



FAMILY STUDY

Superheroes of the Faith

EPISODE
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"Superheroes of the Faith"

What Makes a Hero?

When we think of the word "hero," many images may come to mind. We might think of a masked, caped, super-human do-gooder who can fly and lift cars for the good of mankind. Or, we might think of firefighters, police or military men and women who bravely face danger to protect the rest of us. The most important question, however, is not what WE think makes a hero, but what GOD says is heroic.

Read Hebrews Chapter 11

In Hebrews chapter 11, we see a roll call of some of the most heroic figures in the Bible—and in all of history. What is striking about the characters listed in this passage is that none of them are super-humans, but rather ordinary people. So, what is it that makes them heroic in the sight of God? The answer is stated repeatedly. It is **by faith** that all of these Bible "heroes" became heroic. Hebrews 11:6 says "And without faith it is impossible to please God." Indeed, faith in God is essential.

By Faith: Hebrews 11:32-34

"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies." (Hebrews 11:32-34)

Let's take a brief look at some Bible events like those described in Hebrews 11:33-34. We encourage you to read each of these Bible stories with your family this week and discuss the importance of faith in each of these stories.

...Who Conquered Kingdoms

Gideon conquers the Midianites and Amalekites with only 300 men; (Judges chapters 7 and 8)

When Israel cried out to God to be saved from the oppressive Midianites and Amalekites, the LORD came to Gideon and instructed him to save Israel from the vast armies of their enemies. Through faith in God, Gideon was able to conquer the vast armies of Midian and Amalek with a mere 300 men.

...Who Administered Justice

Samuel leads all of Israel; (1 Samuel chapters 3 and 7)

The last judge of Israel, Samuel was a man of faith. As a little boy, God called him to lead the people of Israel in the ways of the Lord. All his life, Samuel followed the Lord and helped the Israelites to know what the Lord wanted them to do. Because Samuel had faith in God, he was used by God to guide an entire nation in the ways of the Lord.

...Who Gained What was Promised

Noah's family is saved from the flood and receives a promise; (Genesis chapters 6-9)

With no reason to expect a flood except for faith in God's warning, Noah built an ark and saved his family, just as God promised. When the waters

receded, Noah received a new promise direct from God never to flood the earth again.

...Who Shut the Mouths of Lions

Daniel survives a night in the lion's den; (Daniel chapter 6)

For his refusal to pray to false gods and for praying to God Almighty, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, which meant certain death. Yet, Daniel's faith and obedience delivered him from death, causing even the Babylonian king to praise God.

...Quenched the Fury of the Flames

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego survive the fiery furnace; (Daniel chapter 3)

For their refusal to bow down to false gods, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into a fiery furnace to execute them. But instead, the men are seen walking around inside the furnace with "one who looks like a son of man." Through their faith, they not only survived, but didn't even smell of smoke, causing Babylon's king to praise God.

...Who Escaped the Edge of the Sword

Daniel is delivered from King Saul; (1 Samuel chapters 19, 23, 24, 26)

When King Saul disobeyed God, the LORD chose David, a mere shepherd boy, to be Israel's next king. But it would be many years before David would take the throne, and in the meantime, David found himself on the run from Saul and his army, who wanted to kill him. Yet, Saul never succeeded in killing David because of God's protection. David remained faithful to God, and after King Saul died, David became king.

...Whose Weakness was Turned into Strength

David defeats Goliath; (1 Samuel chapter 17)

David showed great faith when he went down to fight the giant, Goliath. Though David was just a boy, he had faith that God would help him defeat Goliath. And he did.

...Who Became Powerful in Battle and Routed Foreign Armies

David becomes a mighty warrior; (2 Samuel chapter 8)

David was able to defeat the Philistines, the Moabites, the Jebusites, King Zobah, the Arameans, and many more. God gave David might and power to defeat the enemies of Israel. Because of David's faith, God used him to make Israel into a mighty nation.

True Heroes

As you can see, heroic traits all stem from faith in the one true God. Faith in God's goodness, power and faithfulness have brought out the most heroic characteristics described in the Bible and created the greatest heroes the world has ever known. In other words, to be truly heroic, you must have GOD as YOUR hero!

You Can Be A Hero!

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Philippians 4:13 tells us that "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Through faith in God Almighty, YOU can be a hero too. Who knows what God will accomplish through you? All you need is to be His willing servant, and to put your faith in Him! God bless you as you serve Him!