

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Heroes trust in God's power.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that a hero believes in God's power.

KEY PASSAGE:

Numbers 13:26-32 and 14:6-10, 12 Spies

MEMORY VERSE:

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 NIV

SUMMARY:

Twelve men spied out the Promised Land. 10 of them came back with reports that there was no hope. Joshua – who would later become the leader of the Israelites – had no fear and encouraged Israel to trust God. Joshua was not alone, Caleb also boldly stood with Joshua and encouraged Israel to believe in the power of God. Caleb is also the first person the Bible says spoke up and encouraged the people to believe in God's power.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us great faith like Caleb!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

"So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NirV)

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NIV)

"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NLT)

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Matthew 20:16 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the boys read the verse aloud, and then have the girls read it aloud. Who can read the loudest?

SMALL GROUP:

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SKIT

CALEB AND THE POWER OF GOD

ITEMS NEEDED:

A table and chair
Sharpies
Two signs (see script)
Optional - 8 x 10 photos of Caleb
An autograph book

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Ernie - A Bible fan
Caleb- A Bible hero

Caleb sits at a table covered with a tablecloth. He has some sharpies on the table. A sign in front of the table says "BibleCon Welcomes: Caleb" Ernie enters carrying an autograph book and looking lost. He walks over to Caleb.

ERNIE: Excuse me.

CALEB: Yes?

ERNIE: I'm looking for the autograph line for Joshua?

CALEB: Joshua? *(he points)* Right there.

ERNIE: Is he at the table with the three people in line?

CALEB: No, he's three rows over. His line starts there.

ERNIE: Aww, man, are you serious?

CALEB: I'm afraid so.

ERNIE: I can't believe it! I knew I should have got here early.

SKIT

CALEB: First time at BibleCon?

ERNIE: Yeah, first time. I heard the lines for the big heroes filled up quickly, but I didn't expect Joshua's to be so long.

CALEB: Oh yes. After Abraham, Moses, David, and Noah, Joshua's is always one of the longest.

ERNIE: If I wait in that line, I'll be there half the day.

CALEB: Yes you will. But hey, it's Joshua, right? He was the leader of Israel. He wrote a book in the Bible. He was also one of the two spies who scouted the Promised Land and urged the Israelites to trust in the power of God.

ERNIE: But the Israelites ignored them right?

CALEB: Yep. The other ten spies saw the armies and giants that lay ahead and got scared. I tried to tell the people God would give us victory, but no one was listening.

ERNIE: Wait a minute. You told them to trust God's power?

CALEB: Well, Joshua backed me up, but yeah, I said that.

ERNIE: You're Caleb! As in Joshua and Caleb.

CALEB: I am indeed.

ERNIE: Oh man, I am so sorry. I was so excited to meet Joshua, I didn't even notice you.

CALEB: It's okay. Believe me, a lot of us are used to being looked over. Everybody wants to meet Joshua and David and the other big names.

ERNIE: But you're a hero too! I mean, you got to see the Promised Land because you were faithful to God. Dude, you're a hero!

CALEB: I appreciate that, I do. But the truth is anyone can be a hero of the faith. You don't have to be a king or a leader or even a spy like me. You just have to believe in God's power.

ERNIE: Thanks, man. Hey, can I get your autograph?

CALEB: Of course! Who do I sign it to?

SKIT

ERNIE: To Ernie, please!

CALEB: (*signing*) To Ernie – Believe in the power of God. Caleb.

ERNIE: Wow, thanks, man! Say, are there other lesser known heroes at the convention besides you?

CALEB: They're all over the Bible, Ernie. Keep your eyes open. You'll meet some unlikely heroes who trusted God's power.

ERNIE: Thanks, Caleb! Bye!

Ernie exits.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A jar of honey

None of the Israelites had ever seen the Promised Land. All they knew about it was what Moses told them: it was a land that flowed with milk and honey. All twelve of the spies agreed, the land did flow with milk and honey, but ten of the twelve were more concerned with something else – the terrible armies that occupied and defended the land!

Caleb saw something the others did not. When he saw the honey in the Promised Land, he saw a promise kept. God said he would bring them to the Promised Land, and they were right on the edge. God promised the land had plenty of honey. Caleb saw it was true. God had fulfilled so many promises for His people, Caleb knew God would give them the land. He believed in God's power.

