

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

**48**

**JESUS-RETURNING KING**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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# 48

## JESUS-RETURNING KING

### Memory Verse:

And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in His sight. (2 Peter 3:14 NLT)

### Lesson Goals:

- #1 - Understand how extraordinary Jesus was
- #2 - Discover what obedience will lead Jesus 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:

Acts 1:6-11, Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 2 Peter 3:1-15

1 Corinthians 15

Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 11

Psalms 146

Exodus 15:18

Luke 1:26-33

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Revelation 22:1-5



# 48

## JESUS-RETURNING KING

Acts 1:6-11, Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 2 Peter 3:1-15

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:** Jesus

**His Heroic Feat:** Will Obey God and Return for His Followers

Obedying God and returning for His followers may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

As we have looked at lessons about Paul and Timothy, we have seen references to what the Bible calls the "last days." Paul told Timothy that in the last days people would be lovers of themselves and of money. They would be proud, abusive, ungrateful and disobedient to their parents. They would love pleasure instead of choosing to love God. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

This idea of the last days was nothing new when Paul was writing Timothy. The last days were mentioned by the prophets Isaiah, Hosea and Micah. And then, while Jesus was still on the earth, His disciples asked Him one day, "Tell us when these things will happen? And what will be the sign that it is time for You to come again and for this age to end?" (Matthew 24:3 NCV) You see, Jesus' return is a sign of the "last days."

Did you know that Jesus is going to return one day? Let's review something that happened after Jesus' resurrection. When the disciples were all together with Jesus, He told them, "the Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know." (Acts 1:7 NCV) Then Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would be given to them. After Jesus had said this, He was lifted up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from them. When they stood staring into heaven an angel asked them what they were doing and then told them, "Jesus, whom you saw taken up from you into heaven, will come back the same way you saw Him go." (Acts 1:11 NCV) Isn't that great news?

Now that you know Jesus is coming back, don't you want to be prepared? Well, if the dates and times aren't for us to know, how can we know when He is coming back? Jesus actually explained that very thing to His disciples. He warned the disciples to be careful. Many false teachers would come and try to fool them. He also said that there would be lots of wars, but He told them not to be afraid. "These things must happen before the end comes." (Matthew 24:6b NCV) Jesus continued naming the things that must happen first—"there will be times when there is no food for people to eat, and there will be earthquakes in different places." (Matthew 24:7 NCV) That may sound scary, but let's think about it a minute. Are wars anything new? No, wars have been going on for a long time. How about when there is no food? Nothing new there, either. Earthquakes? No. So how does that help us know when Jesus is returning? Jesus Himself explained, "These things are like the first pains when something new is about to be born." (Matthew 24:8 NCV) Yes, these are things that have been around a long time, but when they happen closer and closer together we can know that we are getting nearer to the time when Jesus will return. Jesus also said something else would happen before the end comes, "the Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation." (Matthew 24:14 NCV)

And then, when God is ready, He will give the word and Jesus will obey. "The Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. And those who have died believing in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive will be gathered up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NCV) I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait! How exciting it will be!

So, now we know the timing a little better and we know what to expect as we wait for Jesus to return, but the timing isn't exact. There is no way to know the exact day or hour. "No one knows when that day or time will be, not the angels in heaven, not even the Son. Only the Father knows." (Matthew 24:36 NCV) It has been two thousand years, more or less, since Jesus made this promise and it hasn't happened, yet. But don't for a minute think that He has forgotten. Jesus hasn't returned yet, because "God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but He wants all people to change their hearts and lives." (2 Peter 3:9b NCV) You see, when Jesus returns, He does so to take His followers home to heaven. His followers are those who made a decision one day in their life to follow Jesus.

So, where do you stand? Have you decided to follow Jesus? If not, there are a few things you need to know. 1) You are a sinner, all of us are. (Romans 3:23) 2) Sinners deserve death. God offers life instead. 3) Before you even realized you needed help, Jesus died for you. (Romans 5:8) and 4) If with your mouth you confess Jesus as Lord and trust that God raised Him from the dead . . . you will be saved! (Romans 10:9) Are you ready to do that?

