. When they are finished, thank them and proceed.

Say: By now you have a pretty good idea of what it means to be part of God's kingdom, part of God's army, and a part of the great controversy. The question to ask yourself—especially in the context of this lesson—is what are you going to do with all this information? No one can force you to be 100 percent for God. The decision is yours.

Tell the students that someone once said that when you understand what God wants you to do, you can react in three ways. The three

ways are compared to different types of boats, to help you remember it better. Circle the appropriate boat on the board when you make each of these statements. **Say:**

1. **You can be a rowboat Christian and wait to be pushed before you make a difference.**
2. **You can be a sailboat Christian and go with the wind, with the crowd.**
3. **You can be a steamboat Christian and go where you have to without a push and without the wind of others, simply filled with the steam of the Spirit.**

Whenever you have the opportunity to be a hero, ask yourself what kind of "boat" Christian you are.

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to tell or read the stories from the student lesson. Ask: What do these stories tell you about being a Christian? (You cannot pick and choose the times you want to be a Christian. The responsibility of being a Christian goes beyond living your life. It is about reflecting Jesus to others all the time.) **When Jesus was on earth, He was a constant witness for His Father. Everything He did spoke of His relationship with God. What is the importance of being consistent in your witnessing for God?**

(When people look to someone as a leader, it is important that they see a consistent quality worth following. If you are a good example only sometimes, it reflects on your relationship with God. Being part of the kingdom and following Christ should be evident throughout your life.)

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Share the following quotations from Ellen G. White.

"Christ's followers have been redeemed for service. Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service—service to God and to their

fellow men. Here Christ has presented to the world a higher conception of life than they had ever known. By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ. The law of service becomes the connecting link which binds us to God and to our fellow men" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 326).

"The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 328).

"The Lord has a great work to be done, and He will bequeath the most in the future life to those who do the most faithful, willing service in the present life. The Lord chooses His own agents, and each day under different circumstances He gives them a trial in His plan of operation. In each true-hearted endeavor to work out His plan, He chooses His agents not because they are perfect but because, through a connection with Him, they may gain perfection" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 330).

"Let the youth who need an education set to work with a determination to obtain it. Do not wait for an opening; make one for yourselves. Take hold in any small way that presents itself. Practice economy. Do not spend your means for the gratification of appetite, or in pleasure seeking. Be determined to become as useful and efficient as God calls you to be. Be thorough and faithful in whatever you undertake. Procure every advantage within your reach for strengthening the intellect. Let the study of books be combined with useful manual labor, and by faithful endeavor, watchfulness, and prayer secure the wisdom that is from above. This will give you an all-round education. Thus you may rise in character, and gain an influence over other minds, enabling you to lead them in the path of uprightness and holi-

ness" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 334).

"The humble worker who obediently responds to the call of God may be sure of receiving divine assistance. To accept so great and holy a responsibility is itself elevating to the character. It calls into action the highest mental and spiritual powers, and strengthens and purifies the mind and heart. Through faith in the power of God, it is wonderful how strong a weak man may become, how decided his efforts, how prolific of great results" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 354).

Say: When we live like Jesus and for Jesus, it can result only in positive things for the kingdom of God.

Divide the class into groups. Give each group a copy of the hero database on page 140. When they have completed the exercise, ask each group to share their list, giving an explanation for each inclusion. Encourage and compliment them on their ability to see the positive in others.

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Say: Imagine a guy who is impulsive, scared of everything, a failure, unreliable, a party lover, self-centered, nosy, and unliked. (Note: these are descriptions of Jesus' disciples from Friday's section of the student lesson.)

Ask: What kind of job would you give this guy? (Maybe a job that requires continuous supervision. Probably wouldn't give him any kind of job. He would be a big risk.) **How effective a leader would this type of person be?** (No one would want to follow someone who doesn't inspire and motivate.) **Would you like to have someone like that as your youth pastor?**

Say: This man I've described has all the descriptions listed in Friday's section of your lesson. Refer them to it if you have not already done so. **They are not positive qualities. Yet**

they are qualities found in Jesus' disciples. Despite all their faults, Jesus entrusted these men with the job of spreading the gospel all over the world. And it is because of these originally unreliable, self-centered, nosy men that we are Christians today. God changed and used these men in amazing ways. He can do the same with you.