Being a hero doesn't require a big name or big action. Just big faith. When we believe in the power of God, we can do anything. Instead of focusing on the danger ahead, focus on the promises of God. Believe in God's power, and you will do great things for the Lord.

LARGE GROUP GAME

SUPER HERO QUICK CHANGE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two identical super hero costumes

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Have a race to see which player can suit up as the hero the quickest. The first player ready for battle wins a prize - or fights the super-villain, if one shows up.

VARIATION:

Instead of having the two players dress themselves, pick a team of 3-4 kids for each to get them dressed.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

We can be heroes when we believe in God's power.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Heroes trust in God's power.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that a hero believes in God's power.

KEY PASSAGE:

Numbers 13:26-32 and 14:6-10

INTRO:

How many of you have ever attended a comic con? If you're a fan of super heroes or pop culture, let me tell you, comic cons are an absolute wonderland. They are a place where fans gather, often in costume, to celebrate their favorite comics, movies, TV series, and video games. They come to search for old and rare toys, old and rare videos, and to meet their favorite stars from their favorite programs!

Comic cons are often jammed with movie and TV stars, past and present, who are happy to sign autographs and take photos for a price. Most of the fans tend to gather around only a handful of these tables. They are the headliners, the big name stars everyone knows. But for every top name headliner, you'll see half a dozen lesser names. They were co-stars of the headliners. They are the voices from cartoons. They are the faces you recognize but names you do not know. These celebrities don't get as many fans at the table, but their fans often come away with more than a photo or handshake. These celebs are never in a rush to get your money and move the line. They will talk to you. They will tell you their stories, and the stories they have to tell are often way better than anything the big stars will tell you.

Even here in church we spend a lot of time talking about the big names of the Bible, for the next eight weeks, we're going to talk about the lesser known heroes of faith. For every David or Noah or Moses, there's a Mordecai, a Micaiah, a Cornelius, or a Lois. These heroes have much to teach us about how we can be heroes in our own right. You don't have to have a big name. You don't have to be a leader. You don't have to be one trusted with great responsibility.

Today we're going to start with a name you may have heard in passing and quickly forgotten: Caleb. Caleb was one of twelve men chosen by Moses to spy on the Promised Land.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God led the Israelites out of slavery with the promise that they would move to a land flowing with milk and honey where He would be their God and they would be His people. But when the spies returned to Moses, ten out of the twelve brought bad news: the land was already occupied!

READ NUMBERS 13:26-32 and 14:6-10

MAIN POINT:

None of the spies disputed what they had been told by God. Yes, the land was flowing with milk and honey. The spies even brought back some of the good things they had found in their travels. But the land was also well-fortified and defended by fierce looking armies. Ten of the twelve spoke of nothing but doom and gloom. "We will never conquer this land! They are too strong for us! We might as well go back and be slaves in Egypt!"

Two men stood up against the ten, Joshua and Caleb, and it was Caleb who called on the people to believe in the power of God. Caleb had witnessed God's miracles before. God sent ten plagues on Egypt to convince Pharaoh to set them free. Caleb saw God part the waters of the Red Sea to save them from Pharaoh's army. He had eaten the bread and quail God miraculously provided to feed His people. Caleb saw the milk and honey God promised, and He believed God would use His power to save them.

Being a hero of the faith doesn't require big action or a big name. Just big faith. Caleb believed in God's power, and in time, he was proven right. That makes Caleb a hero in our book.

DRIVE IT HOME:

If the name Joshua sounds familiar, it's because he's one of those bigger Bible heroes we mentioned earlier. Joshua would become the leader of Israel after Moses died. Joshua was the man who led Israel into battle, where God crushed the armies the ten spies had been so afraid of. Joshua helped the people conquer and divide the land, charging them to serve God always. He even has a book of the Bible named after Him.

Maybe Caleb could have been that leader. For all we know, he was probably one of Joshua's top advisors and good friends. The Bible doesn't tell us what he did during the conquest for the Promised Land, but it does tell us God rewarded Him for his faithfulness.

