

Heroes of the Old Testament

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Heroes of the Old Testament* to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with the contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

The 46 books of the Old Testament share the stories, experiences, prayers, prophecies, laws, and wisdom of God's people prior to the birth of Christ. But it is not merely a collection of stories and wise sayings. Because the Bible is authored by God and written by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit, the salvation history recorded in the Old Testament is not a distant story, but a living experience of God's love for his people, and his covenant relationship with them. As members of God's family, we read the Bible with the understanding that it is our story too.

Children may not be ready to plumb the depths of revelation and theology in the Bible, but young imaginations can be captivated by stories of Old Testament heroes—people chosen by God, (often against their own will) to take some action to fulfill God's plan. We can help children see that these heroes are people like us, who sometimes make mistakes, but whose actions—big and small—reveal God's unending, faithful love for us.

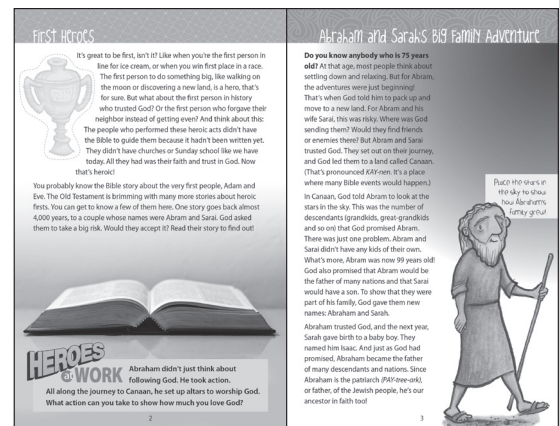
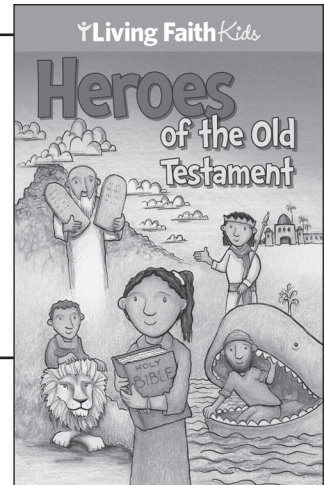
Opening Prayer

Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Loving God, thank you for the people who have gone before us, showing the way to you. Help us learn from their stories about how we can follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Teaching Steps

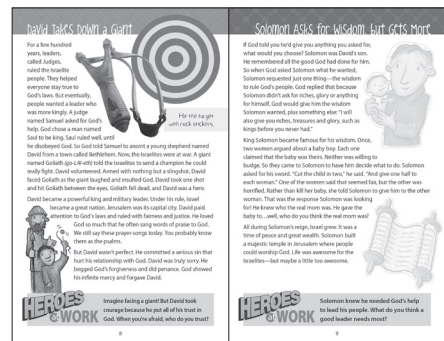
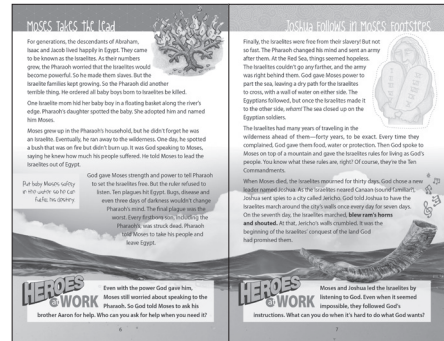
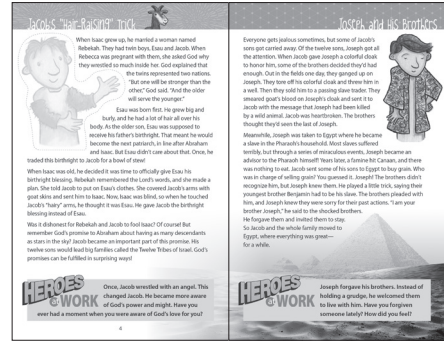
| Page(s) | |
|---------|---|
| COVER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Say, <i>We will be learning about the adventures of some great heroes who trusted God no matter what happened around them.</i> • Discuss the art. Ask the children if they can identify any of the Bible people pictured. (Moses, David, Daniel, Jonah). Point out how the child carries the Bible and is also part of the entire picture, because as children of God, we know that the stories of the Bible are our stories too. |
| 2-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud the head and first paragraph on page 2. Ask, <i>What do you remember about how you first learned about God?</i> • Read the second paragraph. Ask, <i>What does it mean to take a risk? Can you think of reasons why God might want people to take risks (or stay away from them) at times?</i> • Read the story on page 3: Abraham and Sarah's Big Family Adventure. Ask, <i>What was the risk God wanted Abram to take? (Move to a strange new land.) Why might Abram have been unsure about it? (He was old and travel was probably difficult; he didn't know anyone there.) How did God show Abram that he was part of God's family? (God changed Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah.)</i> |



- **Read “Heroes at Work.”** Ask, *Do you think God has a mission for every person, even you? How can you know what it is?* (Help children make the connection to Abraham’s altars and the importance of prayer in discerning God’s will for us.)