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways you can be a Christian hero?
2. How can you make Jesus' presence in your life obvious to those around you?
3. Read **John 14:12-14**. Is this meant to be taken literally? Just how much can we expect from God?
4. Why doesn't God use only beautiful and recognizable people to work for Him?
5. Why is it difficult to be open about our faith?
6. What are the pros and cons of being a silent Christian—one who loves the Lord in their heart but does nothing to demonstrate their faith to others?
7. What obstacles might prevent you from becoming an effective disciple?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

Being a hero for Jesus takes a lot of courage. One king of Poland always carried with him the picture of his father. And when he had to do something important or difficult, he would look at the picture and pray that he would never do anything unworthy of his father's name which he also bore.

Reading the Bible is like looking at the face of God. The more we get to know God, the easier it is to go about our Father's business. Don't you want to be sure that you never do anything unworthy of your heavenly Father's name?

Conclude by reading **Proverbs 29:18; Isaiah 8:20; Philippians 4:6, 7**.

FOR LESSON THIRTEEN:

THIS IS TO BE USED WITH CONNECTING TO LIFE.

REVISION OF THE HEBREWS 11 HERO DATABASE

Hebrews 11 lists people from the Bible who God says are worthy to be in heaven's hall of fame. It is certainly not a complete list. There have also been other people since Bible times who qualify. Think of other people—from the Bible, from your history books, from your church, from your school, and from your community who you think are worthy to be included in the "Hebrews 11 Hero Database."

HERO QUALIFICATIONS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____



STUDENT LESSON

YOU, A HERO? The Difference of One

March 28, 2020

Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries:** “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. . . . These gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 41-44

THE DIFFERENCE OF ONE

One makes a difference. After years of service in South Africa, the famous missionary Robert Moffat returned to Scotland to recruit helpers. When he arrived at the church, he was disappointed that only a small group was there to hear him. What bothered him even more was that only women were there. They wouldn't be able to leave and go as missionaries without their husbands and families. He was hoping to

challenge men. Even his text for the sermon was “Unto you, O men, I call” (Proverbs 8:4). Way in the back, in the loft of the church, was a little boy pumping the bellows of the organ. He was too young to be a missionary in Africa, but he listened with great interest. Meanwhile Moffat preached with frustration, knowing that no one in the audience would be following him back to Africa.

But God works in mysterious ways. Years later that little boy who pumped the organ during Moffat's service went and ministered to the unreached tribes of Africa. His name was David Livingstone! Because of David, millions today know Jesus.

One could have made a difference. A Christian baroness lived in the highlands of Nairobi, Kenya. Being very wealthy, she had many people working for her. One was a young boy who ran errands for her. One day the boy came to the baroness saying that he was not going to be working for her anymore and that he would like a reference letter. The baroness was surprised. She paid the boy well. He had a comfortable home. She really liked him. So she offered to pay him more if he'd stay. But the boy replied that he was not leaving for more money. He told her that he had come to work for her three months earlier to observe the ways of a Christian. Now he was ready to work for a Muslim to observe their ways. At the end of the next three months he was going to decide to become a Christian or a Muslim. The baroness was flustered. She began to think of all

the things she would have done differently over the past three months had she known she was being watched so closely. And all she could do now was exclaim, "Why didn't you tell me at the beginning?"

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read Philippians 4:6, 7.
- » Sometimes surviving in school is all about "camouflage." You try to blend in, not stick out. You don't want to do things that make you seem different. Unfortunately, you cannot be a Christian hero and go unnoticed. There is no such thing as an "invisible" disciple of Jesus. First, with all the pressures in your school and social life, is it even possible to be a hero in the popular sense, and a disciple of Jesus at the same time? If your answer is yes, give at least one example of a situation in which this is possible. If your answer is no, explain why.

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

- » Read Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11-16.
- » Jesus was our example. He daily used the gifts and talents He was given. He healed the lame, restored sight and hearing, raised the dead, and preached hope of a better life. In following His example, we are to learn what our gifts and talents are. We are to use our gifts helping others. And we have been given the commission to tell others who Jesus is. We can tell them about a better life—a life without sin, suffering, and death. And we can tell them that Jesus is coming soon and that anyone ready to meet Him will go and live with Him eternally.

- » What are you doing to develop the gifts and talents God has given you?

