

BIBLE HEROES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The member will be able to:

- describe the characteristics that please God through the study of different biblical characters;
- explain how these characters overcame their trials and difficulties;
- identify how God uses ordinary people who are prepared to obey Him.

BADGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Study one Bible character together as a group and identify three positive qualities he/she showed.
2. Learn about at least two other Bible characters and present their stories to the rest of the group.
3. Write a devotion based on Requirement 2.
4. Take part in some kind of Bible-hero presentation.

There are no devotions provided for this badge because of the nature of the badge content.

GUARDS
RANGERS

Bible heroes

CATEGORY

Spiritual

TIME FRAME

Minimum
Three - four
weeks

AIM

To help the
Guards/Rangers
discover and
strive to copy the
characteristics
and attributes of
Biblical heroes.

THE
SALVATION ARMY

SACALA

GUARDING AND
LEGION ACTIVITIES



Teaching ideas

The Bible has many stories about how God revealed himself to people over many, many years. We sometimes talk about 'Bible heroes' when referring to some people whom God used in powerful ways. Some were very ordinary people and others were specially gifted, for instance, speaking or music. Over the next few weeks the Guards/Rangers will discover the stories of some of these Bible heroes.

There are many resources available from Christian book stores, for example, books, activity books, videos and DVDs. Check out what resources may also be available from the Corps Officer or even friends.



1. study one Bible character together as a group and identify three positive qualities he/she showed.

- Use a Bible hero of your own choice

or

- Select one story from the two Bible heroes provided

Daniel

Daniel, along with other Jewish young men, was taken prisoner by the Babylonian army. They were trained in the language and customs of their captive country to become court officials. Despite having to change his name, the language he spoke and the food he normally ate, Daniel remained faithful to God.

Read Daniel 1:3-15.

God helped Daniel to become clever and wise so that the Babylonian King came to depend on him for advice. Daniel was even able to interpret the king's dreams. Some of the other court officials were jealous of Daniel's popularity so they tricked the king into making a law that anyone who did not worship the king would be thrown into a pit of lions.

Read Daniel 6:11-24 to find out what happened.

God chose Daniel, an ordinary young man, to stand up for him in a foreign country. Other people came to learn about the God of Daniel because he was **faithful** and **obedient** to his God. Daniel also **showed courage** in difficult circumstances and yet was **loyal** as much as his faith would allow.

Ask the Guards/Rangers what characteristics they admire in Daniel. Discuss how these characteristics can be valued in us all today. Relate these to the Guard/Ranger Law.

Esther

A Jewish **heroine** whose great **courage** and **devotion** to God and her people saved them from being exterminated by their enemies in Persia. The Jews had been taken captive in Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and taken into exile some years earlier.

Esther was brought to the court of King Xerxes of Persia because of her great beauty. On the advice of her cousin and guardian, Mordecai, Esther kept secret that she was Jewish.

Esther was made part of a harem and was eventually taken to the royal palace. 'The king liked her more than any of the other girls, and more than any of the others she won his favour and affection. He placed the royal crown on her head and made her queen.' (Esther 2:17)

Teaching ideas

Mordecai became a court official and overheard a plot against the king. Read chapter 2 verses 19-23 to see how the plot was foiled.

The king appointed a new prime minister named Haman. All the officials were ordered to respect and bow to Haman. Mordecai refused to do this because as a Jew he only worshipped God. Haman not only wanted to punish Mordecai but all of the Jewish people. He tricked the king into issuing a law that authorised the killing of the Jews.

Mordecai was very distressed so he appealed to his cousin, Queen Esther, for help. He asked her to plead with the king and beg him to have mercy on her people.

Read Esther 4:11-17 to find out what was planned.

What heroism Esther showed! Going into the king's presence without being summoned meant being put to death! But Esther firmly believed that God was with her people and though it may mean death for her she was determined to go against the law and see the king.

When King Xerxes saw Esther standing outside the throne room his great love for her overwhelmed him and he held out the gold sceptre towards her so she could enter. Esther invited the king and Haman to dinner.

Haman felt very important because of this, but he still hated Mordecai.