Do you remember when we studied about our hero, Paul? When he knew his life had come to an end, he talked about the crown he would receive in heaven. The crown wasn't just for him, though. It is for everyone who longs for Jesus to return. When His return is what you are longing for, and you realize He is waiting for people to turn from their sin and follow Him, with all of your heart you will want to share the Good News that you have allowed to change your life.

And when that day finally arrives, once we are finally with Jesus, we will reign with Him forever!

### **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. One day, Jesus will obey God and return for His followers. He hasn't done that yet, because God is being patient. God doesn't want anyone to die without having chosen to follow Him. But the day will come.

The way we live while we are waiting for His return is important. "And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight." (2 Peter 3:14 NLT)



**NEXT WEEK**  
Christmas Lesson: Zacharias

# 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.

**Our hero:** Jesus

**His Heroic Feat:** Will Obey God and Return for His Followers

Obedying God and returning for His followers may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Did you know that Jesus is going to return one day? He told His disciples He would. Jesus said there were a lot of mansions in heaven. He told His disciples He was going back to heaven to get the mansions ready for them to move there one day. The mansions can be for you, too. How will we know where the mansions are and how to get there, though? Jesus told us that, too. He said that we get there by following Him.

If Jesus is going to return, how will it happen? After Jesus came back from the dead, He was lifted up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from His disciples who had been with Him. When they stood staring into heaven an angel told them, "Jesus, whom you saw taken up from you into heaven, will come back the same way you saw Him go." (Acts 1:11 NCV) Isn't that great news?

One day, when God is ready, He will tell Jesus to come back and Jesus will obey. Jesus will come down from heaven with a loud command. Then there will be a trumpet call from God. And we will be gathered up in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air. And we will be with Him forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NCV) I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait! How exciting!

And when that day finally arrives, once we are finally with Jesus, we will reign with Him forever!

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on large, white cloud shaped pieces of paper. Decorate with cotton balls.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "When We All Get to Heaven," "I'll Fly Away," "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "Joy to the World" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Listen to "Fly" by FFH, "Where I Belong" by Building 429, "We Shall Behold Him," by Sandi Patty and "The Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's Messiah.
- Make small paper dolls of Jesus. Paste them to a small craft stick. Then, insert the craft stick into a marshmallow. Talk about Jesus' ascension and the rapture of believers one day!
- Make trumpets by rolling construction paper into the shape of a cone. Talk about the trumpet call of God (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- **For more training:** Read and discuss John 14:1-6 in light of the lesson.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss 2 Peter 3:1-15a. Now, focus on the memory verse. "Pure and blameless" means without spot and without blame. "Here Peter says it should be our utmost concern that we be found not only without the actuality of blame, but also without even the possibility of moral blame."\* Discuss practical ways to put this verse into practice.
- **For more training:** Read the following comparisons and discuss in light of the lesson: Matthew 24: 32-33, 36-42.

Zodhiates, Spiros, Th.D, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. AMG Publishers. Chattanooga, TN. 1992. p. 139.

And so, dear friends,  
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2 Peter 3:14

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# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Jesus-Returning King

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# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:**

Acts 1:6-11, Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 2 Peter 3:1-15

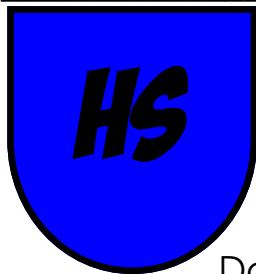
**Memory verse:**

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**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? \_\_\_\_\_

We have talked about a lot of heroes of the faith. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and Hebrews 12:1-3. How do these verses connect with our lesson?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Unscramble the words in parenthesis to find out how you should be  
living as you wait for Jesus' return.

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2 Peter 3:14

WORD

SEARCH!

