



THIS PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

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 kids will see the many ways they can activate their faith in their lives, learning from these great men and women who have gone before us. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. We don't trust our feelings, or what the circumstance looks like - instead we have faith in God!

Our Repeated phrase is: In this program we are looking at heroes in the bible who stepped out in faith, so we can be encouraged to do the same.

Memory Verse: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"- Hebrews 11:1

WEEK 7: SAMSON

God loves to empower His people! In Judges 13-16, Samson is set apart for God's service. The Spirit of God is upon Samson, empowering him to do mighty deeds to bring freedom to Gods people. Through Samson's story, we learn that faith is putting our trust in God and not in our own strength and abilities. There are lots of different kinds of strength, apart from the physical kind! When we follow Jesus, His Holy Spirit can fill us with strength to do things we couldn't possibly do alone. **Faith is looking to God for strength!**

RESOURCES

- A rope for the illustration
- Bibles, colouring pencils and the Wk 7 Worksheet for connect groups

PREACH OUTLINE

Story: Share the story of Samson found in Judges 14-16. Focus on Samson's call to be a Nazarite and bring freedom (Judges 13:5), his choice to break the agreement with God which caused God's anointing to leave him (Judges 16:20) and his redemption in knowing his strength came from God to save others (Judges 16:28). Make sure you share some of his mighty deeds, too!

Points to hit:

1. **God gives us strength to bring freedom** - Samson was set apart and strengthened to bring freedom to his people. God has promised us the Holy Spirit to empower us to bring freedom to others, too! Not through a physical fight - but in leading us to love people well and believe for the impossible in their lives in areas that are really tough (Jud. 13:5, Jud. 15:14, 2 Cor. 3:17)
2. **Faith looks to God for strength in our everyday** - Samson became careless about the strength God had given him and broke his agreement with God even though he was aware of the consequences (Judges 16:20). Samson forgot that his strength came from God, not even realising when God had left him. We too must remember that our strength comes from God, we can't do it all by ourselves - when we feel weak, thats when we are the - most strong! Because God's strength is there for us (Judges 16:20, James 4:6, 2 Cor 12:10b)
3. **God has grace for you** - Samson looks to God for strength again, God strengthens him not because he has earned it, but because Samson remembered God as his king, asking for help. God has grace for us too! If we try and live our life away from God and find that we can't, when we turn back God has grace for us and will strengthen us once more.

ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Share some examples of things that we may need freedom from, they can become a bit like a rope tying us up and stopping us from being the free people God wants us to be! Wind a rope around a volunteer to display this. Things like always worrying, or needing healing, or fear can make us feel all tied up. But God gives us the Holy Spirit to give us strength to break free of those ropes. Once we're free, He wants us to help others to be free too by loving them and praying for them. Intertwine this example with your own story of helping another find freedom.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

Connect groups are a time to build friendships and engage kids in discussion about the preach. Remember to keep it fun and to pray!

1. What was the purpose of Samson's strength?
2. There are lots of different ways we can be strong other than with our muscles! What are some ways we can be strong?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:10 together - what do you think it means when it says that when we are weak, we are strong?
4. Where does our strength come from, how can we be filled with strength like Samson?
5. What are some ways we can use that strength to help others?

Pray that God would fill the kids with strength from God to keep believing in Him and to see others set free from their hard times.

GAME: 44 HOMES

1. Choose a 'base' for kids to run to that will be 'home' - it could be a tree, a bin or the like (not a wall - too much surface area)
2. The person who is 'it' must face the tree/bin/home area and count to 44 while the other players find somewhere to hide. After 'it' counts to 44 they shout '44 homes!' and go looking for players to tag them.
3. Players must try and find their way to home base shouting '44 homes locked in!' when they have reached (and touched) base.
4. If 'it' tags a player, 'it' must race back to home without getting tagged by that player. That player is now 'it' unless they too can catch a player before everyone has returned!
5. Once everyone is home safe, the person who last became 'it' is in for the next round.