When the people heard the report of the spies, they believed the ten over Joshua and Caleb. They begged Moses to turn back. They did not want to face the armies of the Promised Land. They had forgotten all the miracles I just mentioned and gave up hope. As punishment for their lack of faith, God made the Israelites wander the wilderness for forty years. He waited until all the adults who had lost hope, including the ten spies, had passed away, and he vowed to give the land to their children.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God made two exceptions to this judgment: Joshua, who became the new leader in place of Moses, and Caleb. Caleb believed in the power of God, and God rewarded him by allowing him to not only see the Promised Land, but live to see the day Israel settled in the land!

When we believe in the power of God, we will see great things happen. Those who believe are the ones God can use to make miracles happen. You don't have to be a big name. You don't have to be a leader. Real heroes, big and small, are people who believe in the power of God!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us great faith like Caleb!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Name one rare super hero who has never been in a movie (that you know of).

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 20:16

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Go around the group and create a super hero. Each person will get to name one attribute to the hero. If you like, create some cards ahead of time and hand them out to the kids with things like name, secret identity, super power, costume, mask, etc. Then the kids will give the hero the specific trait on their card.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Numbers 13:26-32 and 14:6-10

Who was Caleb?

What did Caleb and 11 other men do?

What did ten of the men say?

What did Caleb say about the Promised Land?

What made Caleb a hero?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Make us heroes who believe in your power.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Name one rare super hero who has never been in a movie (that you know of).

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 20:16

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Go around the group and create a super hero. Each person will get to name one attribute to the hero. If you like, create some cards ahead of time and hand them out to the kids with things like name, secret identity, super power, costume, mask, etc. Then the kids will give the hero the specific trait on their card.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Numbers 13:26-32 and 14:6-10

Why was Caleb sent into the Promised Land as a spy?

Why were ten of the men afraid to enter the Promised Land?

What did Caleb say about the Promised Land?

Why is Caleb a hero?

How can we have a faith like Caleb?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Make us heroes who believe in your power.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Q & A

How many spies did Moses send into the Promised Land?

TWELVE

How many men said that they could never conquer the armies of the Promised Land?

TEN

Who told the people to trust in God's power?

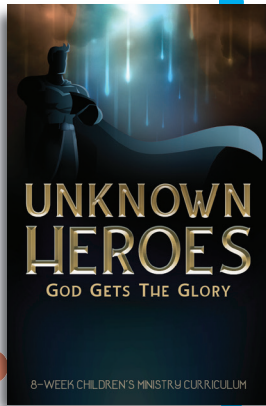
CALEB

Who stood with Caleb and trusted God?

JOSHUA

Did Caleb get to see the Promised Land because of his faith?

YES



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Unknown Heroes Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: CALEB



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Twelve men spied out the Promised Land. 10 of them came back with reports that there was no hope. Joshua – who would later become ruler of the Israelites – had no fear and encouraged Israel to trust God. Joshua was not alone, Caleb also boldly stood with Joshua and encouraged Israel to believe in the power of God. Caleb is also the first person the Bible says spoke up and encouraged the people to believe in God's power. Numbers 13:26-32 and 14:6-10



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Try to list off as many obscure, rare super heroes as you can with your kids. Ask your kids what made Caleb a hero.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who was Caleb?
- Why did Caleb tell the people to trust God's power?
- Why is Caleb a hero?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 NIV



PARENT TIME:

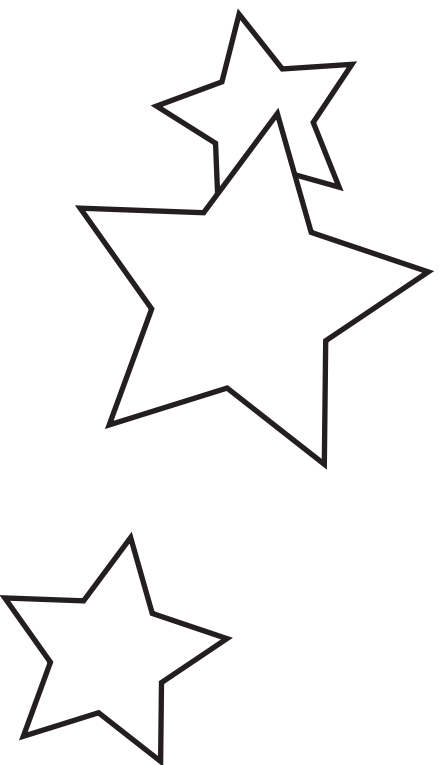
What you need to know:

Heroes are not always the leaders, the big names, the people up front. Anyone can be a hero. It all begins with trusting in the power of God. Encourage your kids this week to trust God's power. Even though they are kids, they can still be heroes of faith!