- » Unscramble the following words and place them where they go in the verse below.

lal	ytiliba	sretsanim	deifirolg
kaeps	deviecer	noinimod	retsanim
sdrawets	selcaro	rehtona	enoyna
seilppus	teepr	yrolg	

"As each one has _____ a gift,
 _____ it to one _____, as good
 _____ of the manifold grace of God. If
 _____ speaks, let him _____ as
 the _____ of God. If anyone _____,
 let him do it as with the _____ which
 God _____, that in _____ things
 God may be _____ through Jesus Christ,
 to whom belong the _____ and the
 _____ forever and ever. Amen"
 (1 _____ 4:10, 11, NKJV).

Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read Hebrews 11.
- » Notice the items reported in the media. Nobody talks about the ordinary, everyday things that go on. The world takes note of things out of the ordinary. And this phenomenon is not limited to this world. Heaven also takes note of the extraordinary that some people will let God do through them. Enoch walked with God, and Heaven noticed. Noah stood out among his peers, and Heaven noticed. Moses led a nation, and Heaven noticed. Throughout history you can find ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Whether those things were stupid or heroic, the world stood up and paid attention.

» Be a hero of any kind, and the world will surely take notice. But be a hero and an agent for God's kingdom, and both earth and heaven will take notice. What this means is that being a Christian and following God will take you places you have never dreamed of. You will have adventures that you know God led you through. It means God will use you to make a difference in this world and in the next!

Wednesday BIBLE INSIGHTS

» This week you are learning that God is looking for persons of integrity. If you find yourself doubting that you could ever do anything great, remember the stories in the Bible. They are about people, most of them just as ordinary as you and me. What made them stand out as heroes? What kept some from becoming heroes? Fill in the blanks of the Bible verses that follow; then on the line following the text, answer this question for each verse: What did they do or not do that made them heroes?

1. "I have found _____ son of Jesse a man after my own _____; he _____ do everything I want him to do" (Acts 13:22, NIV). _____

2. "And the boy _____ continued to _____ in _____ and in _____ with the LORD and with people" (1 Samuel 2:26, NIV). _____

3. "The king talked with them, and he _____ _____ to _____, _____, _____ and _____" (Daniel 1:19, NIV). _____

4. "Now _____ was a very _____ man, more _____ than any one else on the _____ of the _____" (Numbers 12:3, NIV). _____

5. "Ahab son of Omri did more _____ in the eyes of the LORD than _____ of _____ before him" (1 Kings 16:30, NIV). _____

6. "Eli's sons were _____; they had _____ for the LORD" (1 Samuel 2:12, NIV). _____

7. "There was a man _____ from God whose name was _____. He came as a _____ to _____ concerning that _____, so that _____ him all might believe" (John 1:6-8, NIV). _____

8. "Therefore _____ and _____ disciples of all _____, baptizing them in the _____ of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____" (Matthew 28:19, NIV). _____

Thursday CONNECTING

- » Read Judges 6.
- » Review the memory text.
- » In Judges 6 an angel visits Gideon, who at the time was hiding from the armies of Midian.

He calls upon Gideon to be a mighty warrior and deliver Israel from her captors. Think about that for a minute. An angel asks a guy hiding in a cave to be a mighty warrior and deliver a nation from an entire army of fierce soldiers? It doesn't make sense. But to God it made perfect sense. For He sees us through divine eyes. He sees the potential in us to be used by Him. When God looks at you, He sees a young person full of potential. Will you let God use you and fulfill the plans He has for you?

- » God is still looking for Gideon-type leaders today. They may not be obvious leader material. They may be hiding in a cave. But God sees beyond the cave and into hearts. He can tell who will let themselves be used by His Spirit. Today's war is not one fought on a battlefield—it is one fought between good and evil. And it is not a war over land, but

one fought over souls. You are an agent in this battle. God used Gideon thousands of years ago, and He can use you today. Will you join His team and let Him use you?

Friday APPLYING

- » Read Matthew 28:19, 20.
- » Good disciples make good heroes. So figure out if you have what it takes to be a disciple and a hero. Below are texts that describe the disciples of Jesus. First, decide on the trait that the text is describing. Next, on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being nothing, 10 being a lot), mark how much of this quality you think you have. Finally, ask yourself—What does this say about the kind of disciple Jesus is looking for?

TEXT	DISCIPLE TRAIT	HOW MUCH OF IT DO YOU HAVE
1. Matthew 10:42	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. Mark 4:40	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3. Luke 12:22	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
4. John 8:31	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
5. Matthew 17:14-21	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
6. John 13:35	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
7. Luke 11:1-4	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
8. Matthew 16:24-26	_____	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