N	N	L	H	J	P	T	S	O	G	F	H	B
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T	T	P	N	H	A	E	R	A	D	E	A	N
E	S	U	E	E	F	A	M	I	N	E	M	C
R	E	F	I	L	E	R	U	P	E	V	I	L
L	A	I	T	G	A	T	P	S	W	A	N	O
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I	A	L	P	S	C	Q	I	G	S	U	N	D
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- last days
- Jesus will return
- wars
- earthquakes
- famine
- Good News spread
- in clouds
- God is patient
- live pure life

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
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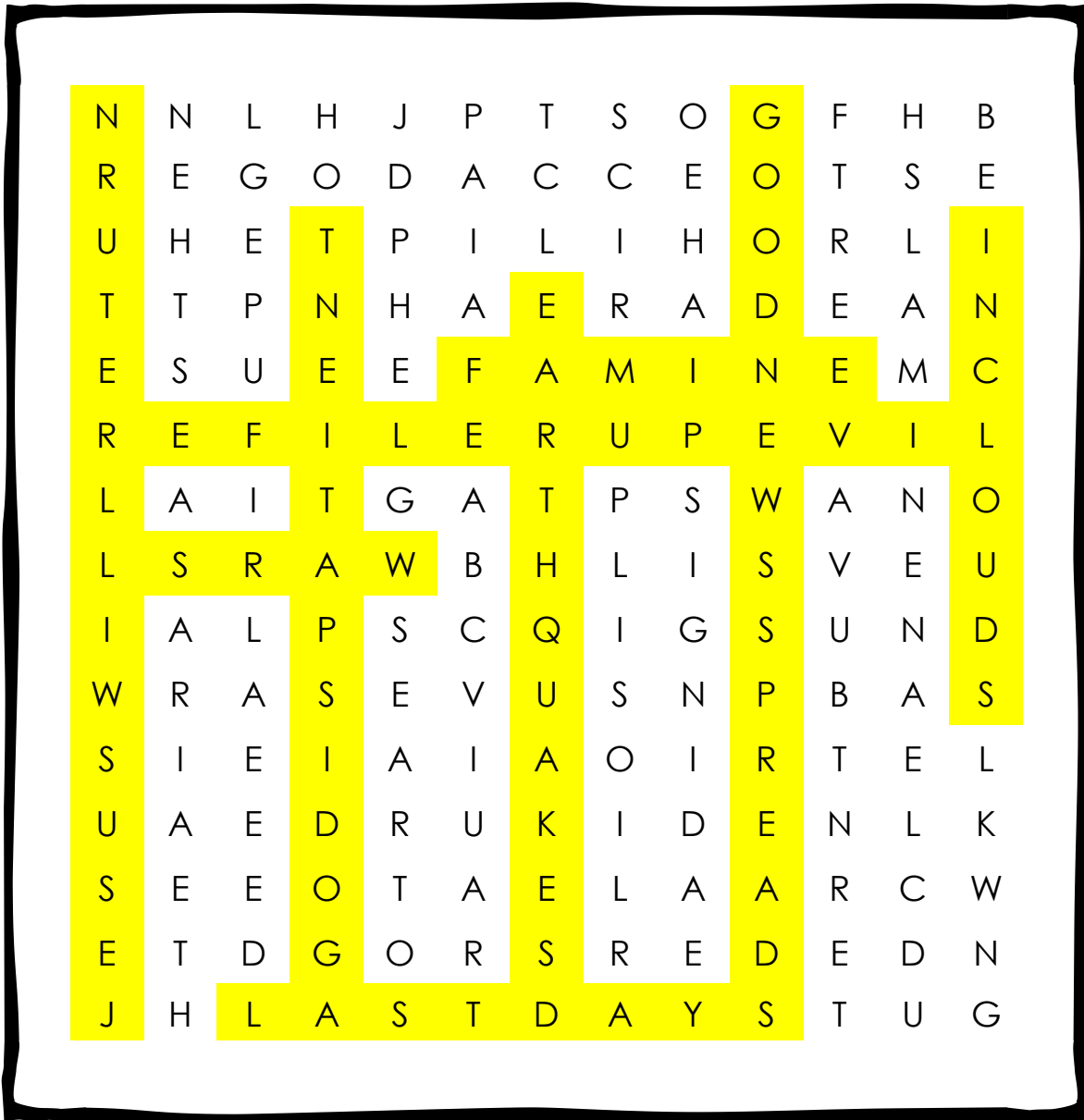
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# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page



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