



LESSONS 66-78

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

THE
Answer

www.apostolicfaith.org

A Bible study resource for use at home and church.

The Answer is a Bible study course for fourth grade through junior-high level. Bible references are taken from the King James version of the Bible. A Teacher's Guide accompanies this series and is available online, on our app, and in print.

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WHAT MAKES A HERO?

Have you ever met any heroes? You probably have. Heroes don't always have crowds following them. Their pictures may never have been blazoned across the front pages of the newspapers.

Heroes come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. It's possible that the janitor at your school is a hero. The new boy on your block might be another. The waitress at the restaurant might also be a hero.

The dictionary says a hero is "a person admired for his qualities or achievements, and regarded as an ideal or model."

In this quarter of The Answer, we thought it might be interesting to take a look at some of the heroes of the Bible. For a change, let's not think only of the more famous ones that immediately come to our minds, like Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Daniel. There are some heroes in the pages of God's Word who we really know very little about, but each of them had a quality or achievement which we admire.

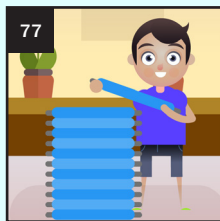
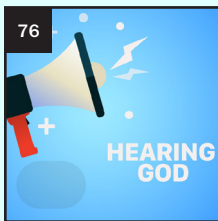
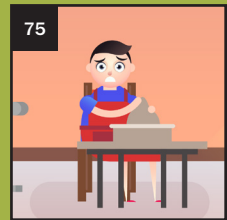
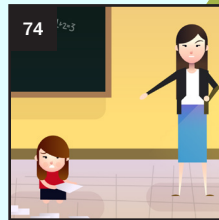
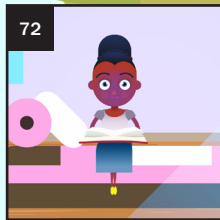
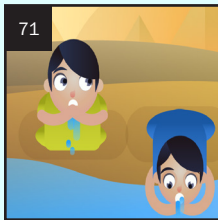
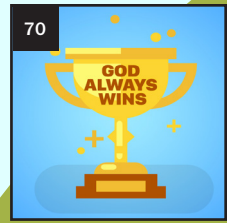
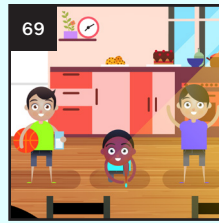
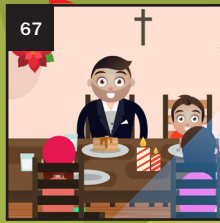
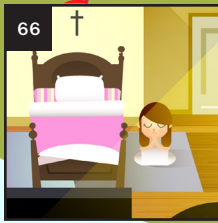
*Read the Bible text for each lesson. Then read the story in The Answer. Can you select the outstanding quality of the hero in each lesson? Let's study *The Answer* to find out "What Makes a Hero?"*

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THE Answer

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IT TOOK A MIRACLE

LESSON 66 → Luke 1:5-25; 57-66

*There was no solution
except through the
power of God.*

For the past few months, she had known something was wrong with her. It had started with a heavy, tired feeling all the time. Then pain. The day finally came when she had to report in to a doctor for a regular physical checkup. The results of his tests brought the

words that would seem to shatter her life.

“You have cancer and there is no hope,” the doctor told the young girl. Imagine what a shock this was to a girl who thought she had a long life ahead of her! There were things she wanted to do, places she



GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!

With God all things are possible. — Matthew 19:26

wanted to go. Now she was facing the fact that she was not going to be able to do any of them. She was dying!

She loved God and wanted to serve Him. He was the only One to go to for help. As she knelt by her bed, she cried out to the Lord from the bottom of her heart, “Please help me, dear God! I don’t want to die. If You will heal my body I promise to serve You the rest of my life!” Yet she knew in her heart that if it were God’s will for her to die she would accept His will.

As far as the doctors were concerned, there was nothing more that could be done for her, but she knew the Bible stated that “. . . with God nothing shall be impossible.” She knew this meant that God could do anything.

The devil tried to bring doubts. As the pain grew worse, he would bring the thought to her: You are going to die. But the Lord would speak to her heart, saying, “Have faith. Keep holding on! Keep believing.” That is just what she did. She kept holding on, fighting against the fear that would grip her heart. One day, her confidence in God was rewarded.

He healed her completely! No trace of cancer was found in her body. She was going to live! This really happened!

*God has been performing miracles—*doing things man thought impossible—from the beginning of time. Our lesson is another example of God’s ability to do the impossible. Zacharias was a priest in the Temple of the Lord. No doubt while he was doing his duties, his mind often went back to when he was a young man with a heart that ached for a child—his very own son or daughter to hold in his arms. But now he was an old man and his loving wife, Elisabeth, an old woman. What a good woman the Lord had given him. She had stood faithfully by his side and truly loved the Lord.

One day a miracle happened. As Zacharias performed his duties, suddenly . . . “There appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.” Zacharias was afraid! Who was he? What did he want? he wondered. The angel told Zacharias not to be afraid; the Lord had heard his prayer, and his wife Elisabeth was going to have a son. He also said this son would turn many of the Children of Israel to the Lord their God.

“How do I know this is going to happen?” questioned Zacharias. “A son at our age?” The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. You shall not be able to

speak until the day your son is born because you didn’t believe my words.”

Imagine what it would be like not to be able to talk. Well, this is exactly what happened to Zacharias. Soon the miracle became known. Elisabeth was expecting a child! How could this be? God had performed a miracle! That which was impossible with man, God made possible.

When the time came for the baby to be born, Elisabeth had a son. The people asked what they would name the baby. Because Zacharias still could not speak, he wrote, “His name is John.” The Bible tells us that after doing this, Zacharias was immediately able to speak, and he praised God.

Wasn’t that a wonderful miracle! Zacharias and Elisabeth had wanted a child for so long but thought it was not possible for them to have one. But God had heard their prayers and gave them a child. This son, John, was the man we know as John the Baptist.

God wants us to believe Him completely. We must not forget that He has all power and that nothing is impossible when we trust in Him.

Lesson 66 Activity

GOD GIVES LIGHT

God gives us light, or understanding, when we read His Word and follow Him. How much light did you receive from the lesson this week? Read these statements. If the statement is true, circle the lighted bulb; if it is false, circle the dark bulb.

	☐	Herod was king.
	☐	Zacchaeus was the priest's wife.
	☐	Zacharias burned incense in the Temple.
	☐	The angel of the Lord was standing on the altar.
	☐	The angel told Zacharias to name the baby John the Baptist.
	☐	The baby would be filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb.
	☐	The angel's name was Michael.
	☐	Zacharias could not see because he didn't believe the angel.
	☐	When the baby was born everyone thought his name should be Gabriel.
	☐	Elisabeth said his name was John.
	☐	Zacharias wrote, "His name is John."
	☐	After Zacharias wrote the name he could talk again.

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

*Their
dinner-table
conversation
brought out
how Joseph
was an example
of obedience.*

Christmas was almost here... only a few more weeks! Sofia, Diego, and Isabella were excited. The talk at the dinner table for nights had centered around Christmas—the things they were making at school, the gifts they were preparing, and the Christmas program at church.

Tonight was no exception! Six-year-old Isabella was to be an angel in the heavenly choir. “I get to wear a light blue robe and ‘cause I’m the littlest, I get to stand right in the front,” she told them, her eyes sparkling.

“You’ll be the prettiest little angel there,” Sofia told her sister. “And guess what! I’m going to be an angel too! I’m going to be the one who appears to Mary and Joseph.”

Diego looked up from his plate with a puzzled expression. “You meant the angel who appeared to Mary, right? The angel didn’t appear to Joseph

until they had to leave Bethlehem, and my teacher said we weren’t doing that part this year.”

No, Diego, I’m supposed to appear to Joseph right after Mary,” Sofia replied. “I picked up my script last Sunday after class, and I read through it just this morning. I know that’s how it went.”

“Dad, I’ve been selected to be Joseph in the play,” Diego said. “I haven’t read through my whole part yet, but I don’t remember an angel’s coming to Joseph after talking to Mary. Did the angel come then? Wasn’t it really later?”



AN EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE

LESSON 67 → Matthew 1:18-25



I WILL OBEY GOD.

Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. — Luke 11:28

His dad smiled. “Well, Son, why don’t we look in God’s Word to settle this question.”

Diego’s dad opened the Bible to Matthew 1, and started reading at verse 19, “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS.”

“Well, I guess that answers my question,” Diego said. “I didn’t remember that part at all. But I don’t get it. Why did an angel have to come? Didn’t Joseph already know that God had promised to send His Son to the world?”