During dinner King Xerxes asked if there was anything he could give Esther.

Read her reply in Esther 7:3-6. The king was outraged and ordered for Haman to be killed.

King Xerxes continued to favour Esther as his queen and Mordecai became second in charge of the kingdom.

Ask the Guards/Rangers what characteristic stands out in Esther's life. Should we aim to be loyal to our family and friends?



2. Learn about at least two other Bible characters and present their stories to the rest of the group.

Either

- Use any Bible heroes you choose and Guards/Rangers can work in pairs or small groups to learn about their Bible hero.

or

- Copy and distribute Handout 1 which lists the names of some Bible heroes. The members can then choose which heroes they will research. If you have a large group you could have several stories of Bible heroes re-told.





The table below sets out the key Bible passages for the heroes listed. You will need to give out these verses and have Bibles available for your members.

The characteristics are listed for your information to use with badge Requirement 3.

Bible hero	Bible Reference or Part of story	Characteristics
Joshua	Joshua 1:6 - 7 Joshua 1:9 Joshua 1:15 Joshua 4:14 Joshua 6:25	Strong and Brave Obedience Leadership Respected Compassionate
Deborah	Judges 4:6 - 7 Judges 4:8 - 10 Judges 4:14 Judges 4:4-5	Decisive Courageous Trust/Faith Wise and Trustworthy
Gideon	Judges 6:25 - 27 Judges 6:15,27 Judges 6:36 - 40 Judges 7:2 - 7 Judges 7:16 - 21	Obedient Courageous Looked for Assurance Trusted God Cunning and Clever
Ruth	Ruth 1:16 Ruth 2:13 Ruth 2:6 - 7 Ruth 2:13 Ruth 4:14 - 17	Faithful Hard worker Tireless Humble Compassionate
Hannah	1 Samuel 1:11 1 Samuel 1:12,3 1 Samuel 1:22, 24 - 28 1 Samuel 2:1-10	Honest/Sincere Prayerful Faithful Devout/Trusting
David	1 Samuel 20:3 2 Samuel 9:1 - 12 1 Samuel 24:7 1 Samuel 17:1 - 8 2 Samuel 12:1 - 7 2 Samuel 5:1 - 5	Good friend Good friend Loyal Brave Repentant Leader
Joseph	Genesis 37:14 - 17 Genesis 39:2 - 10 Genesis 39:20 - 23 Genesis 40:8 - 9 Genesis 41:14 - 16 Genesis 41:38 - 41 Genesis 45:1 - 12 Genesis 46:26 - 27	Obedient Hardworking Loyal Good morals and Principles Honoured God Trustworthy Loyal Wise Honoured God Filled with God's Spirit Wise, discerning Compassionate Forgiving
Peter	Luke 5:1-11 Luke 9:18-20 John 6:68 John 18:15-18 John 18: 25-27 John 21:15-19 Acts 4:18-21	Obedient, humble Says Jesus Messiah Spiritual insight Denial Open denial Relationship with Jesus Courageous, immovable
Paul	Acts 9: 1-31 Acts 20:24 2 Timothy 2:10 2 Timothy 4:7, 8	Conversion Steadfast Enduring Faithful
Mary	Luke 1:26-38 Luke 1:39-56 Luke 2:16-20,51 John 2:3-5 John 19:25	Blessed, obedient Faith, godliness Spiritual mindedness Maternal confidence Maternal love

TEACHING IDEAS



3. Write a devotion based on Requirement 2.

Members may work individually or in small groups of 2 or 3 on this requirement.

Using the Bible character you chose in Requirement 2 write a devotion outlining the qualities and characteristics that you identified.

Encourage creativity! Make sure the application relates to life today.



4. Take part in at least one presentation of a Bible hero.

This requirement allows for freedom of creativity where the young people can create and develop their own presentation. This can be done through any of the following media: role play, drama, puppets, computer game, powerpoint, video, song, rap, comedy skit. The presentation must be based on a Bible hero.

