



HEROES OF FAITH EASY READER



 Church of Ireland ✚
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families



Heroes in the Bible - really?!

When you pick up a Bible possibly the last thing you expect to read about are heroes. Surely they are the people in big films, swooping down with capes and superpowers to save people?!

Well, yes, superheroes do that, and whilst we're not going to read about people with laser eyes or spiderwebs coming from their hands in the Bible, we can read about a man with super strength, a man who holds back the entire ocean with just a stick, someone else who destroys whole armies with jars of clay and a boy who destroys a giant with just one small stone!

There are many amazing stories to read in the Bible, it's full of excitement, drama, amazing plot twists and even talking animals!!

In this pack, the people we will read about are all heroes for many reasons, but mostly because they encourage us to trust God in every situation we face. These were ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things, not because they had superpowers, but because they trusted God even when everyone else didn't and even when it seemed impossible. They saw God do amazing miracles, and they did things they could never have imagined because God was with them. These heroes remind us that when we put our trust in God and spend time listening and chatting with Him, amazing things can happen.



Fire on the hill

Moses & the burning bush Exodus 3



Moses left Egypt and became a Shepherd. Every day he took the sheep out to find grass to eat. One day he saw something very strange.

"That bush is on fire" he thought, "but it isn't being burnt up." He went over to look more closely.

Then he heard a voice saying, "Moses!" It was God speaking to him.

"Here I am!" said Moses

"I have chosen you for a special job," God told Moses.

"My people are unhappy because the Egyptians are cruel to them. You will lead them out of Egypt."

"Oh no!" said Moses, I couldn't do that."

"I will help you," God said.

So Moses and his family set off for Egypt. Moses knew that God had chosen him and would help him.



Owning the ocean

Moses parts the sea

Exodus 14: 1-29



"Moses, what are we going to do now?" asked the people, God's family. "We got out of Egypt, but now we're stuck. The sea is too wide and deep and we can't go back."

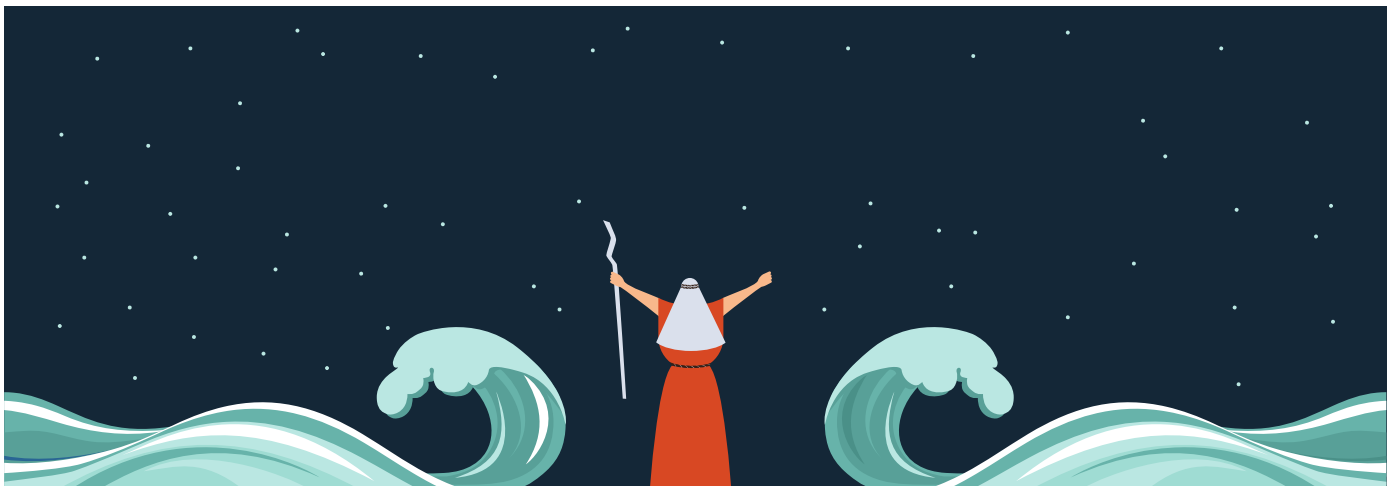
The Egyptian soldiers were chasing them and all the people were afraid. "God will keep us safe," Moses said. "You'll see."

God told Moses to stand beside the sea and stretch out his hand. A strong wind began to blow! The sea opened up to make a dry path for the people to walk on. They set off, walking on the dry path, but still afraid because the soldiers were chasing them. They hurried, but there were so many people it took a long time to cross to the other side.

God said to Moses, "I will keep everyone safe. Hold out your arm over the sea again."

As Moses stretched out his arm, the sea covered the path so that the Egyptians could not get through.

God's people sang and danced to praise him. God had kept the people safe.



Giant Slayer

David & Goliath

1 Samuel 17



King Saul was worried. A big, tough fighter called Goliath was shouting, "Come and fight me, if you dare!"