“Remember, Diego,” replied Father, “that promise had been given hundreds of years before, and most people had probably just stopped thinking of its happening in their time. But when

the angel appeared to him, Joseph realized that the promise was being fulfilled. What a thrill that must have been to him! He did what he was told to do by the angel, and took Mary as his wife. Because

of his obedience, he had the wonderful privilege of rearing God’s own Son. God always does what He promises, but for us to receive God’s promises, what do we have to do?”

Diego thought for a minute. “I guess just do what we’re told.”

“Diego, last fall when I promised that you could go hunting with me, there was something you had to do to earn that trip. Do you remember what it was?”

“Yeah, I had to get all A’s and B’s in my school work. I did, and I got to go!”

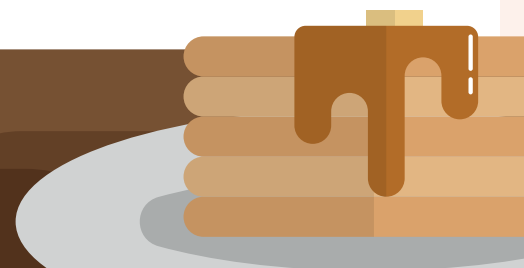
“So, when you did what you were told, I did what I promised. God wants us to be obedient too. If we are, He will fulfill His promises to us. There is a verse you learned last month, as a key verse, that goes right along with this. Do you remember? ‘Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.’ That verse has a special meaning for each of us. Can you tell me what you think it means, Isabella?”

“Does it mean, Daddy, that if we always do what God wants us to, He’ll answer our prayers?” asked Isabella.

“That’s right,” her father replied. “God knew that we wouldn’t be really happy unless we obeyed Him. He gave us His Word, with examples of people who were obedient. Joseph and Mary were two of those examples. We see how God helped them, because He knew they would do what they were told even when they didn’t understand. But everything worked out perfectly when they let God have His way. It can be the same in our lives!”

“Does that answer your question, Diego?” asked his father, as he closed the Bible.

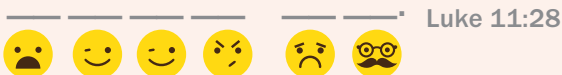
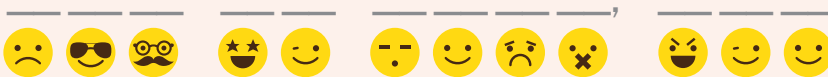
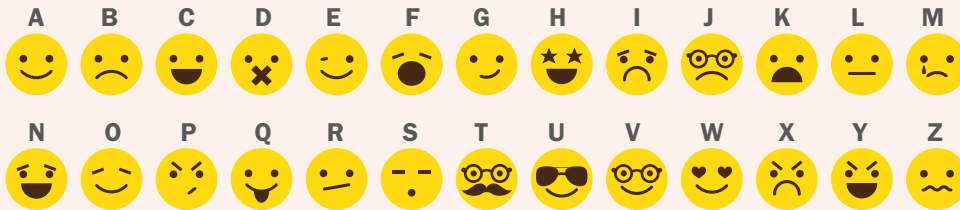
“Yes, and it’s a good thing I asked. Now I’ll be able to really act like Joseph in the play!”



Lesson 67 Activity

Are you happy to obey
God's directions?
Joseph was! Use the
secret code and fill in
the blank spaces. You'll
find a promise for those
who obey God.

**OBEDIENCE
BRINGS
HAPPINESS**



Luke 11:28





WHY CAN'T CHRISTMAS LAST FOREVER?

LESSON 68 → Isaiah 9:6-7; John 1:1-5, 14; Hebrews 13:8

Zach figured out the answer to his question.

Zach maneuvered his new remote-control car around the living room—under the Christmas tree, over to the window, between the pile of boxes.

“I wish it were always Christmas!” he said. “These are the neatest presents! The food is yummy. The Christmas tree smells terrific. Why can’t Christmas last forever?”

His sister, Ava, looked up from the new book she was reading. “Then it wouldn’t be special,” she answered. “And besides, nothing is forever—well, nothing except Jesus. Jesus is for always. He’s always been alive and He always will be.”

“How could Jesus have always been? After all, we celebrate His birthday on Christmas, so how could He

have always been alive?” Zach asked with a puzzled look.

“Oh, go ask Mom. She can answer your questions. They’re too hard for me!”

Zach steered his car into the kitchen. “Mom,” he said, “how could Jesus have always been alive? Ava said He always has been, but I don’t understand. I thought He was born in Bethlehem at Christmastime.”



JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. — John 1:14

His mother put a stack of plates into the cupboard, then turned to Zach. “Do you remember the verses Dad read this morning? They said, ‘In the beginning was the word . . . All things were made by him.’ ‘The Word’ means Jesus. He helped create the world, the animals, the trees, and the people.”

Zach considered that. “Well then, why did He have to be born?”

Mom answered, “Jesus was born to be a boy like you. That way He could know just what you like to do. He knows all about your frustrations. He understands what it feels like to scrape a knee while playing. He knows what it is like to hit a thumb with a hammer.

“But when Jesus grew to be a man,” Mom continued, “He experienced adult things. He knows how Dad feels when he is pressured on the job. He knows how I feel when dinner burns. Jesus even knows what it’s like to die. That’s why He was born—so He could understand us, and He died so we could be saved from our sins.”

Zach’s car screeched around the corner and out of the kitchen. Then he reversed it back into the kitchen. “If Jesus died, then how can He hear us if we pray now?”

“Jesus rose from the dead on Easter. Remember, He visited with His friends, then He went to Heaven,” Mom answered.

“So, Jesus is in Heaven now, right?” asked Zach.

“Right.”

“And He’s going to be alive forever?”

“That’s right.”

Zach steered his car into the living room, this time following it. He looked at the Christmas tree. He looked at his presents. He looked at the snow outside.

He thought about forever . . .

Last summer he had been enjoying his visit to Grandpa and Grandma’s farm so much. He remembered wishing he could stay there forever. He could slide on haystacks and help Grandpa with his garden. But on second thought, he might have missed his parents.

Last spring he zoomed his bike through the park and down a hill. He had wished he could ride his bike and feel the wind blowing on his face forever—but he might have gotten hungry sometime, or even kind of tired.

During vacation he had wished they could stay at the beach forever. The sun and the sand and the waves were so awesome! But then he would have missed lots of good times with his friends at home.

Zach knew he was really glad some things didn’t last forever—like school, cleaning his room, weeding the garden, and going to the dentist.

Zach decided maybe it was better that Christmas didn’t last forever either. He wouldn’t really want to do just one thing all the time. Why, he probably wouldn’t even want to run his remote-control car forever!

But Zach was glad for one thing—that Jesus is forever. It would be awful to pray and then find out that Jesus wasn’t alive anymore, that He wasn’t around to listen to our prayers and answer them. He was glad Jesus always had been and always will be.

Lesson 68 Activity

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

These squares will help you find out what Christmas is. Choose a number from one to three. Start with the squares on the top row. On the lines provided, print all the letters in the squares with that number.

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
TH	GO	A	E	D	SA	BI	SE	VI

2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
N	OR	RTH	T	WA	DA	JE	S	Y

3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
BO	O	SU	RN-	F	S	CH	JE	DO

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
SU	WN	RI	S	T	ST	CH	O	TH

2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
E	E	R	AR	LO	IS	TH	RD	T



A WITNESS WITHOUT WORDS

LESSON 69 → John 1:15-30



One of the greatest responsibilities of a Christian is to be a reflection of Christ.

“See that new kid over there?” Bryson pointed toward the side of the school building. “Someone told me he is a Christian. I’m going to keep my distance from him. I can’t stand Christians!”

“Why?” Chase asked, surprised. “He’s really nice. He moved in just up the block from me and I talked to him once. I don’t know what you mean.”

“Just wait,” Bryson laughed. “You’ll see. Hey, do you remember Gavin?”

Chase thought for a moment, “Yeah, I think so, but that was so long ago.”

“Well, I remember him real well! He was a Christian and all he did was preach and pick. I couldn’t do anything right according to him. I didn’t like to be with him at all, and I certainly don’t want to be around any others.”

The bell rang, signaling the end of their lunch break. Chase returned to class with questions tumbling through his mind about Christians and the new boy, Lane. They had



I WANT TO TELL EVERYBODY ABOUT JESUS.

I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord. — John 1:23

talked for quite a while the other day and Lane hadn't "preached" or "picked" once. Maybe he wasn't a Christian or maybe—Oh, I'm so mixed up now, he thought, I don't know if I want to be his friend or not.

At last school was over and everyone started home. To his surprise, Chase noticed Bryson and Lane talking to each other in front of the school. He went to join them, thinking all the time, Please don't preach, Lane. When he reached them, Bryson turned slightly and rolled his eyes as if to say, "Watch out!"

"Hi, Chase, what are your plans for the afternoon?" Lane asked. "I just invited Bryson over to my house to shoot hoops. Could you come too?"

"Well . . . sure, I guess so," Chase said.