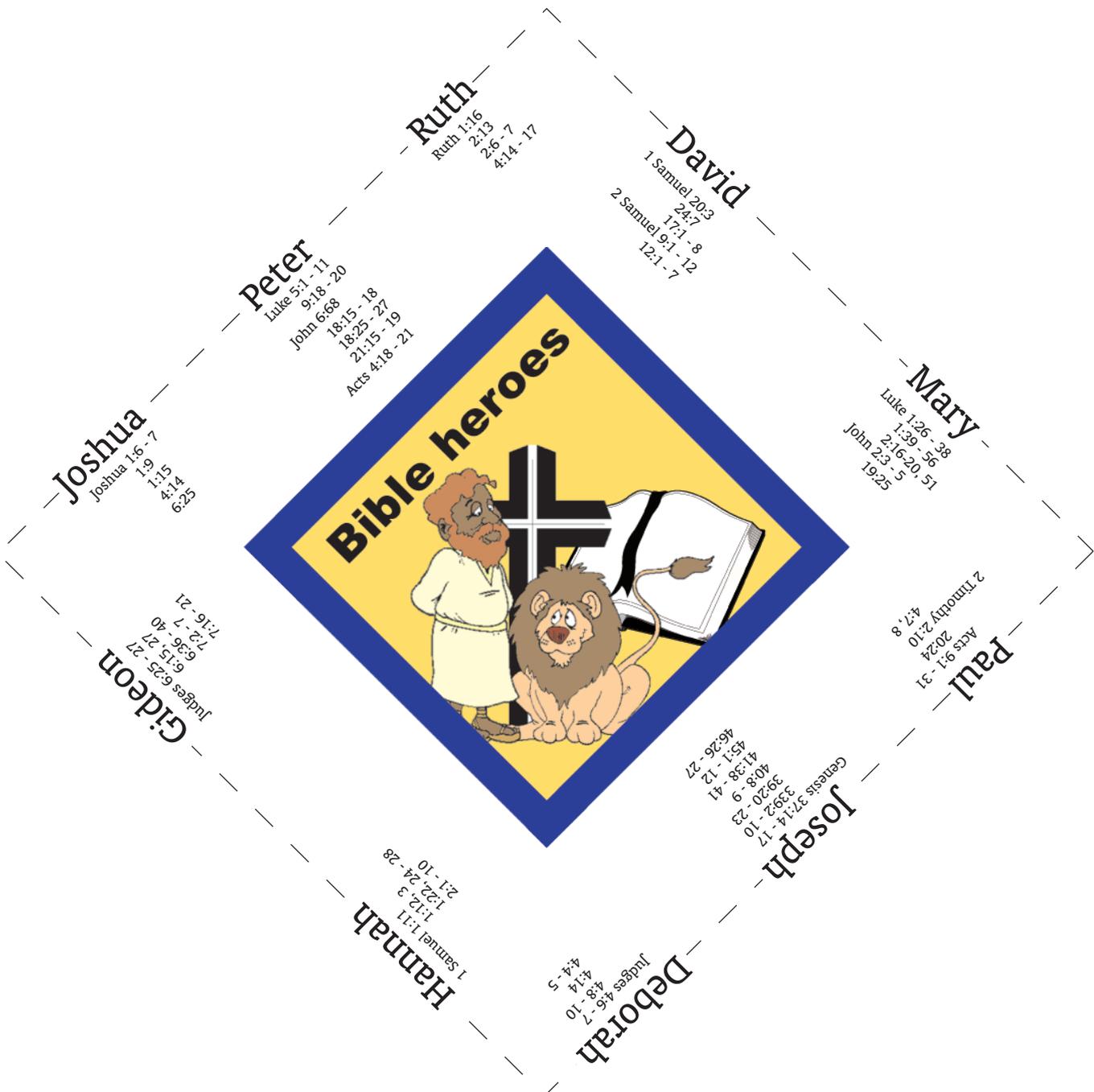
There are many ways to use your presentation:

- perform for your own group
- presentation to families and friends
- during a fundraising event
- a YP outreach day.



Handout 1 - Guards/Rangers

Bible Heroes



Retell the story of a Bible hero suggested above. Discuss/explain three positive qualities he/she demonstrates.