



HEROIC LEADERSHIP

KEY VERSE

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

BIBLICAL BASIS

1 Samuel 17:1-58; Ephesians 3:20,21; Philippians 4:13

THE BIG IDEA

You can do something heroic for Jesus Christ as you realize He is your strength.

AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine what it would take to do something great for God;
- Discover their dreams and desires to make a difference in the world;
- Implement a plan to achieve their dreams and go for it with God.

WARM UP

MOST-ADMIRED LIST—

Students list who they admire and why.

TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AVERAGE—

A story of knowing who you are in Christ.

TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

DO SOMETHING HEROIC—

A story on the hero potential.

IN THE WORD

A PINT-SIZED HERO—

A Bible study on being heroic for Jesus.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about being heroic.

PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss who they desire to be for God.



LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

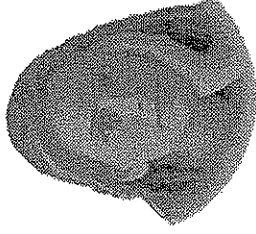
“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20,21).

One of my youth ministry heroes is a high school volunteer named Ryan. Ryan is a college student with an incredible enthusiasm for Jesus and who loves kids tremendously. The reason why Ryan inspires me so much is his attitude about young people. He is convinced that teenagers need to discover the incredible love of God and he'll do anything to be a positive influence in student's lives. Ryan takes kids surfing, teaches them how to snorkel and leads a small-group Bible study at his house called “The Shack.”

Years earlier, when Ryan was in high school, he only came to our youth ministry a few times. Girls, volleyball and the party scene were more important to him than God. Then, when he got into college, he finally sensed a deeper need for something more. After giving his life to Christ, he's never been the same. Ryan has committed himself to serving young people and influencing them toward a personal relationship with God. He's the type of hero that inspires me to be all that God has called me to be.

Like Ryan, you have the powerful opportunity to be a hero for God's kingdom. It is God working through you to do immeasurably more than you could ever ask or imagine in the lives of the students you serve. Because of your love for young people, the living God will use you to communicate the compassion of Jesus. Your enthusiasm for Jesus Christ will demonstrate the concrete reality of God to students who question His existence. Just as Ryan wasn't very interested in God during high school and later made a commitment to Christ, never underestimate God's power to change a student's life even if he or she only comes to your group two or three times. Even if the students in your youth ministry never tell you so, then hear it from me: You are a hero for Jesus Christ. (Written by Joey O'Connor.)

“Leader...a person with a God-given capacity and a God-given responsibility to influence a specific group of God's people toward His purposes for the group.”— Bobby Clinton



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THE BIG IDEA

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WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

MOST-ADMIRED LIST

- Give each student a copy of "Most-Admired List" on page 93 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
 - Students individually complete their pages.
- List 5 to 10 people for your most-admired list.

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2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

What do you most admire about these people?

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Fold

Are there any other insights from this story?

Is there a "Goliath" in your life that keeps you from being more than average? If so, what is it?

What do you need to do to slay your Goliath?

Here are a few questions to help you along the way of pursuing your dreams:

1. Do you care about the things of the world more than you care about Jesus?
 2. Do you love Jesus enough to say NO to the world's standards?
 3. Are you willing to lose all prestige to follow the call of God?
 4. Is your goal in life to be known (be rich) or to follow Jesus?
 5. Are you willing to pay the price of faithfulness?
- Too many Christians remain comfortable and stagnant when they could do something heroic for Jesus

SO WHAT?

What would it take to really become all that God intends you to become?

What's holding you back?

- Fear
- Lack of faith
- Peer pressure
- Lack of desire
- Lack of maturity
- Spiritual questions
- Other

May your prayers be that you will settle for nothing less than heroism. GO FOR IT!

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

• Use the questions on page 101 after or as a part of "In the Word."

1. Why do you think people settle for second-best in their lives?
2. How can using the gifts God has given you make you a hero for God?
3. How can we as fellow Christians challenge each other to become heroes for Christ?

PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

Which of these people would you like to be like and why?