No one in King Saul's army wanted to fight him. They were all too scared.

David said, "Goliath does not believe in God. I will fight Goliath. God will be with me.

"Take my armour," said King Saul. But Saul's armour was too big for David.

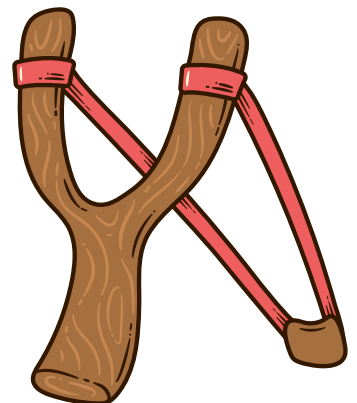
"I'll be alright" said David. "God will keep me safe."

Big Goliath saw David. "Are you the best they could find?" he laughed. "I am not afraid of you," David called back. "God will help me."

David picked up five stones from a stream. He got his shepherd's leather sling ready. He ran towards Goliath. He threw a stone from his sling...and it hit Goliath. Thunk!

Slowly the great Goliath fell to the ground. Crash!

God had given David the skill and bravery he needed.



A hero Queen

Esther

Esther 1 - 4

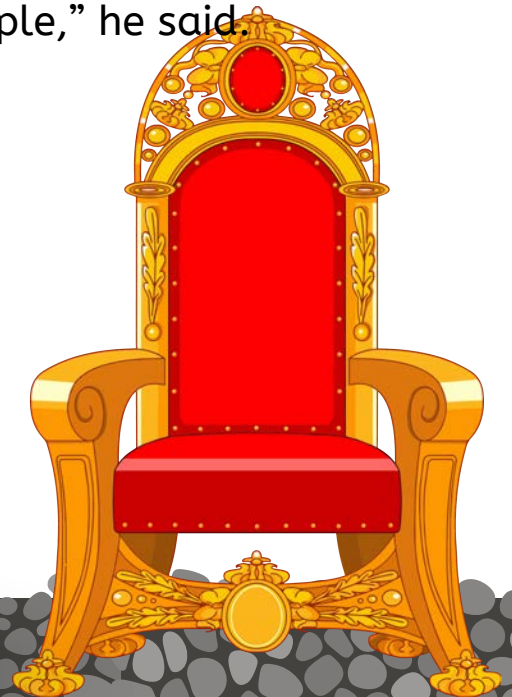


King Xerxes needed a new wife. He brought all the most beautiful girls in the country to his palace. One of them was Esther. She was a Jew, one of God's special people. All the girls were well looked after. They had special treatment to make them more beautiful. Then the king chose one to be his wife. It was Esther. She did not tell the King she was a Jew.

One day, Esther's cousin Mordecai told her that all the Jews were in danger. Their enemy Haman was trying to get rid of them all. Mordecai told her "The King believed Haman's lies. All the Jews will be killed," Esther was upset. She knew that she had to help. "Although I am the queen," she said "I cannot go to the king just when I like. But I will go and see if I can change his mind. Tell all the Jews to pray for me."

Bravely she went to the King. He was not angry, so she said, "Come to a party I am having. It's just for you and Haman." The King was very pleased. At the party, he told Esther she could have anything she wanted. "Then please save my people, the Jews," she said. "Our enemy Haman wants to get rid of us" The King was angry with Haman. "I will stop Haman hurting your people," he said. And he sent Haman away.

Esther had saved God's people.



A reluctant hero

Gideon's army

Judges 6 & 7



Bash, bash, bash! Gideon was knocking the corn grain from the stalks. And Gideon was not happy. "I grew this corn, I want to make it into bread. But if those Midianite soldiers find me, they'll take it away. And I'll have no bread." Gideon wished a strong brave hero would chase the Midianite soldiers away.

Gideon looked up. An angel was sitting looking at him!

"Hello, Strong Brave Hero," the angel said. "God has chosen you."

Gideon gasped, "Not me! I am not strong or brave."

The angel told him, "God has chosen you to chase the Midianites away."

Gideon shook his head. "I'm very weak though. All my family are weak. And I am the weakest of all."

The angel said, "You can chase the Midianites away if God helps you."

Gideon began to understand. He would learn to be strong and brave. God had chosen him.

"My army is very big," thought Gideon. "We'll easily chase the Midianites away."

God said, "Your army is too big, Gideon. They'll win easily. They will forget that I helped them"

Gideon listened to God. He sent some of his soldiers home. God said, "The army is still too big. Send more away." Gideon listened to God. He sent away more soldiers. "Now my army is small." thought Gideon. "It's just the right size," God told him. "Now I'll help you chase the Midianites away."

Gideon's army went out at night. Each soldier had a trumpet and a fiery torch hidden in a clay jar. They crept around the Midianite army. Gideon blew his trumpet! Everyone smashed their clay jars. The torches blazed with light. They blew their trumpets. The Midianites were scared. They ran away! God had helped Gideon, and Gideon had learned to listen to God.