"Great! Mom's baking today so I'm sure we'll have something good to eat too."

When they reached Lane's house, Bryson and Chase waited under the hoop in the driveway while Lane went inside to get his basketball. While they were alone Chase asked Bryson why he came to Lane's house when he didn't like Christians. "I just wanted to prove to you that I'm right," was Bryson's reply.

Just then Lane returned. "Mom baked two kinds of cookies and a chocolate cake," he said as he shot the first basket. "We can have cookies and milk when we get tired."

For the next hour the thump of a basketball mingled with snatches of conversation out on the driveway. Stopping for a breather, they discovered mutual interests in sports and cars. Bryson thought it was great that Lane liked to go backpacking, because Bryson and his dad had gone last summer and had a great time. After another session in front of the hoop, they were all tired and ready for a snack. Lane

said, "Come on! Let's go in and get some of those cookies!"

"I'd rather have the chocolate cake," said Bryson as he knelt to retie his shoe.

"Sorry about that, but Mom said no, not this time," answered Lane.

"Once you've taken it there's not much she can do! So why not have some?" Bryson said. "Chocolate cake sounds just too good to miss, and no one will know who took it."

"I would know, and I can't do that to my mom," Lane said quietly. "I'm a Christian."

"Someone told me you were, but you haven't preached at us so I thought maybe they were wrong. You're a nice guy," Bryson replied.

Lane laughed. "Christians don't preach all the time! We just have to make sure we live and do right. I don't want to do anything to make you think bad of Jesus."

Bryson said, "You haven't made me think bad of anybody. In fact, when I said to take the cake, you talked about you not making your mom feel bad. You didn't say I was wrong at all. You're okay. Maybe Christians are all right."

Chase smiled to himself and felt sure they would all be friends after all.

As our story brings out, witnessing is much more than just words. It is also action. When we read of John the Baptist, most of us can visualize a man in strange clothes, preaching to many people in the country. He was called of God to tell others about Jesus. We are called to point others to Christ by the life we live. God's Word should be a living part of our lives and attitudes. If you are a Christian, remember, your friends will judge your Lord by you.

Lesson 69 Activity

Follow the arrows to solve this maze. When you make a poor choice, you will run into a dead end. When you come to **THE END** you will have made a complete story and some good choices.

WITNESS FOR JESUS



WHAT MAKES A HERO?

WIN THE VICTORY

LESSON 70 → Judges 4:4-15



**GOD
ALWAYS
WINS**

*With God's help, we
can face any battle.*

Try to imagine for a minute, a whole army going to war on foot—without guns, swords, or shields, or anything to protect themselves. It doesn't sound like a good idea, does it? Surely no commander-in-chief would consider such a course of action. It would mean defeat. But this happened in Bible days—and not only that, those soldiers **WON** the battle! How could such a thing have happened? The army had a special “weapon” on their side—God was with



JESUS IS MY STRENGTH.

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid. — Isaiah 12:2

them! And that made all the difference.

Do you know that sometimes when it feels and looks as though everything is going against us, it might really be the opposite? If God is on our side, things could be working for us instead.

In the Book of Judges, we read about a woman named Deborah. God had appointed her to be a judge of the Children of Israel. The people loved and trusted her, and they came from near and far to ask her advice. They knew that God was with her and that He helped her in making decisions.

One day God commanded her to send the Israelites to war against the Canaanites. Deborah called Barak and made him the general of the army. There was a problem, though, and it was a BIG one. The Israelites didn't have horses or chariots. They didn't even have weapons or ammunition. How could they fight a battle? They knew that the Canaanite army had 900 chariots of iron. It didn't look as though the Israelites would have a chance.

Deborah knew that with God on their side they had nothing to fear. She was sure if God told them to go out and fight this battle, He would be there

to help them win it. She knew God could do the impossible.

Barak was willing to go to battle to bring the Israelites out of bondage, but he could not depend wholly on his army to win. He knew if they were to succeed, God would have to go with them. He believed that only God could win this battle for them. He also wanted Deborah to go with them as God's representative. Barak told her that if she would go into the battle with them, they would go, but if she wouldn't go, they wouldn't either. So Deborah went.

That day, the Lord gave them a great victory. The Canaanites were completely destroyed, and peace came to the land once again. Deborah had known without a doubt that God would be with them and give them the victory, and He did!

We might compare our Christian lives to fighting a battle. We may have to face some difficult situations when the enemy of our soul comes at us with "heavy artillery." He wants to win this battle, and he'll use whatever tactics he can come up with. It may be a serious illness or severe pain. Perhaps those we think of as friends turn against us, talk about us, or ignore us. Maybe a long-awaited trip, a special plan for the summer, or a goal

set in school falls through. Or, you are crushed by grief over the loss of one you loved.

The devil knows just where to make his attack, but he can't compete with our ammunition—the power of prayer! If God is in control of our lives, He'll be right there to help us in any battle. If we let Him fight our big battles as well as the smaller ones, the victory will ultimately be ours, even though it might not look like it at the time. He has promised to be with us—we can trust Him. Just like our key verse says, when our trust is in Him, we don't have to be afraid.

Jesus wants to direct your life.

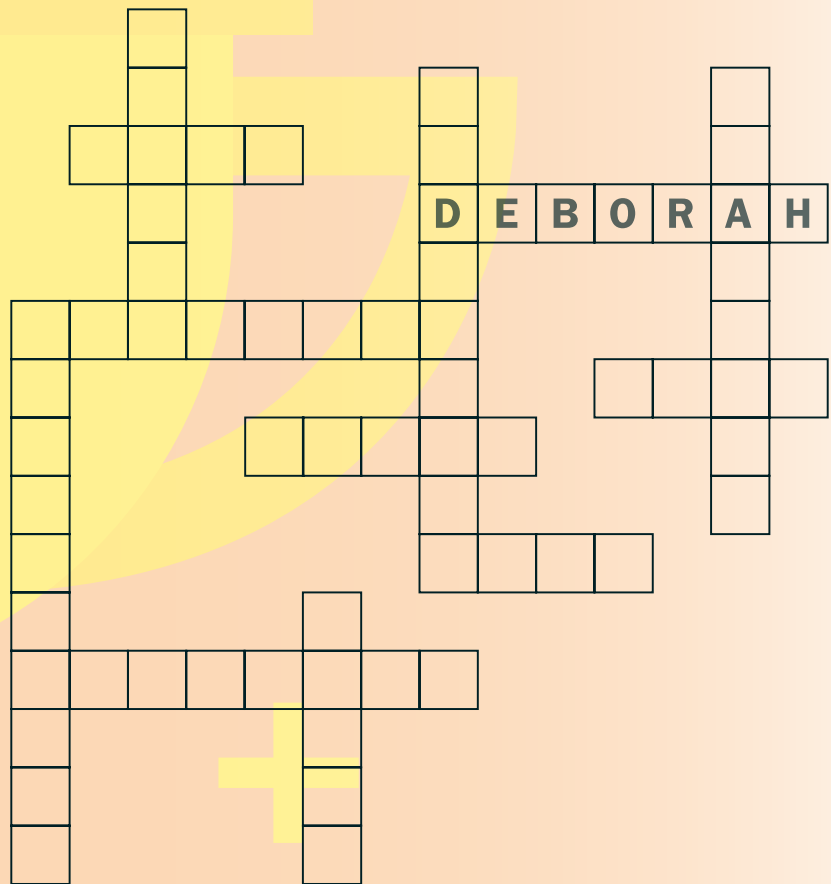
If you ask Him to come into your heart, He will come in and take control. Sometimes it may seem that we are all alone when trouble comes, but we can have confidence in God that He will lead us in the right way. We don't have to fear, because we know that "If God be for us, who can be against us?"



**DEBORAH
TRUSTED GOD**

All of the words listed below are from our lesson this week. Find a place in the grid for each of them.

ARMY
IRON
TENT
BARAK
RIVER
ISRAEL
CHARIOTS
PALM TREE
THOUSAND
JUDGEMENT
PROPHETESS



WHAT MAKES A HERO?

ON THE WAY TO VICTORY

LESSON 71 → Judges 6:36-40; 7:1-8

God's answer to Gideon's prayer gave confidence that He would deliver them from the Midianites.

I knew the moment I touched the fleece that the victory was already ours. For the fleece was dry, even though the ground around it was drenched with early morning dew. A surge of excitement gripped me. My fingers tingled. The very air around me seemed charged!

Freedom! We were a people meant to be free. The years of fear, of cringing before our enemies, were about to end. If only our armies which had gathered here from Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali could see that fact. Enough of this servitude. We would be free to erect altars to the Lord, free to hope, free to plan, free to be Israel once again.

My confidence was totally in the Lord, so when He spoke to me again I felt I was ready for anything He had to say. "The people that are with thee are too many for me." Too many? At last count we numbered thirty-two thousand, while the Midianites, in the valley to the north, were like grasshoppers in the summer. Even as that thought flickered through my mind, I remembered, God wouldn't fail us.

