



HEROES OF THE FAITH



THIS PROGRAM

There are many stories in the bible of men and women putting their faith into action and achieving great things for God. In this program, we are learning about some of these 'heroes of the faith' listed in Hebrews 11. Our heart is that your pre-schoolers will be encouraged that they, too, can be strong and courageous, believing in God. As we read each story and what we can learn from them, we are teaching the kids that faith is believing in God, He can help us to be strong and have courage!

Our repeated phrase is: Faith is believing in God, He can help us to be strong and have courage!

This weeks key point: God always keeps his promise.

Our Memory Verse is: "So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the LORD!" - Psalm 31:24 (NLT)

WEEK 11: JESUS IS KING - HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

Wrapping up our series we are learning about the greatest hero of them all... Jesus!! Jesus is God's son and our King. At Christmas we celebrate our King Jesus and thank Him for saving us. The day Jesus was born on earth is one of the happiest days in the world, because He was born to save us all. There is no Hero of the faith that compares to Jesus and there will never be a hero like him that compares. We want our preschoolers to declare that **Jesus is King - Happy Birthday Jesus!!**

RESOURCES

- Music for the game
- A christmas star for the illustration
- Coloured cardstock, the Wk 11 craft template, glue, colouring pencils and stapler for the craft
- The Storybook bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones for connect groups.

GAME: OH CHRISTMAS TREE!

Explain to the kids that in this game the kids are going to become Christmas trees when the music stops (you could play 'Oh Christmas tree' to dance too). But, they must listen closely if they should be Big, middle or small sized trees. If you shout 'big' they must stand up with their feet together and with their hands above their head in a point. If you shout 'middle' they must squat their knees together and put their hands above their head in a point. If you shout 'little' they must sit down with legs crossed and put their hands above head in a point. Practice these positions until they grasp them before playing the music, pausing it and shouting out a size. The fastest player overall, wins! (You can play elimination of the slowest if you wish).

VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

Today we are learning about how Jesus is our ULTIMATE Hero of the Faith!! When Jesus was born, all the angels in heaven celebrated because it was good news for everybody in the whole world. Jesus was here! He had come to save us. Jesus saves us by forgiving us for the wrong things we do so we can be close with God and go to heaven one day. All we have to do is believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him as our King. Today, we are celebrating Jesus' birthday, the day when our King was born! Do you believe in Jesus? If you do, shout '**Jesus is King!**' now shout **Happy birthday Jesus.**

1. What was the name of Jesus' mother and father?
2. Where was Jesus born?
3. Why was it so special that Jesus was born so that all the angels celebrated. What makes Jesus so special to us?

ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Show the kids a christmas star - ask them what it is? Where do we find christmas stars? Tell them the story of the three wise men who followed the star when Jesus was born. They brought gifts with them because they knew Jesus was king! (The Jesus Storybook Bible pp 192-199 is a good place for inspiration to tell the story). Just like the three wise men followed the star to find King Jesus, we can follow Jesus as our King too! In fact if we do, one day we'll go to heaven to be with Jesus forever!

CONNECT GROUP & STORY TIME

Read 'He's Here!' and 'The Light of the Whole World' in The Jesus Storybook bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones p.176 - 191

1. Who did God send to us to rescue the world?
2. Where was baby Jesus born?
3. God sent an angel to tell some people the good news! Who did he tell?
4. Where did the Shepherds go after they angels left?
5. Jesus is our King who saves us. Why do we celebrate Christmas?

Ask the kids if they want to follow Jesus as their king and ask Him into their hearts? Have those kids repeat a salvation prayer.

CRAFT: HAPPY BIRTHDAY KING JESUS!

1. Prepare this craft by giving each child ten candles cut from the week 11 Craft template and some colouring pencils. Also staple together 2 pieces of A4 coloured cardstock for each child so they are side by side (they will become a crown soon).
2. Explain to the kids that today they will be making a birthday crown for King Jesus to remind them that at Christmas we celebrate His birthday.
3. First, have the kids colour in the candles with bright colours.
4. Next give them their coloured cardstock and have them glue the candles along the top edge (facing out).
5. Finally fit the crown around the child's head and staple it together. Sing 'Happy birthday' to Jesus! (label the crafts, too!)