

Heroes of the New Testament

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Heroes of the New 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 27 books of the New Testament reveal how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's plan for our salvation. It contains the true accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Luke continues the salvation story in the Acts of the Apostles, describing how the early Church grew under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The 21 letters, or epistles, were written to encourage Christian communities in the faith. The last book of the Bible, Revelation, uses symbolic and allegorical language to describe visions revealing Jesus Christ.

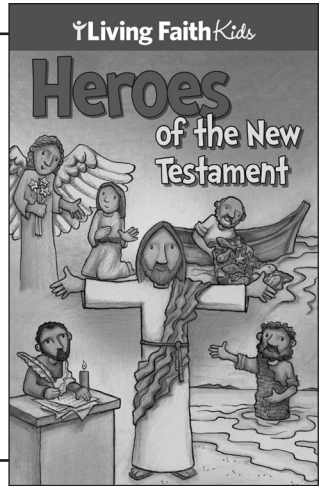
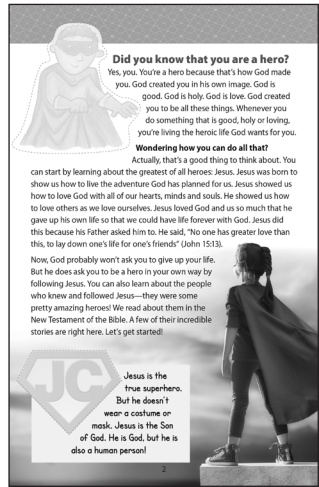
Children can discover the many ways Jesus loves, heals, forgives, calls, sends and saves by meeting the New Testament people whose lives he has transformed. Help young learners connect their feelings, experiences and prayers to those of Mary, Joseph, Peter, Paul, John the Baptist, and others and you will help them see that heroes don't have to be famous. They need only trust in Jesus' love, and share it as Jesus does.

Opening Prayer

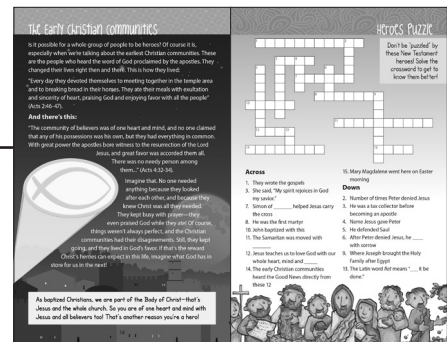
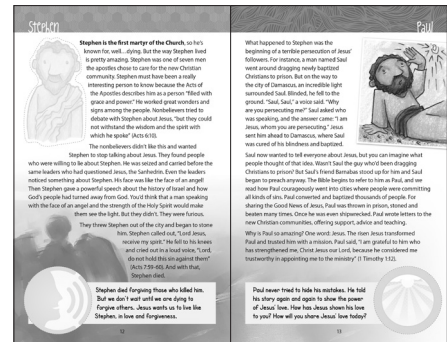
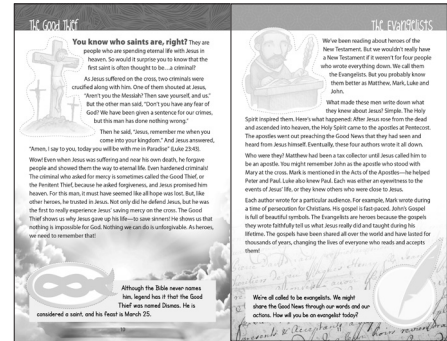
Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Risen Jesus, help us see you everywhere, in the people of the Bible and in everyone we meet. Amen.

Teaching Steps

Page(s)		
COVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Ask, <i>What does it mean to be a hero?</i> (Accept and affirm all answers.) Say, <i>Some of the heroes we will learn about here might surprise you. In fact, even the people who knew them might have been surprised to know that we consider them heroes today.</i> Discuss the art. Ask, <i>Who is at the center of the pictures?</i> Invite the children to use the clues in each picture to identify the other people pictured. (Mary with angel, Peter with fishing net, John the Baptist in water, and a gospel writer (or possibly Paul) with pen and paper.) 	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read aloud the head and first paragraph. Ask, <i>What are some heroic things God wants all of us to do?</i> Point out that heroic actions aren't always big or dramatic. Read the second paragraph as the children follow along. Ask, <i>What were some of the things Jesus showed us?</i> (How to live the adventure God has planned, how to love God and love others as we love ourselves) Ask, <i>How did Jesus show his love for God and for us?</i> (By giving up his life so that we could have life forever with God) Review. Explain that these stories come from the New Testament. If needed, provide a quick review of the Bible. (Refer to <i>Living Faith Kids: Learning About the Bible</i> for more.) Extend the lesson. After reading the text in the yellow box, explain that this is a mystery of our faith, which means that we can't fully comprehend it, but we have faith that with God, anything is possible. Ask, <i>What are your favorite stories from Jesus' life?</i> 	

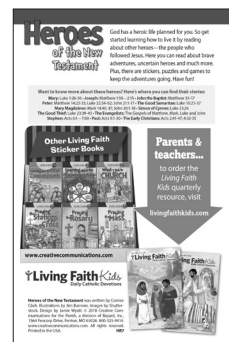
- **Extend the lesson.** After reading the text in the yellow box, help the children apply the story to their lives. For example, you might investigate reconciliation at your parish (page 6), share a story of your own to encourage sharing of ideas (page 7), role play different ways people share news (page 8), or plan a feast day celebration to honor a saint (page 10).
- **Lead a guided meditation.** (Optional) Choose a story from the booklet and invite the children to close their eyes as you describe it. Invite them to use their imaginations to picture the scene and place themselves there. Say, *What does Jesus say to you? What do you say to Jesus?* Close with the Sign of the Cross.
- **Stickers.** After completing each page, have the children turn to the sticker insert and find the corresponding sticker to place on the page.
- **Complete the activities.** If needed, help the children complete the activities on pages 9 and 15.



Closing Prayer

Lead the children in prayer. Close with "Amen. Alleluia."

Loving God, you chose people to be heroes in big and small ways. Help us live the heroic life you want for us, by trusting you as they did, and by loving as you love.



Living Faith Kids

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