

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

1

JOSEPH SAVES EGYPT

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



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Memory Verse:

But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.
Isaiah 40:31 (MSG)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Joseph was

#2 - Discover what faith led Joseph to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Genesis 35:22b-29, Genesis 37:1-36, 39:1-40:23 (as background)

Genesis 46:1-47:12, 47:13-50:26 (as background)

Genesis 41:1-45:28



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Genesis 41-45

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Joseph

His Heroic Feat: Waited on God

Waiting on God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

If you will think back to our last of studies, you will remember that we have learned about Abraham and his son Isaac as well as Isaac's son Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons and God changed his name to Israel. God also continued keeping his promise to Abraham through Jacob.

The Bible tells us that, of Jacob's twelve sons, Joseph was his favorite. Joseph's brothers didn't like him being the favorite. It made them mad. It didn't help that God gave Joseph two dreams, both of which meant that his parents and brothers would one day bow down to him! It also didn't help that Joseph's father, Jacob, sent him to spy and report on his brothers. Joseph always told his dad if his brothers were doing the wrong thing.

So it happened that one day, when Joseph was on one of his trips to check on his brothers that they saw him coming up the road. He was still far enough away, that they planned to kill Joseph. They had had enough of their father's favorite son! When Joseph got closer, his brothers attacked him. They tore off the special coat that he wore; it had been a gift from his father. Then, they threw him in a deep hole in the ground. Reuben, the oldest, talked the brothers out of killing Joseph. Reuben wanted to return later and send Joseph back to his father, but while Reuben was away, the brothers sold Joseph to some traveling traders. The brothers covered Joseph's coat in blood and convinced their father that he had been attacked by some wild animal. What really happened is that the traveling traders sold Joseph into slavery in the country of Egypt. Joseph was only seventeen when he arrived in Egypt.

Joseph was bought by a man named Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Joseph was faithful to God, even in this strange, new place. Joseph could have chosen to be like everyone else around him, but he didn't. Because of Joseph's faithfulness, God blessed everything Joseph did. Potiphar saw this and put Joseph in charge of everything in his house. The Lord blessed Potiphar for his treatment of Joseph.

The day came though, when Potiphar's wife blamed Joseph for something he didn't do. It was Joseph's word against Potiphar's wife and Joseph was thrown into prison, the same prison Potiphar was in charge of. You might expect Joseph to have been mistreated, but the Lord was still with Joseph. And even after the false accusations and imprisonment, Potiphar put Joseph in charge and even gave prisoners to him to care for. Two of those prisoners had

worked for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. While under Joseph's care, they both had dreams. Joseph asked God's help to interpret the dreams and everything happened as Joseph said it would. Joseph asked Pharaoh's wine server to remember him to Pharaoh, but the wine server forgot about Joseph.

Then, two years later, Pharaoh had a couple of dreams. None of his magicians or wise men could interpret his dreams. It was then that the wine server remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh. Pharaoh had Joseph brought from prison and with God's interpretation, Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant. God was warning Pharaoh of a terrible famine that was coming soon. Provisions would need to be made if Egypt was going to survive. Pharaoh told his officials, "I don't think we can find anyone better than Joseph to take this job! God's Spirit is in him, making him very wise!" (Genesis 41:38 ERV) And so, just like that, Joseph went from prison to the palace. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the entire country. The only person more powerful than Joseph was Pharaoh.

Joseph began immediately. Preparations were made for storing the grain that would be harvested over the next seven years. "For seven years people had all the food they needed, but those years ended. Then the seven years of hunger began, just as Joseph had said. No food grew anywhere in any of the countries in that area. But in Egypt people had plenty to eat because Joseph had stored the grain." (Genesis 41:53-54 ERV)

Hooray for Joseph! Because of his faithfulness in some very bad situations, God used Joseph to save the people of Egypt. God also used Joseph to save his own family. (Genesis 42-45)

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Joseph waited on God. Joseph was sold as a slave when he was 17. Joseph was wrongly accused and thrown into prison. Through it all, though, Joseph waited on God. Joseph knew of God's faithfulness and goodness.

Maybe some difficult things have happened in your life. How are you reacting to those things? Follow Joseph's example.

Our memory verse says, "But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind. (Isaiah 40:31 MSG) Don't you want to run the race of faith and not get tired and lag behind?"