What would be action steps to becoming the kind of leader God wants you to be?

TEAM EFFORT—JUNIOR HIGH MIDDLE SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AVERAGE

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "You Don't Have to Be Average" on page 95 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their pages.

There are too many people today who settle for second-best in life. Mediocrity is all they put into life, and mediocrity is all they get out of life. Yet Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13, *NIV*). He doesn't sound like a person who chooses to be average and you don't have to be average either.

An American Indian legend tells about a brave who found an eagle's egg and put it into the nest of a prairie chicken. The eaglet hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them.

All his life, the changeling eagle—thinking he was a prairie chicken—did what the prairie chickens did.

He scratched in the dirt for seeds and insects to eat. He clucked and cackled. And he flew in a brief thrashing of wings and flurry of feathers no more than a few feet off the ground. After all, that's how prairie chickens were supposed to fly.

Years passed. And the changeling eagle grew very old. One day, he saw a magnificent bird far above him in the cloudless sky. Hanging with graceful majesty on the powerful wind currents, it soared with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings.

"What a beautiful bird!" said the changeling eagle to his neighbor. "What is it?"

"That's an eagle. The chief of the birds," the neighbor clucked. "But don't give it a second thought. You could never be like him."

So the changeling eagle never gave it another thought. And it died thinking it was a prairie chicken.

What was the tragedy of the story?

How does this story relate to your life?

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). How can these 10 words change your life?

If you could really do anything you wanted in Christ, what would you do?

TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

DO SOMETHING HEROIC

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "Do Something Heroic" on page 97 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their pages.

A great philosopher tells us about a make-believe country where only ducks live. On Sunday morning all the ducks came into church, waddled down the aisle, waddled into the pews, and squatted. Then the duck minister came in, took his place behind the pulpit, opened the Duck Bible and read, "Ducks! You have wings, and with wings, you can fly like eagles. You can soar into the sky! Ducks! You have wings!" All the ducks yelled "Amen!" and then they all waddled home.

Many Christians are like those ducks. They know the truth but they don't act upon the truth. They are unhappy because they've settled for mediocrity!

You can do something heroic in Jesus! You can be a hero for Jesus.

As you were growing up, who were your heroes? Why?

Who are your heroes today?

From a Christian perspective, heroes are not always famous or successful. Heroes are faithful. God is not looking for superstars. He is looking for faithful men and women.

If you could do anything with your life, what would it be?

What (if anything) is holding you back?

IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

A PINT-SIZED HERO

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
 - Give each student a copy of "A Pint-Sized Hero" on page 99 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
 - Students complete the Bible study.
- The Story of David and Goliath
Read 1 Samuel 17:1-58.

In the conversation between David and Saul in verses 31-37, why is David confident in his fight with Goliath?

What motivated David to stand up to the 9½-foot giant? Look carefully at verses 26, 36, 45-47.

WARM UP

MOST-ADMIRABLE LIST

List 5 to 10 people for your most-admired list.

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TEAM EFFORT

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Note

1. "The Changeling Eagle," *Christopher News Notes*, no. 229.



TEAM EFFORT

Do SOMETHING HEROIC

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Note

1. Tony Campolo, *You Can Make a Difference* (Dallas: Word Books, 1984), p. 74.

IN THE WORD

A PINT-SIZED HERO

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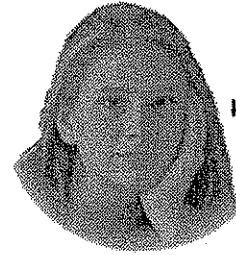
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PARENT PAGE

GO FOR IT

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Let's Pretend...

If you could become any type of person you wanted to become with the wave of a magic wand, who would you want to become? Write or share a short description. Here are a few areas you might want to consider:

- Personality
- Relationship with God
- Actions
- Relationships with others
- Lifestyle
- Family relationships
- Career

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Share what keeps you from "going for it" when it comes to the above areas.

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What do you need from your family, friends and church to not settle for mediocrity but choose to "go for it" for God?

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Session 6 "Heroic Leadership"

Date