

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

GOD’S SUPERHEROES: ADVENTURES IN FAITH (HEB 11.1-2)

Dear Superhero of the LORD,

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a superhero in the faith? Superheroes develop by discovering that they can trust the LORD. As they rely on that trust in the LORD they grow into the design that the LORD has planned for them. The LORD builds our faith as we learn from other Christians’ experiences and see the LORD at work in, through, and around us. We will focus on several biblical personalities and see how their faith in the LORD enabled them to overcome the challenges in their lives and to become superheroes as they exercise their superpowers of Faith, Forgiveness, Courage, Friendship, and Trust!

OPERATION OVERVIEW

MONDAY OPERATION 1	TUESDAY OPERATION 2	WEDNESDAY OPERATION 3	THURSDAY OPERATION 4	FRIDAY OPERATION 5
<p>Abraham & Sarah: “If God Said It, He Will Do It”</p> <p><i>Superpower:</i> FAITH</p>	<p>Joseph: “Hang In There”</p> <p><i>Superpower:</i> FORGIVENESS</p>	<p>Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego: “I Said What I Said”</p> <p><i>Superpower:</i> COURAGE</p>	<p>Mary, Martha & Lazarus: “You’ve Got A Friend In Me”</p> <p><i>Superpower:</i> FRIENDSHIP</p>	<p>Peter: “You Can Count On Me”</p> <p><i>Superpower:</i> TRUST</p>
<p>Prototype: Gen 17.17-19; 21.1-3; Heb 11.1</p>	<p>Prototype: Gen 37.28, 35; 39.2, 17-21; 41.39-40</p>	<p>Prototype: Dan 3.14-18, 26-27</p>	<p>Prototype: John 11.32-38, 43-44; 12.1-3</p>	<p>Prototype: Matt 14.22-31</p>
<p>Ammunition: Heb 11.1</p>	<p>Ammunition: Gen 45.8</p>	<p>Ammunition: Dan 3.18</p>	<p>Ammunition: John 11.5</p>	<p>Ammunition: Matt 14.29</p>

Key Verse: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for (Heb 11.1-2, NIV).

(MONDAY) OPERATION 1: Abraham & Sarah: “If God Said It, He Will Do It”

Superpower: FAITH

Prototype: Gen 17.17-19; 21.1-3; Heb 11.1

Ammunition: *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see, (Heb 11.1, NIV).*

Missions:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, believers should be able to do the following:

1. Understand the importance of trusting God to keep His promises.
2. Follow God's direction, even when unable to understand His leading.

Origins: God promised Abraham that through him a great nation would arise. Yet, many years later, when the divinely appointed time came near for Abraham's wife to conceive a child, Abraham doubted God's promise because of their advanced ages. This lesson examines how Abraham's growing faith allowed him to discover that the omnipotent, sovereign God had the power to do immeasurably more than he could think or imagine. Christians should believe that God keeps His promises, even when they do not come to fruition when we expect them to do.

Code Words:

- **Covenant:** a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement.
- **Faith:** complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Small Group Discussion:

1. Abraham worked through personal doubts and maintained his faith in God. Are there circumstances in your life where doubt is hindering you from believing God's Word?
2. When answers to your prayers are delayed, what will you do to maintain your faith and relationship with God?
3. What are some reasons why Christians lose faith and doubt or question God's ability to help them during times of uncertainty and or difficulty?

Application

Abraham maintained his faith in God even when the reality of having a son seemed bleak. Never forget that the promises of God are dependable. Delay is not denial. “Though it lingers, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay,” (Hab 2.3, NIV).

Victory

Abraham considered his and Sarah's advanced ages and rationalized that there was no way that they could conceive a child. What challenges or obstacles do you allow to block your blessings? Believers should rest in the assurance that nothing is impossible with God.

Mission Complete

Heavenly Father, when our faith is tested, we find comfort in Your promise never to leave or forsake us. Thank You for Your constant presence with us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Operation 1: Activity

Searching for Words

Find the listed words from today's lesson in the word search below.

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

COVENANT

LAUGHED

WIFE

FAITH

SON

ISAAC

ABRAHAM

GOD

EVERLASTING

SARAH

ISHMAEL

DESCENDANTS

CHILD

BLESSING

LORD

(TUESDAY) OPERATION 2: Joseph: “Hang In There”

Superpower: FORGIVENESS

Prototype: Gen 37.28, 35; 39.2, 17-21; 41.39-40

Ammunition: *So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt, (Gen 45.8, NIV).*

Missions:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, believers should be able to do the following:

1. Understand the importance of forgiveness, even during times of great adversity.
2. Understand that the act of forgiveness is possible through the aid and power of the Holy Spirit.