His next command was totally unexpected, but I took it to the people anyway. I told them, "Whoever is afraid, let him return." Then I stood by and watched while twenty-two thousand—over





I'M NOT AFRAID. JESUS IS WITH ME!

The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. — Judges 6:12

two thirds of them—took up their weapons and left the camp. For a few moments, as I watched them file slowly by me, the old fear gripped me. The former caution tightened briefly around the thoughts in my mind. So many were leaving! How could I possibly go out and fight the Midianites with such a small number? In my zeal, was I being foolhardy and about to lead my men into certain destruction?

Memory of the dry fleece in my hands reactivated the assurance God had given me. God had come to our aid many years ago, when we had been in bondage to Egypt. He had split the Red Sea to give us deliverance, and He would deliver us again if we obeyed Him.

It seemed God was determined to try my trust in Him even further. “The people are yet too many!” He instructed me to take them down to the brook that ran near the camp. I could tell that the men were wondering what was going to happen, but they all obeyed my command. The afternoon sun was high, and our throats were full of dust by the time we arrived at the banks of the stream.

Normally, I would have joined the other men as they quenched their thirst with a drink of the cold water, but God had another set of instructions for me.

I had to make note of how each man drank when he came to the water’s edge. Three hundred lapped water from their hands. I set those men apart from the rest, as the Lord had told me. Then the Lord said to me, “By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.”

By using only three hundred, no one could ever doubt that God was working for Israel. Through this handful of men, He would demonstrate His miraculous power. History would prove that when God is with His people, signs and wonders will be the outcome.

The Midianites were on their way to defeat! Once again, the true God would prevail in the land of Israel.



Lesson 71 Activity

GIDEON'S COURAGE

We don't have to be afraid when God is on our side! God was on Gideon's side and he wasn't afraid. Using Judges 7:1-15, learn about Gideon as you do this acrostic puzzle. The letters at the beginning of the phrases should match the letters given in the boxes.

M
I
G
H
T
Y
M
A
N
O
F
V
A
L
O
R

What the people of Midian are called (*verse 1*)

Jerubbaal was also known as . . . (*verse 1*)

The mountain mentioned in (*verse 3*)

Gideon's servant (*verse 10*)

A place of shelter (*verse 8*)

A cake of _____ tumbled into the tent of the enemy (*verse 13*)

A Midianite interpreted this (*verse 15*)

Another name for Gideon (*verse 1*)

Three hundred _____ lapped the water (*verse 7*)

Small animal in story (*verse 5*)

Some men were fearful or _____ (*verse 3*)

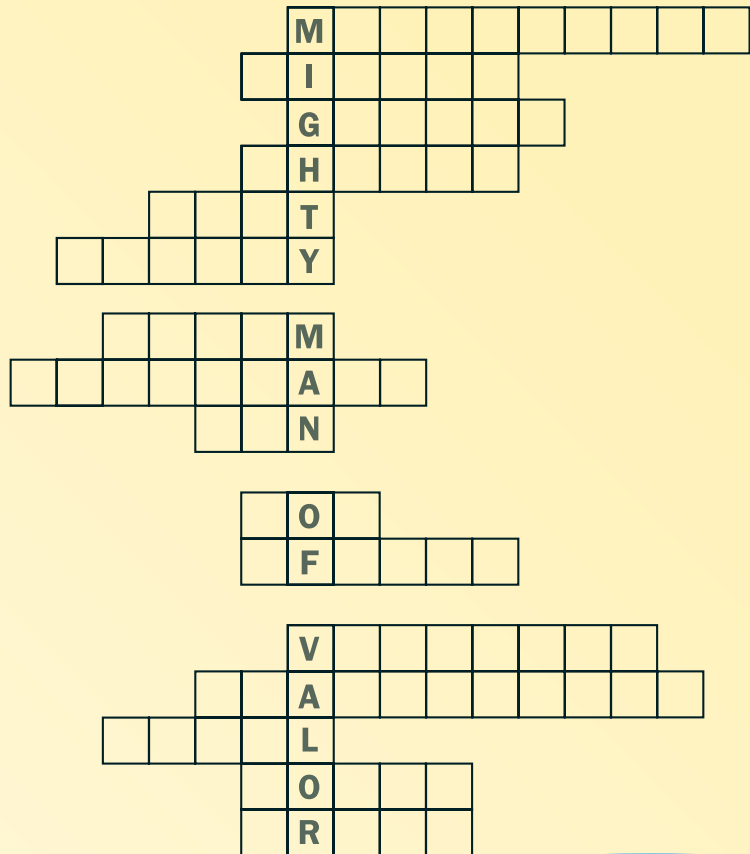
Another word for food (*verse 8*)

The enemy was like this insect (*verse 12*)

Large animal in story (*verse 12*)

Gideon's father (*verse 14*)

Gideon told the men, "_____";
for the *LORD* hath delivered into
your hand the host of Midian."
(*verse 15*)



WHAT MAKES A HERO?

A TOTAL COMMITMENT

LESSON 72 → Joshua 14:6-13; Numbers 13:17-33

*Faith knew God
was asking her to
trust Him with every
aspect of her life.*



Faith sat down on the edge of her bed and reached for the Bible. It was already past 10:00 and she had to get up early the next day, but she couldn't go to bed without spending some time reading her Bible and praying. She loved her special time of talking to God before going to sleep at night. Somehow it gave her such a peaceful feeling, and a knowledge



I WILL FOLLOW JESUS.

Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. — Mark 10:28

that God would be close to her all through the night.

But for some reason, that peaceful feeling didn't come tonight. Instead, Faith felt troubled—a little heavy inside. She tried to ignore it. I'm just tired, she thought. I had a big day today, with tests in two classes and a lesson right after school. But the feeling didn't go away.

Her Bible opened to Joshua 14. She had her marker there because that was the text for next Sunday's lesson. Her eyes fell on Joshua 14:8, "... but I wholly followed the LORD my God." It was just like the words jumped out at her. "I wholly followed ..."

She knew what was troubling her. It was no use trying to pretend that she didn't. I feel God is asking me to really give Him my whole life, she admitted to herself at last. I know this has been weighing on my heart for several weeks, ever since Brother Gary preached about entire consecration.

Up until that night she had been just going along, happy in her Christian life and sure everything was the way it should be between her and God. She had been asked to sing in the young people's choir, and that was fun. She always studied her Sunday school lesson, and entered into the discussions in her Sunday

school class. She even helped out once a month or so in the church nursery.

But after Brother Gary's sermon, she realized that God wanted something more from her. What she was doing was fine, but He wanted a wholehearted commitment—a purpose in her heart that she would let God make all the important decisions for her, that He would be her Guide and she would follow wherever He led.

Can I really let God decide everything for me? she wondered. Not just which classes to take next year when she started high school, but even the friends she chose, what she did with her spare time, and things like that. And looking ahead into the future—the guys she would date, the job she would train for, where she would live, who she would marry, ...

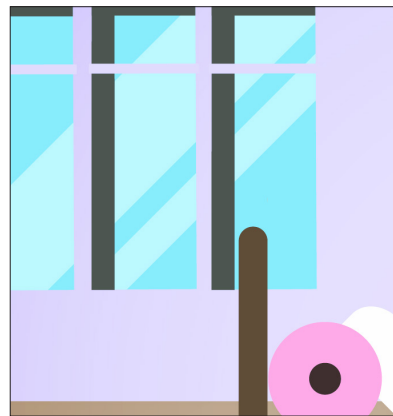
What if God wanted me to do something that would keep me poor all my life, she thought. Or maybe He would tell me to go to some strange country, far away from all my family and friends. What if He decided I shouldn't get married?

The words of the Bible verse she had just read went through her mind again, and she looked back and read the whole story of Caleb. She saw how God's

punishment had fallen on a whole generation of Israelites, because they had feared to go in and possess the land God had promised them—all except for Caleb and Joshua. Then she turned again to Joshua 14 and read how Caleb told Joshua that he had wholly followed the Lord and how Moses had promised him that the land he had walked on would be his and his children's forever.

I know God's blessings are real, and they are sure to follow those who wholeheartedly commit their lives to Him. Can I say yes, or will I be like those thousands of Israelites who turned their backs on God? Faith pondered.