NEXT WEEK
Moses Confronts Pharaoh

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

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We have been learning about Abraham and his son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons. The Bible tells us that Joseph was Jacob's favorite. Joseph's brothers didn't like him being the favorite. It made them mad. It didn't help that Joseph's father sent him to spy and report on his brothers. Joseph always told his dad if his brothers were doing the wrong thing.

So it happened that one day, when Joseph was on one of his trips to check on his brothers that they saw him coming up the road. He was still far enough away, that they planned to kill Joseph! When Joseph got closer, his brothers attacked him. They threw him in a deep hole in the ground. But instead of killing him, they sold Joseph to some traveling traders and told their father that he had been attacked by some wild animal. What really happened is that the traveling traders sold Joseph into slavery in the country of Egypt. Joseph was only seventeen when he arrived in Egypt.

Joseph was bought by a man named Potiphar and he took care of Potiphar's house. Joseph was faithful to God, even in this strange, new place. Joseph could have chosen to be like everyone else around him, but he didn't. He got blamed for doing something bad, even though he didn't do it. Joseph was thrown into prison, but God was still with Joseph. Joseph took care of the prison just like he took care of Potiphar's house. He even told some of the prisoners what their dreams meant.

Joseph was in prison for many years. He was there until Pharaoh had a couple of dreams. None of his magicians or wise men could interpret his dreams. Pharaoh had Joseph brought from prison and with God's help, Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant. God was warning Pharaoh of a terrible famine that was coming soon. They needed to get ready. Pharaoh knew just the man for the job. Pharaoh told his officials, "I don't think we can find anyone better than Joseph to take this job! God's Spirit is in him, making him very wise!" (Genesis 41:38 ERV) And so, just like that, Joseph went from prison to the palace. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the entire country. The only person more powerful than Joseph was Pharaoh. Joseph began immediately. "For seven years people had all the food they needed, but those years ended. Then the seven years of hunger began, just as Joseph had said. No food grew anywhere in any of the countries in that area. But in Egypt people had plenty to eat because Joseph had stored the grain." (Genesis 41:53-54 ERV)

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ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Provide pictures of eagles and encourage your students to make a memory verse poster.
- Play newspaper reporters and write articles about each of the major events in the life of Joseph. Assign a different event to each student. When written, paste the stories on a large sheet of newsprint and post in your Bible study area.
- If you haven't started a "Heroes Banner" do so. On a long strip of brown craft paper, write the heading "Heroes of the Faith." Add each hero, being sure to make note of his heroic feat. (Be sure that you allow enough space for all 52 heroes!)
- Watch excerpts from the cartoon "Joseph King of Dreams."
- Sing "Isaiah 40:31," "I Waited for the Lord," "In the Secret," "Have Faith in God," or other songs related to the lesson.
- Try your hand at Hieroglyphics or Egyptian Math. Details can be found on the internet.
- See how God is keeping His promise to Abraham to make a great nation from him. Read Genesis 35:23-26 and 46:8-27. Figure up how many people have been added. Make a chart.
- **For more training:** What else made Joseph a hero? Read about how he treated his brothers after his father's death. (Genesis 47:13-27, 50:15-26, Acts 7:8-16) What can you learn from his response.
- **For more training:** Discuss Joseph's wrongful accusation and his response. (Genesis 39:6-20) Then read and discuss the following Scriptures: Job 31:1-4, Matthew 5:27-28, 2 Timothy 2:22 and 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.

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who wait upon God
get fresh strength.
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They run
and don't get tired,
they walk
and don't lag behind.
Isaiah 40:31

HEROES

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Joseph Saves Egypt

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Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-30

Memory verse:

But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind. Isaiah 40:31

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read Genesis 41:38. What did Pharaoh say about Joseph's "power?"

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Beginning at the arrow, mark through two letters and write every third letter in the spaces below to complete the memory verse.

h e t d h h v u e w i y z k r q y u d n n p u a o l n h y d d f d i o s e n w u t o m g n i e v e t r s t w u i q i r e h e w i d f t e g h n e i t y s r w i l a k o l m u k n i o f u n e r d w e d q a o d a n z c u i v i a e j g s o b w i e m i h j p i f y n s j d

But those who wait upon God get fresh strength.
They spread their wings and soar like eagles,

-----.