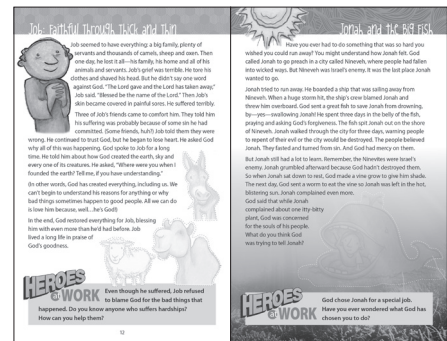
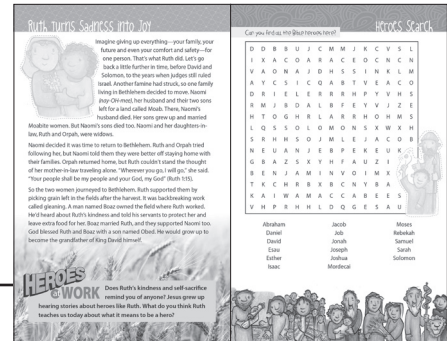
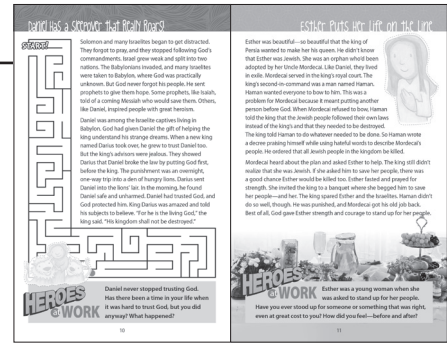
For each pair of pages from 4 through 15 (4-5, 6-7, etc.), follow these steps:

- **Read aloud the the stories as children follow along in their booklets.** Pause after each paragraph to ask review and clarifying questions such as, *What were the names of Isaac’s sons?* (Esau and Jacob) *What did Daniel do that the king’s advisors said was breaking the law?* (Daniel put God first in his life.)
- **Emphasize.** Invite children to keep on the lookout for words in the text about family relationships (son, brothers, twins, daughter-in law, etc.). Invite the children to underline these relationship words and think about the families described. Were these families always happy, sad, kind, or truthful?
- **Explain** any unfamiliar terms or places.
 - **Babylon** (page 10): an ancient kingdom that conquered Judah and destroyed the Jewish Temple in 587 B.C.
 - **Canaan** (pages 3, 5, 7): a region in ancient Palestine that includes most of present-day Israel
 - **exile** (page 11): the forced removal of people from their homeland
 - **penance** (page 8): prayers or acts of service that show sorrow for sins
 - **Pharaoh** (page 5): title of the ancient rulers of Egypt
 - **prophet** (page 10): a person who speaks on behalf of God
 - **The Temple** (page 9): the center of worship for God’s people, and the holiest place in Jerusalem
 - **widow** (page 14): a married woman whose husband has died. In ancient times, widows had few rights or ways to support themselves.



4-5 through 14-15

- **Discuss.** Read “Heroes at Work” on each page. Discuss the questions and encourage the children to look to their own experiences for answers.
- **Personalize.** After each story, ask the children what they liked and didn’t like about it. After completing all the pages, ask which Bible heroes they liked best, and why.
- **Identify.** After placing the stickers on each page, invite the children to write the name of the Bible hero pictured in the area around the sticker.
- **Complete the activities.** If needed, help the children complete the activities on pages 10 and 15.



Closing Prayer

Lead the children in prayer. Close with “Amen. Alleluia.”

Loving God, help us remember the faithfulness and trust of heroes like Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Esther, and Ruth. Help us trust you always, just as they did. Amen.

Heroes of the Old Testament

Meet some of the most amazing and interesting heroes ever! There's Joseph, who started as a slave but became one of the Pharaoh's top men; Moses, who was hidden in a floating basket in the river; Esther, who put her own life on the line to save her people, and many more. They're just some of the people of the Old Testament—average, everyday folks like you and me—who became heroes after being called by God to do amazing things. Read their stories, use the stickers, and get ready for nonstop action!

Other Living Faith Sticker Books

Parents & teachers... to order the Living Faith Kids quarterly resource, visit livingfaithkids.com

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Living Faith Kids Daily Catholic Devotions

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