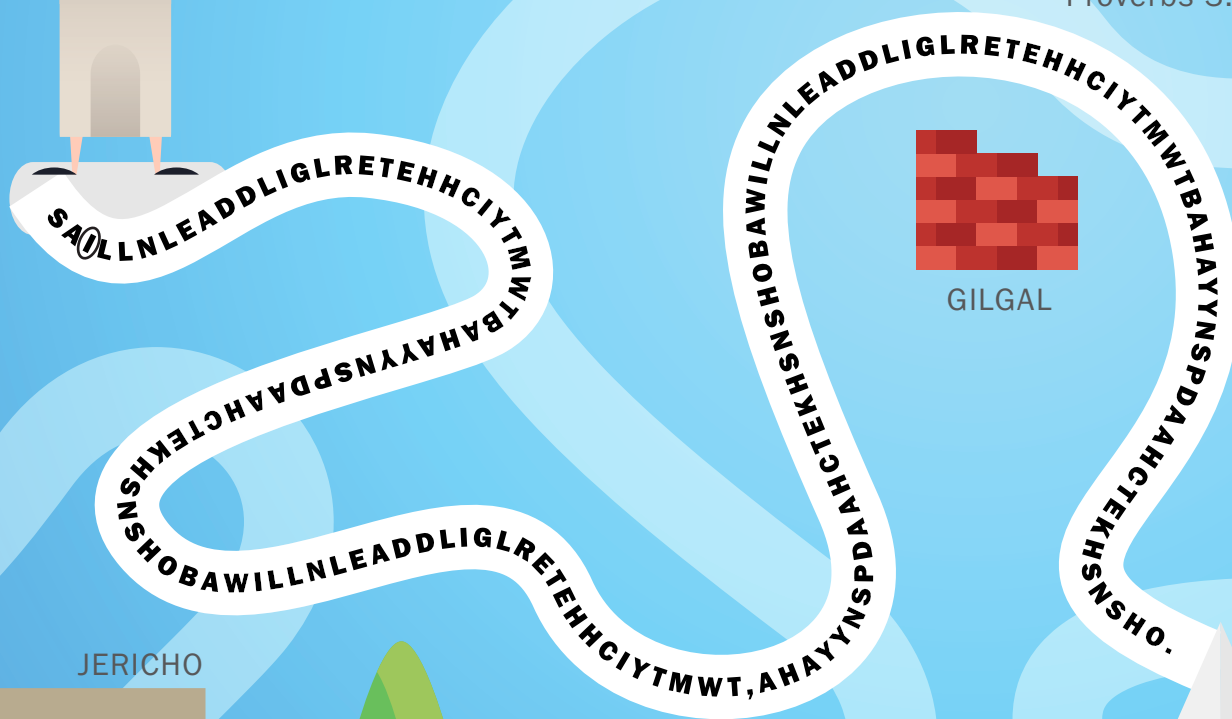
As she knelt to pray, the tears flowed down her cheeks. "I give every part of my life to You, to use as You see fit, Lord," Faith said earnestly. And into her heart came a sweet peace and an assurance that she had done the right thing.



Caleb wholly followed the Lord and was blessed by Him. Starting at CALEB, follow the path in this puzzle to find a promise God has for you. The first I is circled for you. Now circle every third letter or symbol on the path. Then write the circled letters on the lines provided.

Lesson 72 Activity

FOLLOW THE LORD!



Proverbs 3:6

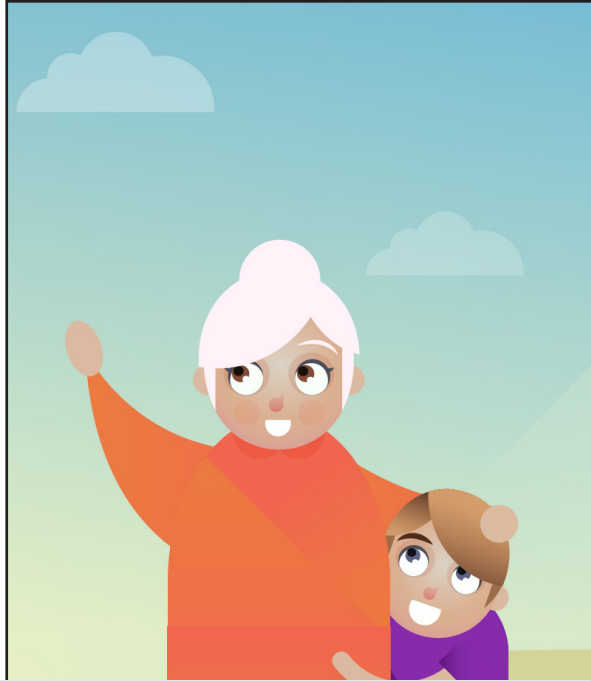


GILGAL

JERICO

MT. HEBRON

WHAT MAKES A HERO?



AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH

Lesson 73 → 1 Kings 17:8-16

To Reuben, Grandmother's story was an inspiration and an example of faith.

Looking back, I can remember running, running, running, as fast as my legs could carry me over the rock-strewn fields. Then bursting into the peaceful dwelling of my ancient grandmother and throwing myself into her arms.

Her gentle hands brushed the hair back from my forehead. "And what is it that brings little Reuben to my side with the speed of an arrow?"

"I have finished taking the water to the men in the fields, and mother said I may come to you for a story."

"It is a story you want, then?" She smiled at me gently, and then added knowingly, "A certain story, perhaps?"

"Yes," I nodded vigorously. "I want to hear about the time the meal and the oil didn't run out." I could scarcely wait for her to begin the tale, for though I knew it by heart, I never tired of hearing how God had worked a miracle for her.

"Times were very hard," she began, putting an arm around me and pulling me close to her side. "There had been no rain in all of our land for many, many months. The ground was hard and dry, and all the beau-

tiful green plants and trees were dried up and withered.

"The streams and brooks which supplied our land with water had dried up. Water was as precious as gold, and so was food. Day by day, I watched our little bit of food grow smaller. Your father was a small lad, just about your size, Reuben. How my heart ached as I watched him grow thinner and thinner. I gave him a portion of my food, but still it was not enough and he grew very weak.

"At last the day came when I looked into the meal barrel and my pot of oil and saw that there was only enough for one



I MUST HAVE FAITH.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
— Hebrews 11:1

small cake. That was the last food in the house, and I knew that after we ate that, we would die.

“How my heart ached as I went out that morning to gather a few sticks for the fire. Had God forsaken us? My trust was in Him, but I could see no help for us.

“But, Reuben, you must remember that our God makes no mistakes. Our faith was being tried, but in His great love, He had a plan to take care of us. As I gathered sticks, a man came walking along the dusty road. He called to me, asking for a drink.

“Water was as scarce as food, but as I looked at that tired, dusty man, I saw that he also had a need. I turned toward the house, and as I did so, he asked me to bring him a morsel of bread also.

“If it had only been myself to consider, I would not have hesitated. But, I told the man our sad condition: that there was only enough meal and oil in the house to make one more cake, and then my son and I would die.

“Then the man told me something amazing. He said to make him a cake first, and afterward to make one for my son and myself. He told me that the barrel of meal and my pot of oil would continue to have a supply, if I would obey.

“Some way, the Lord above dropped faith into my heart. I believed Him! How thankful I am for that. The words of the man, the prophet Elijah, were true. I made him a cake, and brought it out to him. How hard my heart was beating as I went back toward our home to look once more into my meal barrel and my pot of oil.

“Truly, a miracle had happened! There was still some remaining! And so it was that the Lord sustained my life and that of your father and the

prophet of God through all the days that followed, until, at last, the rains came again to our land.”

A long breath escaped me as she finished her story and gazed dreamily off into space. I can remember looking up into her lined face; and though just a little boy, I thought: God, please help me to have faith like my grandmother’s.