CRAFT ACTIVITY

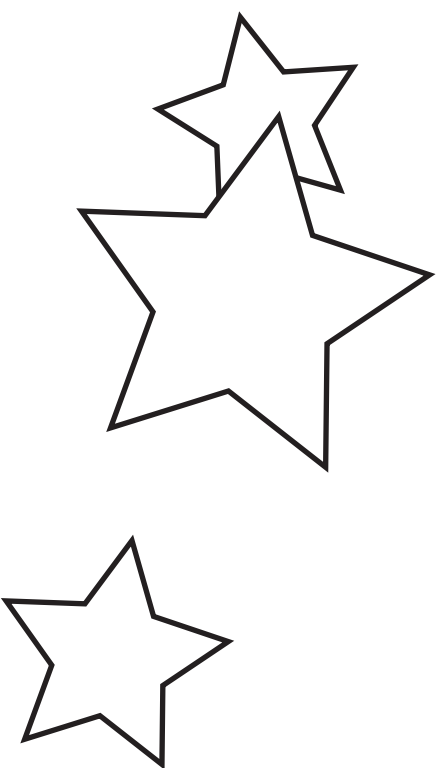
Have the kids draw and color Caleb as a super hero. You can give them templates of a human shape to start with, or let them do it freehanded.

As an option to weekly drawings, you can have the kids work on one piece of artwork for eight weeks, in which they will draw all 8 heroes onto a comic book cover of their own design.



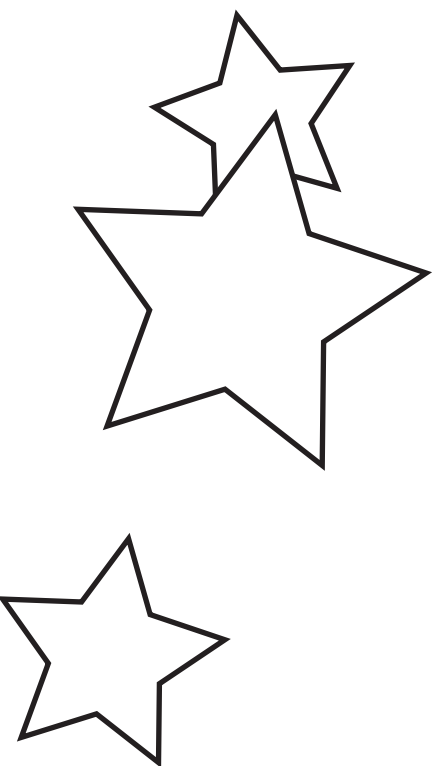
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- Matthew 20:16 (NIV)



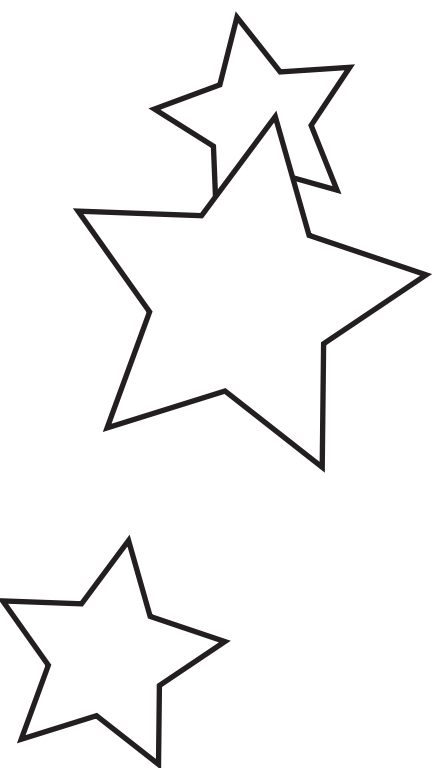
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