Origins: There are times when one’s gifts, talents, and abilities may be misjudged by others because they do not understand how God strategically assigns people to their life work according to His divine plan. God had special plans for Joseph to rise to greatness in Egypt. Joseph’s ability to interpret dreams foretold that he would become his family’s superior. When Joseph shared his dreams with his brothers, they were furious. The favor demonstrated in Joseph’s life enraged his brothers, so much so that they plotted to send him away. The brothers cruelly sold Joseph into slavery. What the brothers did not realize was that it was God’s plan that Joseph would rise to greatness in Egypt. Without this divine series of events, Jacob’s family would have starved in Canaan.

Code Words:

- **Favor:** a feeling or show of approval or preference.
- **Forgiveness:** the action or process of forgiving or being forgiven.

Small Group Discussion:

1. How was Joseph able to be consistent in character and faith despite hardships and setbacks?
2. What tools or methods do you use to persevere through difficult or challenging times?
3. Do you have unforgiveness toward someone who has knowingly or unknowingly offended you? What hinders you from forgiving him/her?

Application

Eventually, Joseph realized that his struggles were a necessary part of God's plan for his life. Believers should know that the adversities of life are inevitable but usually temporary. Sometimes, God turns situations around – and sometimes, He gives the grace to endure (2 Cor 12.9). Those who trust God no matter what will be better for having walked through their trials with Him.

Victory

Sometimes life offers us what some call a “raw deal.” Believers are not exempt from being mistreated or disappointed by difficult circumstances of life. Yet, if we maintain a positive attitude and strive to keep a spirit of forgiveness when we are wronged, God will move us from adversity to victory.

Mission Complete

Heavenly Father, help us to reflect Your image and walk in a spirit of forgiveness when we are mistreated. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Operation 2: Activity

12 words: How many new words can you create by rearranging the letters in the word *FORGIVENESS*. Create 1 nine-letter word; 2 eight-letter words; 3 seven-letter words; 2 six-letter words; 1 five-letter word; and 3 four-letter words.

1 nine-letter word: _____

2 eight-letter words:

3 seven-letter words:

2 six-letter words:

1 five-letter word: _____

3 four-letter words:

(WEDNESDAY) OPERATION 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: “I Said What I Said”

Superpower: COURAGE

Prototype: Dan 3.14-18, 26-27

Ammunition: *But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up, (Dan 3.18, NIV).*

Missions:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, believers should be able to do the following:

1. Explain why believers should be willing to stand up for their beliefs and fear God rather than people.
2. Appreciate the importance of maintaining faith in God, even when they do not understand God's leading.

Origins: The setting occurs during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 BC) and involves three Jewish captives of the Babylonian conquest of Judah. Their names were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, but their captors forced them to take the Babylonian names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. By faith, God empowered the three young men to refuse the king's order to bow down and worship a golden image. According to the law, the men received the sentence of death in a blazing furnace. Before being condemned to the fire, they bravely told the king that they would not bow to another god even if their God did not rescue them from the fiery furnace.

Code Words:

- **Amazement:** a feeling of great surprise and wonder.
- **Furious:** extremely angry; enraged with violent passion.

Small Group Discussion:

1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego met their promised fate with courage and confidence. What can believers learn from their example?
2. Think of a time when you were called to take a courageous stand against some act of injustice. Were you able to respond in courage and faith? Discuss.

Application

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were subjected to practices that were contrary to their faith teachings. However, those practices did not alter their devotion to God. Let us follow the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and stand boldly in our allegiance to God.

Victory

The king elevated Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to position of prestige as staff servants, yet their palace status did not sway them from honoring God with their actions and obedience. When challenged by opposition to their faith, believers' automatic reaction should be to respond with courage and conviction that honors God and upholds the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Mission Complete

Heavenly Father, grant us the courage to trust You even when facing situations that could possibly crush us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Operation 3: Activity

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, place a number into each box so that each row across, each column down, and each small 3 x 3 square within the larger diagram (there are 9 of these) will contain every number from 1 through 9. In other words, no number will appear more than once in any row, column, or smaller 3 x 3 square. Working with the numbers already given as a guide, complete each diagram with the missing numbers that will lead to the correct solution.

8	5		1			7		
3	2			4	8			
	9		3				8	6
		9	8	5		6		
	4	3				8	5	
		8		7	4	3		
7	6				1		9	
			5	8			7	4
		1			7		6	3

(THURSDAY) OPERATION 4: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: “You’ve Got A Friend In Me”

Superpower: FRIENDSHIP

Prototype: John 11.32-38, 43-44; 12.1-3

Ammunition: *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, (John 11.5, NIV).*

Missions:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, believers should be able to do the following:

1. Describe how Jesus is a trusted friend during happy or difficult times.
2. Give evidence of Jesus’ extraordinary resurrection power.

Origins: When Jesus heard from His close friends Mary and Martha that their brother, Lazarus, was dead, Jesus was moved with grief and compassion. He did not, however, go to Bethany right away because He already knew what He was going to do to restore Lazarus’ life and bring glory to God. After delaying for two days, Jesus went to Bethany. When He reached the tomb where Lazarus was, He called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” Suddenly the once-dead Lazarus emerged from the tomb, wrapped in his grave clothes. This lesson highlights an extraordinary demonstration of Jesus’ power.

Code Words:

- **Glory:** an expression of tremendous respect, awe, and reverence.
- **Weeping:** an overwhelming expression of sorrow or grief, usually with tears.

Small Group Discussion:

1. Jesus was careful not to hurry to Bethany when He learned of Lazarus’ death. Why did Jesus delay His visit?
2. It is often said that “Jesus’ delay is not a denial.” What does this phrase mean to you personally and in relation to this story?
3. True friends recognize the worth of their friends and reciprocate kindness to each other. Based on this statement, are you a good friend to others?

Application

Jesus prayed before summoning Lazarus from the grave. Lazarus, wrapped in his burial clothes, transitioned from death to life. God heard Jesus’ prayer and answered through a miraculous display of power and authority. Jesus prayed in great faith knowing that “with God all things are possible” (Matt 19.26).

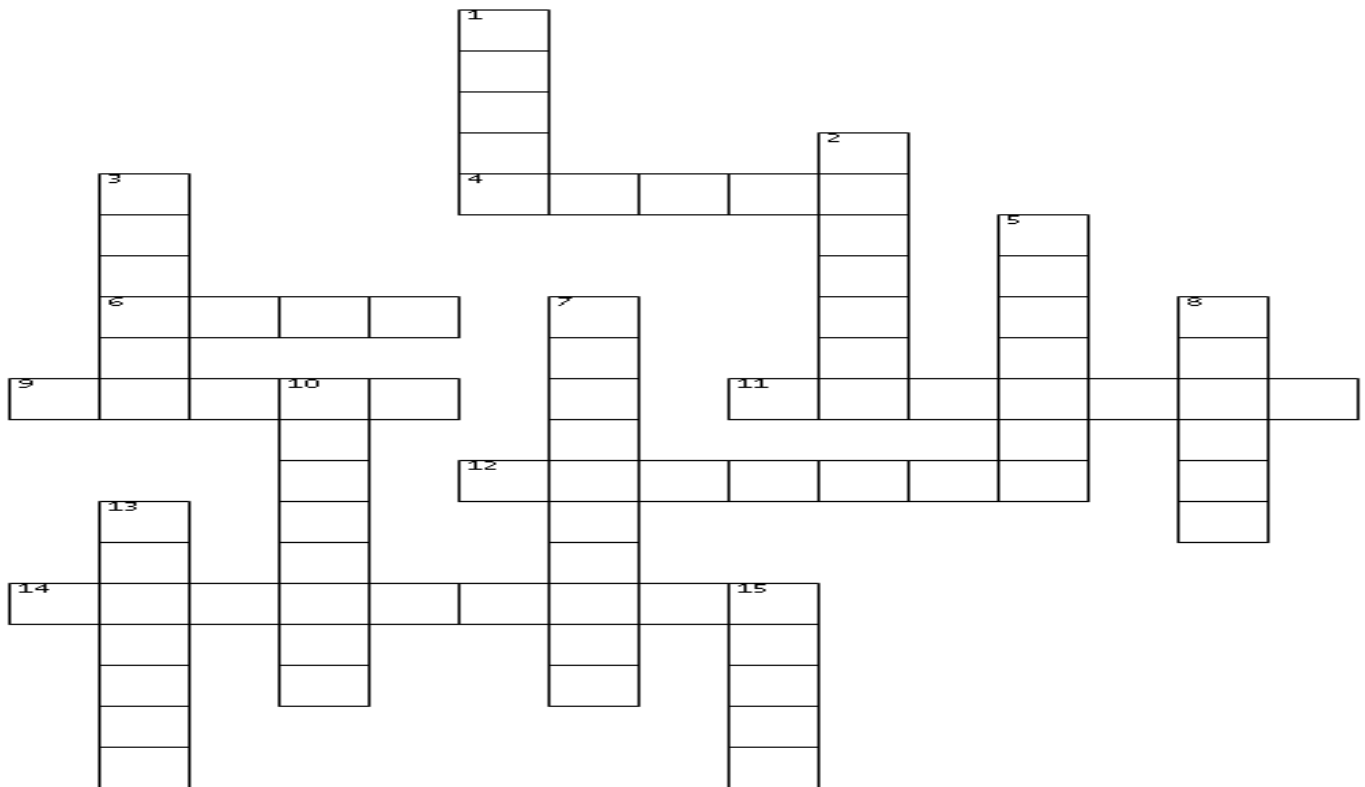
Victory

Like anyone else, Jesus experienced the full range of human emotions. Upon learning of Lazarus' death, Jesus wept. Though deeply grieved, Jesus never lost sight of His true mission of bringing glory of God. Can God count on you to bring Him glory, even during times of great loss or difficulty?

Mission Complete

Heavenly Father, grant us the joy of true friendship as shared between Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Operation 4: Activity



ACROSS

4. Covered the opening of the cave (v38)
6. The place where Lazarus was laid
9. What we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Heb 11.1)
11. The place where Jesus came after Passover (v1)
12. Brother of Mary and Martha
14. The posture of Jesus at the table (v2)

DOWN

1. Lord if you had been here my brother would not have died
2. Poured on the feet of Jesus
3. Sister of Lazarus and Mary
5. Worn by around Lazarus after his death (v44)
7. Deeply moved
8. Jesus was invited to (V2)
10. Deeply moved in the Spirit
13. Overwhelming expression of sorrow
15. Tremendous respect and awe

(FRIDAY) OPERATION 5: Peter: “You Can Count On Me”

Superpower: TRUST

Prototype: Matthew 14.22-31

Ammunition: *“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus, (Matt 14.29, NIV).*

Missions:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, believers should be able to do the following:

1. Analyze how faith and trust in God grow over time.
2. Appreciate the fact that even when we waver in our faith, Jesus does not reject us.

Origins: This lesson highlights how doubt can hinder believers in their trusting Jesus' ability to rescue them from seemingly impossible situations. When Jesus invited Peter to come to Him, Peter was enthusiastic about leaving the boat to walk on water to meet Jesus. Peter's enthusiasm was short-lived, however, when he focused on the wind and waves. Taking his eyes off Jesus, Peter focused on the surrounding dangers. Sensing the real problem, Jesus encouraged Peter not to fear. Although Peter failed his faith test in that moment, Jesus saved him from sinking. Jesus provides a living hope to those who place their faith in Him.

Code Words:

- **Afraid:** feeling fear or anxiety; frightened.
- **Sink:** to descend below the surface of something, especially of a liquid; to become submerged.

Group Discussion:

1. How do you think Peter's “walking on water” experience changed his life, as well as the lives of those who witnessed the amazing encounter?
2. Do you believe that trusting God involves taking risks? Why or why not?

Application

Prayer and focus on God are two essentials for living a Christ-centered life. *Prayer* is the way that we communicate with God, and *focus* helps us to align our lives to our faith teachings. A faithful Christian must do both – pray and obey God's word.

Victory

Peter's trust level was tested. Although Peter enthusiastically stepped out in faith, his inability to stay focused on Jesus caused him to sink and fail his trust test. As we grow spiritually, let us diligently strive to abolish worldly distractions that keep us from focusing on Jesus.

Mission Complete

Heavenly Father, as we face life's circumstances, please grant us determination to trust You even in our moments of doubt. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Operation 5: Activity (Hint: the Application Section provides the answer to the phrase)

Solve the anagrams to reveal the letters for the final message. Solve the anagrams in the top part of the puzzle. Use the circled letters from the words in the top part to complete the final word or phrase at the bottom. Each circled letter is used just once.

NCISSRTHAI

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TLFFHIUA

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DGOS

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SMUT

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YPRA

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NAD

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RWDO

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EBYO

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VBS EXTRA

Black History Heroes

Chadwick Aaron Boseman – American Actor, Playwright – November 29, 1976-August 28, 2020

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Chadwick-Boseman>

John Robert Lewis – Civil Rights Leader, Politician – February 21, 1940-July 17, 2020

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Lewis-American-civil-rights-leader-and-politician>

Harriet Tubman – Abolitionist – March 1822-March 10, 1913

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/harriet-tubman>

Nannie Helen Burroughs – Educator, Suffragist, Civil Rights Activist – May 2, 1879-May 20, 1961

<https://www.nps.gov/cawo/learn/historyculture/nannie-helen-burroughs.htm>

Justin J. Pearson – Tennessee House of Representatives – January 7, 1995-

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/legislatorinfo/member.aspx?district=h86>