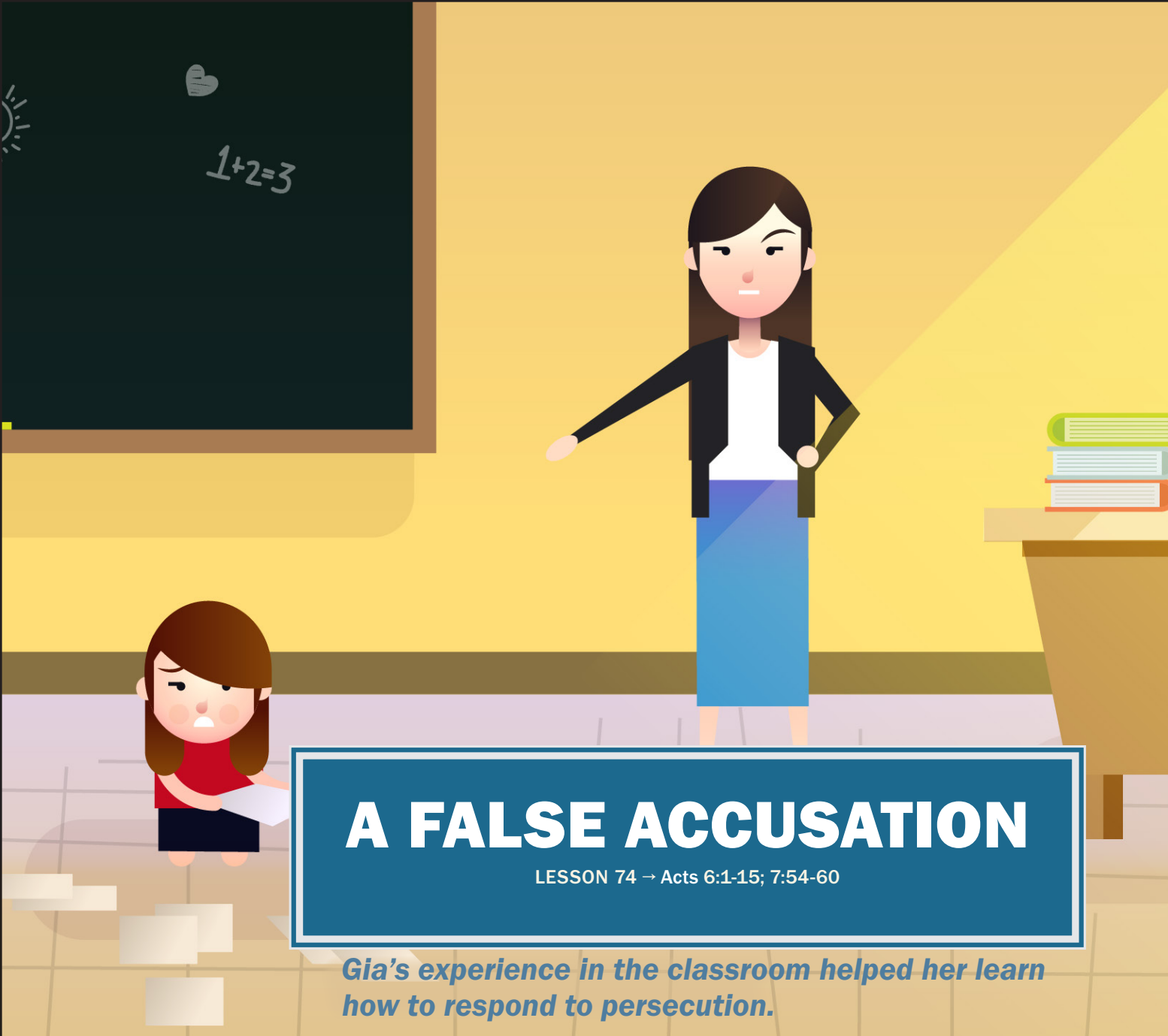
Today, a grown man with sons of my own, that is still my prayer.

FAITH IN ACTION

The widow of Zarephath is an example to us of faith in action. In this word-find are some words used in this lesson. Find and circle each one.

OIL
CAKE
GATE
MEAL
BREAD
CRUSE
FETCH
WATER
WIDOW
ZIDON
BARREL
MORSEL
STICKS
VESSEL
ZAREPHATH

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



A FALSE ACCUSATION

LESSON 74 → Acts 6:1-15; 7:54-60

Gia's experience in the classroom helped her learn how to respond to persecution.

“**M**rs. Lee, Gia dumped all my papers on the floor!” Carson called out in mock despair. The class suddenly became still. Gia could feel her face turning bright red as everyone turned to see what was happening.

Gia was new at school, and it hadn't been easy to make friends. Sometimes the other

kids hesitated to include her in their activities because they could tell she was different. She was a Christian. Gia had just tried to keep up with the rest of the class and slip by unnoticed . . . but now this!

Typing had been an uncomfortable class for Gia from the first day. Mrs. Lee had treated her coolly and had never tried to make her feel welcome. Now,

Mrs. Lee was asking if she had, in fact, knocked the papers deliberately on the floor.

“Why, no, Mrs. Lee!” the shocked girl replied quietly. “Pick them up anyway!” the teacher demanded.

Gia stood frozen for a moment, then she stooped down and began to scoop the papers into a pile while everyone silently



WHEN THINGS GET HARD, I LOOK TO JESUS.

He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. — Matthew 10:39

watched. Inside she felt wronged and wanted to protest, but she was afraid if she opened her mouth she wouldn't be able to hold back her tears (which was probably just what Carson wanted).

Carson was the class show-off, and Mrs. Lee should have known he was pulling a prank! But she had taken his side and allowed Gia to be humiliated in front of the entire class. It was hard to take.

Arriving home, Gia unloaded on her mother. "I was so embarrassed, Mom!"

"Well," her mom said, "it wasn't very fair, Honey, but maybe the Lord has a lesson for you to learn from this situation." Gia looked at her mother in amazement as she continued. "People won't agree every time with the way you believe or act. There will always be some who will be rude and try to make you look guilty and focus attention on you, just like today."

"What makes people that way?" asked Gia. "Why can't people just let me be good if I want to, and they can be bad if that's what they want?"

"Gia, usually if you don't bother people they won't give you any trouble. But, sometimes a Christian's life condemns people for the way they are living. Instead of taking care of the problems in their own

lives, they strike out at the one who's doing the right thing. They try to make him look bad so they don't feel so guilty about themselves."

*Through the days that fol-*lowed, Gia thought often about her mother's words. Then the next Sunday the Sunday school lesson was about Stephen and how he was persecuted. Stephen had preached to some people whose hearts were hard. They didn't appreciate it when he told them that they were turning their backs on God and His Word and not living right, that they were only pretending to be religious. Instead of repenting, they decided Stephen must be done away with.

Stephen was arrested and brought before a council. The people, elders, and scribes had been stirred up by Stephen's accusers, and false witnesses were brought to tell lies about him.

The council could see, by the heavenly glow on Stephen's face, that he was innocent. They asked if the accusations against him were true. Stephen used that opportunity to launch into yet another powerful sermon. He didn't hesitate to tell the people how bad they were. They became so angry they gnashed on him with their teeth! Stephen looked up and saw Jesus standing on the right hand of

God. When he told the crowd what he was seeing, they deliberately closed their ears to his voice. Enraged, they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. As the heavy stones struck him, Stephen knelt and asked God not to hold this sinful act against the people. Then he died.

By the end of the Sunday school class time, Gia didn't feel like her problem was nearly as serious as she had thought before. Maybe Mrs. Lee has some bitterness in her heart that has caused her to persecute me, thought Gia. It was still painful to think of the way she had been embarrassed in front of the other kids, but if Stephen could ask forgiveness for the people taking his life, surely she could forgive someone for causing an ugly scene! So, asking God to help her to forgive, Gia felt His love come into her heart for the ones who had wronged her.

God's Word tells us there is a special reward for anyone who suffers persecution for His sake, and He promises to be close in a special way during those times. We can see how this was especially true in Stephen's life. His example helped Gia through an unhappy experience. It will help you, too, when similar things happen in your life.

Lesson 74 Activity

Here are three letters from some Christian friends who need advice on how to handle persecution. Using the Bible verses given, can you give them the advice from the Lord?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Dear . . .

While I was at school the other day some kids called me names and made fun of me because I was reading my Bible. Do I still have to love them and include them in my prayers? -Tucker

Dear . . .

Last Saturday when I went shopping with my friends, I found that they were taking some things without paying for them.

I told them it was wrong, but they laughed at me and made fun of me. I feel just awful. Can you give me some encouragement?

Scarlett

DEAR . . .

I AM SO AFRAID TO TELL MY FRIENDS ABOUT THE LORD ANYMORE AFTER WHAT HAPPENED. I TRIED TO TELL A GOOD FRIEND ABOUT JESUS A WHILE AGO AND NOW HE WON'T EVEN TALK TO ME. HE EVEN SAYS BAD THINGS ABOUT ME TO OTHER PEOPLE.

I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND. PLEASE HELP!

JAMES

Tucker:

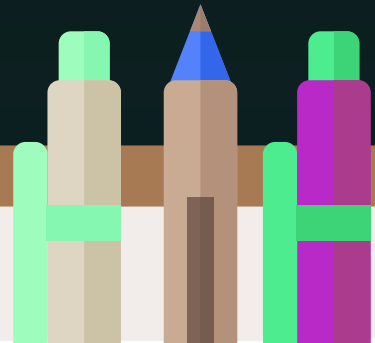
(Matthew 5:44)

Scarlett:

(Matthew 5:12)

James:

(1 Peter 2:20)



In making a clay pot, Greyson learned the value of perseverance.

STICKING WITH IT!

Lesson 75 → Mark 5:24-34

Greyson pounded the clay in frustration, turning it back into a shapeless mass. Every day this week he had tried to make a pot—had tried and failed.

Now it was the last day before the end of the grading period. Why couldn't he get the pot to take shape? His hands seemed all thumbs.

All quarter he'd been busy painting the beautiful ceramics his teacher had turned out from the molds. He was proud of that work and had given several of them as gifts already.

But to create something with his own hands . . . why couldn't he do it?

He started again. Slowly, carefully, and as evenly as he could, he rolled out some coils that would form the sides of his pot. The bottom was smooth. It looked good. Gradually he began attaching the first coil, pressing it gently to the base and working it on up the sides.