Isaiah 40:31

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Abraham

- Isaac

- Jacob

- twelve sons

- favorite

- Joseph

- faithful

- waited

- saved Egypt

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
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fe t d h h v u e w i y z k r q y u d n n p u a o l n h y d d f d i o s e n w u t o m g n i e v e t r s t w u i q i r e h e w i d f t e g h n e i f t y s r w i l a k o l m u k n i c i f u n e r d w e d q a o d a n z c u i v i a e j g s o b w i e m i h j p i f y n s j d

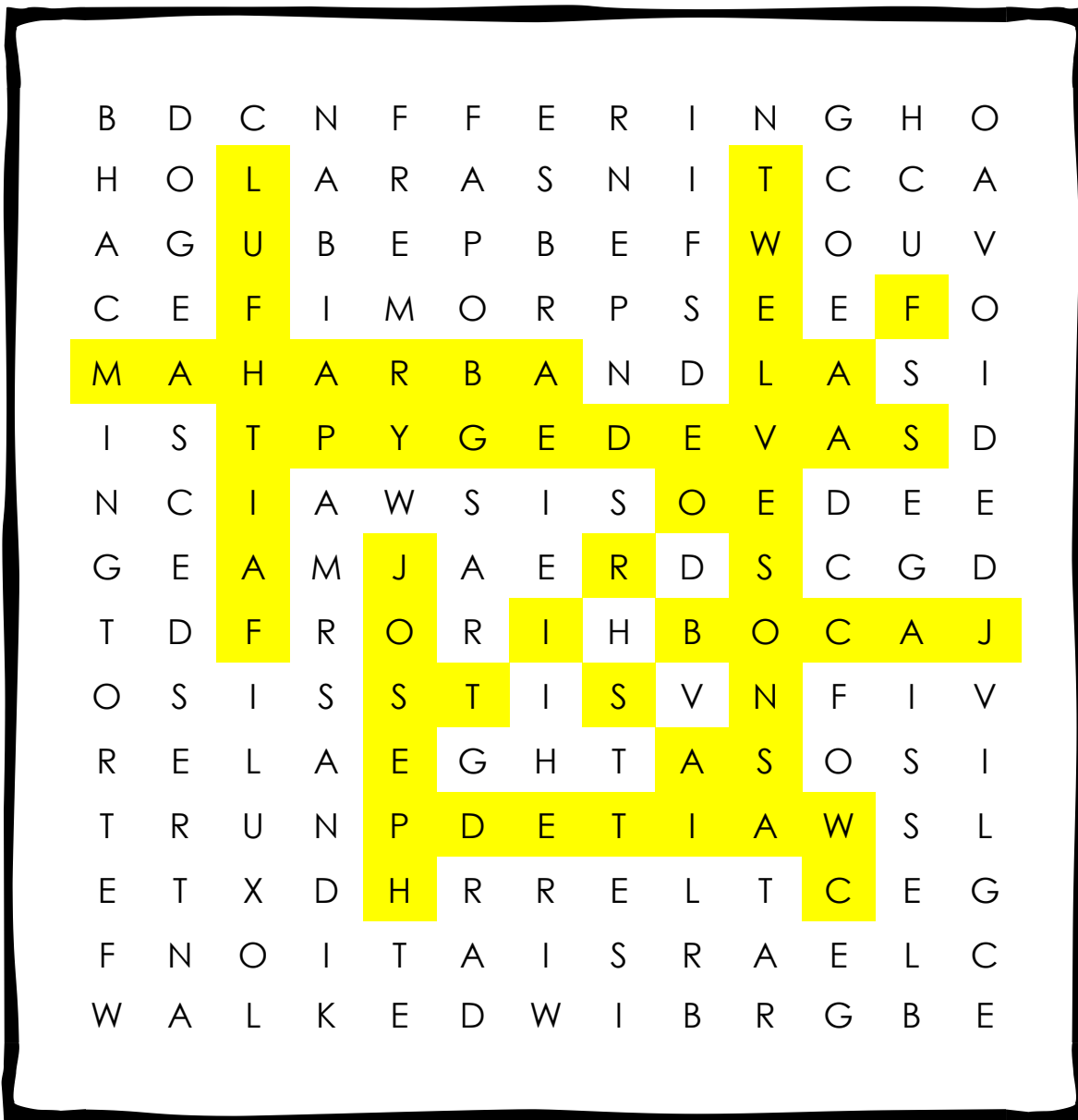
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WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page



- Abraham

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