"How are you doing, Greyson?" the teacher's voice broke into his absorption. "It's almost time to start cleaning up." Greyson glanced at the clock in amazement. How had it happened? It was almost time for the bell, and he still didn't have his project completed. "Oh, no," he groaned. He was so discouraged, for he really had worked hard. Now his grade would drop, and he was hoping for an "A."

Noting his look of despair, the teacher came over to his work area.

Encouraging and helping, he showed Greyson where to pinch, to pull, to smooth. Then it was finished.

The symmetry of it amazed him. It seemed so effortless with the teacher's help!

Together they put the pot on the counter to dry.

As Greyson thanked the teacher for his help and cleaned up, he thought of how easily the pot had been completed.

Why, just a short time ago he had been in utter despair, with no hope of getting it finished.





WITH JESUS, I CAN STICK WITH IT ALL THE WAY!

He that endureth to the end shall be saved. — Matthew 10:22

He missed his ride on the school bus, but he didn't mind, he was so happy and relieved. As he started walking home, he marveled again at the change in his emotions: fifteen minutes ago he'd been totally down-hearted, and now he felt as free as a bird.

Why, that is just like what Jesus does for the person who is discouraged! Just one touch from His hand, and the scene is totally changed, Greyson thought. When we are in trouble and despair, then God reaches down to help.

He thought of the Scriptures he'd been studying this week for his Sunday school lesson. Certainly the woman he'd been reading about had been full of despair and discouragement. She had been sick for twelve long years. That was almost his whole lifetime! What if he'd been sick since the day he was born? He couldn't imagine it! She had gone to all the doctors around her town. She had spent all her money to see if they could make her well. Had she gotten better? No. Not at all. She had gotten worse!

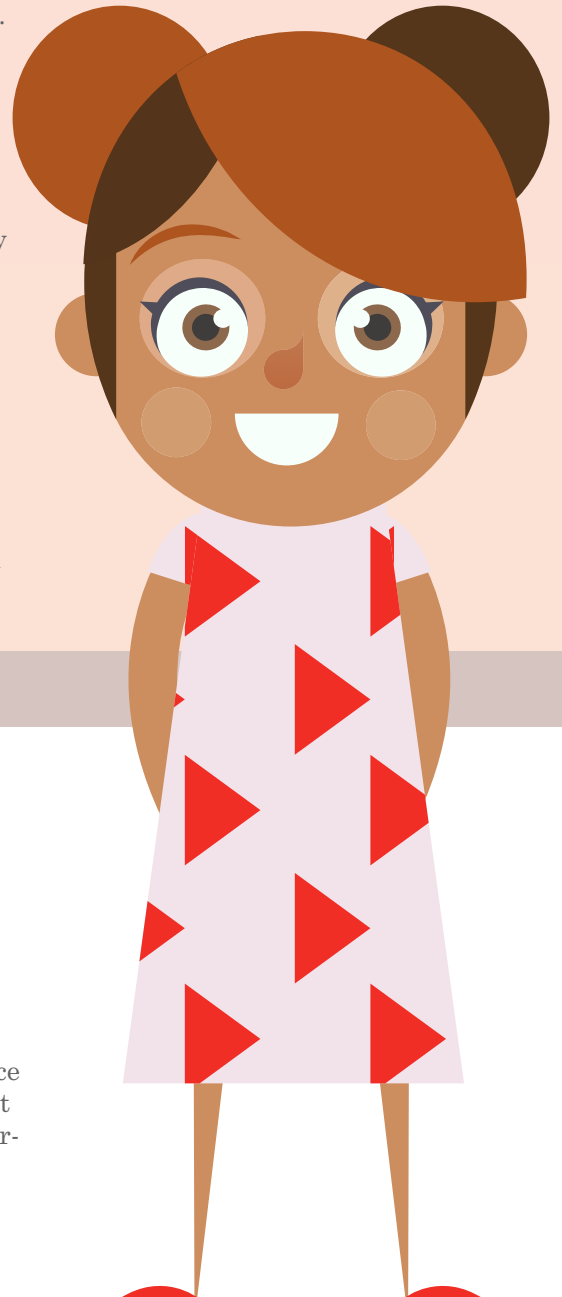
Talk about discouragement! She knew what that felt like! But she hadn't let it keep her from doing something. She got up and followed after Jesus. She had pushed and shoved and squeezed her way through the crowd.

If only she could get close enough to just touch His clothes, she had thought, then she would be well. Her energy was almost gone. The crowd jostled her. She reached out her hand, but Jesus had moved on. She tried again, but someone moved right in front of her. Afraid that she'd never reach Him, she pushed forward with great determination, and she touched the hem of His garment! That very moment, she knew she was made perfectly whole!

Greyson's dad had a big word for that kind of "stick-to-it-iveness." It was perseverance. That's what this woman had shown in coming to Jesus. Despite her aches and pains and despair, she had persisted until she received what she'd come for.

Greyson guessed that his dad would be proud of him. He had persevered also; he'd kept working on that pot until the teacher had seen his diligence and determination and had reached out a helping hand to him this afternoon.

Greyson decided that next Sunday, he would tell his Sunday school teacher what he'd learned about perseverance this week: we will receive what we need from God when we persevere in seeking Him.



HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

The code at the bottom of the page will help you find out what this verse says about being persistent. Remember, each number represents a letter.

16	18	1	25	9	14	7

always with all prayer and

19	21	16	16	12	9	3	1	20	9	15	14	

in the

19	16	9	18	9	20	

, and

23	1	20	3	8	9	14	7	

thereunto with all

16	5	18	19	5	22	5	18	1	14	3	5	

and supplication for all saints.

5	16	8	5	19	9	1	14	19	

6:18

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



A MESSAGE IN THE NIGHT

Lesson 76 → Acts 9:10-19

It seemed a strange request from the Lord, but Ananias obeyed.

It was dark in the small room. Ananias moved uneasily on his narrow bed. What had awakened him? Then he heard it again; his name was being called. He listened closely, raising himself up on his elbows. There it was again! Suddenly, Ananias understood. “I am here, Lord,” he answered.

The reply made Ananias sit up straighter in disbelief.

“Ananias, I want you to get up and go over to the street called Straight. There’s a man over there at the house of Judas. His name is Saul; he is from the city of Tarsus. He’s blind, and he has seen a vision of a man called Ananias coming to pray for him so that he can see again. He is praying.”

At first, Ananias was afraid.

“But Lord,” he said, “I know of

this Saul. He is a wicked man. He is coming to Damascus to put those who serve You, in jail. He has permission to put everyone in jail who believes in Jesus.”

“I know that, Ananias, but I have called him and chosen him to be My helper and servant. I will show him how many hard things he will have to suffer for Me. Go on your way, Ananias.”

Wondering about this unusual request, Ananias got ready and left his house. Through the streets of Damascus he went, turning this way and that until he came to the very narrow street called Straight. As he walked, he thought about what he had heard. To think that God had changed Saul of Tarsus! For weeks the Christians of Damascus had



I AM WILLING TO DO WHAT JESUS SAYS.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. — Isaiah 1:19

heard about how Saul was taking people from their houses in different cities and putting them in jail—even causing them to be killed. Just the other night, they had heard he was coming to Damascus with letters giving him the power to arrest people here too.

Then, about three days ago, they had heard a strange story. When Saul was getting close to the city, he had fallen to the ground—and a light brighter than the brightest sunlight had shown around him and the people traveling with him. A Voice had spoken to him. When Saul could stand up again, he was blind and had to be led by the hand.

Ananias shook his head as he walked. So that story really was true. Hadn't the Lord said to him that Saul was blind? Could it really be that Saul was now a Christian? As he reached the house of Judas, Ananias knocked softly. The

door opened immediately, almost as though he were expected. Then, as he was let into the house, he asked where to find the man called Saul.

Entering quietly into the room, Ananias saw the man who was well known throughout Israel. Ananias could tell he was blind. Even so, as he looked more closely, Ananias could see a look of peace on Saul's face.

In his mind, Ananias could hear the Voice of the Lord saying, "I have chosen him . . . he must suffer for Me." A great love for this man filled his heart. "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus has sent me. He is making you well."

As he laid his hands on Saul's head, the air was suddenly charged. Saul turned to him and in a wondering voice said, "I can see again!" Ananias' arms dropped around Saul's shoulders. Together they prayed and thanked God for

the wonderful things He had done for Saul.

Later, as Ananias left the house where Saul was staying, he thought of how he had made excuses to the Lord about going to pray for Saul. "Thank you, Lord," he said, "for being so patient and for helping me to obey You. I am so glad You let me help Saul. He used to be the Christians' worst enemy, and now he is our friend and brother."

You may never have thought about Ananias as a hero of the Bible. Maybe you don't even remember hearing about him before, but we can learn an important lesson through his example. He was willing, and he was obedient. He did what God told him, even though it seemed like a strange—even dangerous—request. We may not always understand the things God asks us to do for Him, but if we are willing and obedient, God will use us.

HEARING GOD

CAN YOU HELP?

Fill in the missing letters in the circles on the file cards. Next write the circled letters on the matching numbered lines on the MEMO. Read the memo and write the number of the file cards for which your response is yes.

9 GIV○
whatever time I have to help
the church grow.

8 S○NG
a special song for Sunday school.

7 CLE○N
up the church.

6 H○ND
out invitations to church activities.

5 TEL○
a friend about the Lord.

4 PL○Y
an instrument.

3 ○RING
someone to church.

2 HE○P
my Sunday school teacher.

1 ○ISIT
the sick.

MEMO:

I am _____ for _____

7 1 4 8 5 6 3 2 9



A WILLING HELPER

LESSON 77 → 1 Kings 19:19-21; Matthew 10:37-42

Sebastian's conversation with Uncle Martin helped him realize the joy in working for the Lord.



WHATEVER GOD ASKS, I WILL DO.

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. — Colossians 3:23

“Sebastian, can you stay awhile and help me put the chairs away?” asked Uncle Martin. This had been the youth group’s activity night, and he was responsible for cleaning up the church, and making sure that everything was ready for the services the next day.

“Well, I wouldn’t mind helping out, but Leo wants me to be ready to go home in five minutes,” Sebastian stated, “. . . and I have quite a bit of homework waiting for me.”

“This won’t take too long,” Uncle Martin assured him. “I can take you home when we get done here. Your brother won’t mind.”

Soon Sebastian and Uncle Martin were folding chairs and straightening up the church basement. It really didn’t take long, and Sebastian was glad he had stayed to help his uncle.

“This is better than hurrying home to do homework,” he commented with a grin as he pulled out the box of song books. “I really wasn’t too anxious to drag out my math book anyway.”

Uncle Martin grinned. “Well the math will be waiting for you, I’m sure. Some things we have to do. But working for the Lord is an opportunity, not a chore.” He came over to give Sebastian a hand with the box. “Looking at that box of song books, my mind goes back many, many years to when I was a boy—a lot younger than you are. I always loved the Lord, and hoped that someday I could do something for Him. Well, one day the opportunity came. I was at an old-fashioned camp meeting and was asked—you guessed it—to pick up the songs books!

“It was really hot that summer, and there was sawdust on the floor of the big tent, and plain old dirt under the sawdust. You can imagine that with so many people and services, along with the hot weather, things were bound to get dusty. So, each afternoon, hoses were brought

in and the sawdust was sprinkled down. You’re probably wondering what all this has to do with song books. Stop and think a bit—they had to be taken out of the way so that they wouldn’t get wet! And that’s how I got my start working for the Lord. Now you’re helping by doing your part for the Lord.

Hmmmm . . . Sebastian thought a moment.

That’s right. Uncle Martin is the one who asked me to do the work, but this is the Lord’s house—I’m doing it for Him. “Uncle Martin, I guess doing work like this is really for the Lord, isn’t it?” Sebastian asked. “Someone has to do it—keep the church clean.”

“Yes, I think there’s more to working for the Lord than just what we see at church. The preacher preaches, singers sing, the organ and piano players do their part—but they’re not just doing it because people come to church and want to hear something. They are doing it for the Lord,” Uncle Martin told him. “Sure, if I sing a song, I want it to sound pleasing, but the main point is that I’m doing something for the Lord because I want to.”

“No one is here to watch us work, and we don’t need anyone to watch us because God knows we are doing it. That makes me feel good!” Sebastian said, smiling. The two of them put on their jackets and went to turn out the lights and make sure everything was locked up. “I guess I’d better go home and do homework! If only that was as exciting as working for the Lord.”

“When I was in school, I didn’t especially like homework either,” Uncle Martin told him. “But I’ve found that whatever I do, if I do it as if it is for the Lord, it isn’t half as hard. Even doing homework! Even picking up song books.”

“I guess I’d better remember that.” Sebastian grinned at his uncle and continued, “With that attitude, I know many things that will be easier to do. It’s really great to know I am doing things for the Lord.”

Lesson 77 Activity

ARE YOU WILLING?

Read each statement and decide what your reaction is. Color the happy face if it is willing. Color the sad face if it is complaining.

If I react like this . . .	My service is . . .	
It's my night to wash dishes again. Why do I always have to do them?		
I'm going to finish my homework as best I can because I want to please the Lord.		
There goes my Sunday school teacher. I'd better run to ask her if I can help with the lesson for next week!		
Boy, I can't wait to finish raking the yard. Maybe I'll just hide the leaves under the bushes. No one will ever know.		
Well, I'm going to offer to do a song for next Sunday because I love to do the Lord's work.		

Write the Key Verse for this week on the blank lines. Unscramble the circled letters to complete the statement below. The last letter is already in place.

_____  _____, _____  _____   _____,

_____  _____, _____  _____ • Colossians 3:23

I am _____ G, Lord!

CHOOSING THE RIGHT HERO

LESSON 78 → Hebrews 11:32-40; 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:21

“Hey, Marcus, I thought you were supposed to be writing a paper. What are you staring off into space for?”

Marcus glanced up at his older brother, Hudson, who had just entered the room. “Oh, I just can’t seem to get started. I don’t know what to write about.”

Hudson raised one eyebrow and asked, “Well, what are you supposed to write about?”

“Heroes—anybody in the present or past history who we think of as a hero.”

Hudson grinned. “That doesn’t sound so hard. Let’s see, there is always myself, your fabulous older brother. Or, perhaps some lesser character such as Superman, Batman, Captain America, or maybe Iron Man . . .”

Marcus gave his brother a look. “Big help you are! I can just see how Mr. Barlow would react if I wrote something like that!”

Hudson hitched a chair up to the table and sat down. “Okay, I’ll get serious. Now, just how would you define a hero?”

“That’s easy—I already looked in the dictionary. Matter of fact, I even wrote it down.” He picked up a piece of paper and read, “Any person admired for his qualities or achievements and regarded as an ideal or model.”

“Good. Now, who are some of the other kids writing about?”

“Oh, Martin Luther King, Jr., the President, and people like that. I’ll admit those people have qualities I admire, but to say one of them is really my hero . . .” His voice trailed off. After a minute he continued. “I mean, there are kids at school who I can admire something about. Max Henderson has a brain that’s as sharp as a tack, but he’s far from being a hero of mine. He doesn’t get along that well with the other kids, maybe because he’s so much smarter, or something. Eden—you know her—well, she’s a fantastic debater, but she doesn’t have the least bit of interest in religion. Wesley is super at basketball, but that’s all he talks about, and . . .”

His brother nodded. “You know, Marcus, indirectly you’re making a point that is very important when we consider who to look up to as

a hero. Some people may have qualities we admire very much, but it is important to look at their whole life before we decide to pattern after them. They may not be a good influence at all in many aspects of their life.” He paused for a moment, and then went on. “It’s true enough that all of us can learn something by patterning after the right kind of person, by choosing the right heroes.”

Marcus sighed. “So now we’re back to where we started. Who?”

“There’s a verse in the Bible that just came to my mind while we were talking,” Hudson said. “You had it for a key verse in Sunday school a month or two ago. ‘Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright.’ That’s the kind of hero you’re looking for.”

“Well, there are lots of characters in the Bible that were really heroes,” Marcus commented. “Remember, not too long ago we did a whole quarter on people used of God. We learned how patterning our lives after godly men told about in Scripture would help us become good examples in our world today.”



JESUS IS THE GREATEST EXAMPLE.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright. — Psalm 37:37

All of a sudden, a big grin spread across his face. “I’ve got it!” He pulled a couple of sheets of notebook paper in front of him and picked up a pen.

“C’m on. Don’t keep me in suspense after all my help!” Hudson gave him a poke. “Who’re you going to write about?”

“Well, Mr. Barlow said we could write about anyone in the past or present. So I’m going to write about someone I’ve loved hearing about ever since I was just a little kid, a guy who really had a lot of courage. I’m not sure if Mr. Barlow has ever heard of him before, but I know his story. His name was Gideon.”



Trying to decide who to write about helped Marcus see the importance of godly character in his role models.



GIVE

KIND

LOVE

RICH

BORROW

HUMBLY

JUSTLY

ANOTHER

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

BE A HERO!

If you want to be one of God's heroes, write the words from the list on the left page in the blank spaces to discover some of God's commands.

MATTHEW 5:42

_____ to him that asketh thee, and from him that would _____
_____ of thee turn not thou away.

EPHESIANS 4:32

Be ye _____ one to _____.

MICAH 6:8

What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do
_____, and to _____ mercy, and to walk
_____ with thy God?

PROVERBS 23:4

Labour not to be _____.

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YOUR NAME:
