



God's Heroes Are Loyal to God



THE MISSION AIM

God calls His people to remain loyal to Him and He honours their loyalty.



KEY VERSE

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV): "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."



Pre-Mission Activity



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- A space for all recruits to sit in a circle
- Button

DIRECTIONS

SAY: When we met last, Kate and Simon were having a rough time together. It seemed as if Simon had made Kate very angry. Before we left though, Simon had apologized to Kate and Kate had forgiven him. Do you remember how Kate was behaving once she forgave Simon? She was full of smiles and laughter. Your challenge this week was to practice forgiveness. You were to seek someone out and show them, "kindness and compassion." Did anyone do this? How did it make you feel?

DO: Allow the recruits to share of their experiences this week.

SAY: Let's begin today with a game.

DO: Instead of playing just one game, the group is actually going to be playing two separate games. You will choose one recruit to go into the hall for just a moment while you set everything up. The recruit that goes into the hall will be given the instructions for the game, "Who Has It?" The remainder of the recruits are going to be playing, "Follow My Lead." The recruit in the hall will not be aware that different instructions have been given. The recruits playing "Follow My Lead" will be in on the prank.

DO: Choose one recruit to go into the hall. Before sending him/her out, explain to everyone that this recruit is a dear friend of yours, someone that you care for and respect. He or She is important to you and you feel they are perfect for the game. (The idea is to express how much you care about this recruit) You are going to give one set of instructions to this recruit.

SAY: We are playing "Who Has It?" Someone in the circle will be hiding a button. The object is for you to guess who that person is. Now go out into the hall while I explain the game to the recruits and give the button to someone. Once this recruit is safely away from the circle of recruits explain what will be happening.

SAY: Okay Recruits, we are going to play a little trick. Although our friend thinks we are playing "Who Has it?" we are actually going to play another game. When he/she chooses one of you or points at you because he/she thinks you have the button, you will instead begin the game, "Follow My Lead." This means that you will stand up and begin some kind of movement or action. This could be jumping jacks, jumping on one foot, running on the spot or spinning in circles. Once you have done the action three times, sit down. Try to keep a straight face. I will encourage the recruit to choose someone else that may be holding the button. The second recruit, when chosen, will stand up, repeat the action of the first recruit and then add their own. Keep a straight face, knowing that you are playing the game you were asked to. I will encourage the recruit to choose someone else in the circle. Again, that third recruit will stand up, do the first two actions and then add their own. "Follow the Lead" of the recruit before you and then add on your own. We will continue with the game as long as the recruit continues to choose someone.

DO: Allow the game to go on. Encourage the recruit to choose who they think is holding the button but do not make any comment about the recruits in the circle. When the game has come to an end, either because everyone has been chosen or because the recruit guessing has given up, explain what was happening.

SAY: Dear recruit (call by name), I know you thought we were playing, "Who Has It?" but actually the rest of us decided to play a different game, "Follow My Lead." No one actually was holding onto the button. In fact, I still have it right here. How does it make you feel to know that although we are your friends, we did not include you in our game?

DO: Allow for the recruit to answer.

SAY: We weren't being very loyal friends. We were simply doing what we wanted to and left you out. I hope that you are not too upset about this. Thank you for helping us to see what it means to not be loyal. Loyalty means to show support, or be faithful to our friends. We were not doing that just now. Instead, we played a little trick or prank on our recruit friend. We were not loyal to our friend. Now, this was just a little object lesson so that we could understand a little easier the idea of being loyal. I think it is time to check in with the Recon Team. Let's see what is going on at their headquarters today.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Bible Heroes Episode 4: God's Heroes Are Loyal to God"

Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 4 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have BT-Episode_4-Heroes_Are_Loyal.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.





Mission #1



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- No supplies needed



MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: Recruits, we have today's first mission. Let's read it together, (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, why were the 12 spies sent into the Promised Land? What did they find there?" Before we turn to the 12 spies, let's play a quick game of "I SPY."

DO: This game is best played outside but if this is not possible, inside can work.

SAY: We are going to play a quick game of "I SPY." To play this game, I need each of you to be spies. You need to look for two things. The first item is something that makes you feel afraid or not safe about where we are. The second item is to be something that makes you like it here or makes you feel safe. You may choose something that you are actually not able to bring back with you like a rose bush or the Mercy Seat. That is fine - you just need to remember what the item is.

SAY: Recruits are you ready to spy out the land? Let's go.

DO: Allow the recruits to spy for approximately five minutes. Be sure to have some leaders positioned around the church building or yard. Then call them back. Provide opportunity for them to share both their item that causes them to feel afraid or unsafe and the item that makes them like it here or makes them feel safe.

SAY: Our story today is actually about 12 spies. God told Moses to send 12 spies into the Land that He had promised them. Each of these spies was a leader within their tribe who believed in God and followed Him. Moses chose the spies and told them they were to scout out the land to see what it was like. They were to look at the people in the land to see how strong or weak they might be and to see how many people were in the land. They were to look at the towns and to see how the people lived. They were to check out the soil, the forests, and the produce within the land. Moses even asked them to bring back samples of the food grown there.

Well, the 12 spies went to this Promised Land, to the land of Canaan. After spending 40 days spying on the land they returned to Moses. Now, you won't believe what they reported. Ten of the spies came home and told Moses that the land flowed plentiful with food. They showed Moses the fruit that they brought back with them. They told of how magnificent this land was but then, they also told Moses about the people. They explained that the people were fierce and large. They said that the people were very strong and powerful. The ten spies told Moses that the cities were well protected. And then finally, these ten spies told Moses, Aaron and all of the Israelite community that they could not attack these people. That they could not fight against them.

Caleb and Joshua tried to get Moses, Aaron and the Israelites to listen to them. They gave a different report to the people. They explained that the land of Canaan was a great land. They also explained that if God in fact wanted them to have this amazing land, full of good



Today's Bible story is from Numbers 13-14.



food, then they should not be afraid because God will protect them and deliver them into the Promised Land.

SAY: Isn't it interesting how these 12 came back with different ideas of the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. When we were being spies here, we were able to experience this in a small way. We saw the things that were scary or unsafe but we also saw the good safe things. The 12 Israelite spies went to Canaan because God wanted them to. He had already promised them this land and yet, ten came back frightened and afraid. They did see the good but they believed they could not win. However, Joshua and Caleb knew that God was with them and that with God they could enter into the land of Canaan.

SAY: Let's send our report to the Recon Team. I wonder who is winning the soccer game now. Do you think Sarai is almost done her marching practice? Let's have a look.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 4 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission #2.



Mission #2



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- One sponge per recruit
- Bucket or pail
- Chair
- Towel or cloth material
- Any other object for the recruits to throw their sponge at or in
- Tape to create a line on the floor

SET UP INSTRUCTIONS: The recruits are going to be asked to follow your instructions. You are going to have them throw a dry sponge into a bucket, on to a chair, over a towel and finally right at you. However, you are to set up this game so that they cannot succeed. It is very difficult to throw a dry sponge. Be sure to set this up so that the recruits are behind a line far enough away from the items that they cannot follow your instructions. Be sure to test the distance yourself before RTS time begins.

The OBJECT: We want the recruits to experience the feeling of wanting to follow the squad leader's instructions but finding it difficult to do so. Even though they want to be loyal, this is harder than they would think it would be.



MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: Well, recruits it's time for our next mission. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, look once again at the story of the 12 spies. Who chose to be loyal? What made these spies different from the others? Are you ready to serve?"

SAY: Michael shared the Bible verse found in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." This verse reminds us to trust God. To trust what He commands or tells us to do. As Kate said, this isn't always easy, especially when we are the only one trying to follow God. Heather Jacobs, a fellow recruit from Clearview Citadel, is struggling with this. God has told her what to do but she is torn between attending church and attending her swim team practices. Who should she remain loyal to? This is a difficult one.

SAY: Recruits, I know that each of you try to stay loyal to God. I also know that you listen carefully to me as well and try to follow my instructions. We are going to play a game right now. During this game, you must carefully listen to my instructions and do as I ask you to do.

SAY: I am going to give each of you your own sponge. I will ask you a question about our Bible story on the twelve spies. Once someone has given me the correct answer, I will give you an instruction of what you are to do with your sponge. Each of you will line up behind the line on the floor and then follow my instruction. For example my question might be, "How many spies did God have Moses send into the Land of Canaan?" The answer is, (Choose a recruit to answer, 12). Now recruits please place your sponge on your head and balance it there for ten seconds.

DO: Allow for each of the recruits to follow this instruction.

SAY: That was easy. Okay, are we ready to begin? Question #1: "Who chose the 12 spies that were to check out the Promised Land?" (*MOSES*) Excellent! Here is your instruction: One at a time, line up on the line and throw your sponge into the bucket.

DO: Allow recruits to attempt this task. Be shocked at their defeat. Then give them their sponges back.

SAY: How come you aren't listening to me? I asked you to throw your sponge INTO the bucket. Well, let's move on to Question #2: "What did the spies find out about the food in this land?" (*That it was good and grew easily and well.*) Here is your next instruction: One at a time, line up and throw your sponge ONTO the chair.

DO: Allow each recruit to attempt this task again being shocked at their defeat. Return their sponges.

SAY: I don't understand. Each of you heard my instruction and yet you are still not doing what I asked. Aren't you supposed to be listening to me? Here's Question #3: "What did the spies learn about the people?" (*That they were big and strong*) Well Done! Here is your third instruction and I really hope you listen this time and do as I ask you to do: Line up and throw your sponge OVER the towel.

DO: Give the recruits time for each to throw their sponge. When they are finished give their sponges back to them.



SAY: I can't believe this. No one is doing as I ask them to do. Here is your final question, Question #4: "What did 10 of the spies report to Moses, Aaron and all of the Israelite community?" (That the people are too strong and cities too great that the Israelites could not fight against them and win) You are right. Here is the last instruction. I am going to sit on that chair over there and you are going to throw your sponge at me. Now, to follow this instruction the sponge must hit me. Ready, set, and Go.

DO: Allow the recruits to throw their sponges at you, again being shocked at their defeat.

SAY: I can't believe it. Here you have a chance to throw a sponge at me and you can't even follow that instruction. Let's sit down for a moment. How did it make you feel to want to follow my instructions, especially that last one, but not be able to?

DO: Give opportunity for the recruits to answer.

SAY: It is frustrating when you want to do something but just can't. Today, you really couldn't do what I asked you to do and I had set it up that way. However, sometimes we are asked to do something that we find really hard to do. This could be because other people think that we shouldn't do it or because we aren't sure ourselves what to do. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, knew that God had promised the Land of Canaan to the Israelites. They saw all of the same things that the other ten spies saw. The difference was that they chose to be loyal to God. They trusted Him to give them the land. Even when all of the Israelites grumbled against Moses, Joshua and Caleb remained loyal to God. Do you think it was easy or difficult for Joshua and Caleb to remain loyal to God at this time?

DO: Allow for answers.

SAY: God required the people to trust Him but of course they couldn't see what the future held. Remember our verse from earlier, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Joshua and Caleb couldn't see what the future held. They didn't know what would happen when the Israelites entered Canaan, but they were loyal to God and believed He would take care of them.

SAY: Let's check in with the Recon Team. I want them to hear about Joshua and Caleb and to see how loyal they were. I am also curious about what is happening in Simon's soccer game and with Sarai's marching band practice.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 4 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.





Field Mission Project



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Index cards with the following role plays written on them:

Scenario #1 – You are at the park with a group of friends. You are having a great time playing basketball when two boys from your school arrive. They ask if they can play basketball with you. One of your friends says they can and you begin a new game. As you are playing, the two new boys begin pushing and shoving you and your friends. You ask them to stop but they continue. Within a couple of minutes all of the players are pushing each other instead of playing the game. What do you do to remain loyal to God?

Scenario #2 – You invite a couple of friends over from school. You are hanging out in your room when one of the friends notices your Bible and Devotion Book on your desk. She begins to laugh and make fun of you. What do you do to remain loyal to God?

- Bibles

MISSION PROJECT

SAY: Okay recruits Michael has sent us our last mission for today. Let's have a drumroll and read it together, (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits find out how God felt about Joshua and Caleb's loyalty. What did God do? How can we be loyal to God and trust His promises?"

SAY: It looks like the Recon Team would like us to look at how God responded to the loyalty shown by Joshua and Caleb. To do this, let's look in our Bibles at Numbers 14:26-35.

DO: Choose one of your older recruits to read these verses out loud for the whole squad.

SAY: Let's all look at Numbers 14:30 one more time. It says "Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun." What does this tell us about how God felt about Caleb and Joshua's loyalty? (*He was happy with them*) What did God allow Caleb and Joshua to do that none of the other spies or Israelites were permitted to do? (*Enter into the Promised Land.*)

SAY: Let's look at another verse in the Bible that tells us what God thinks about those that are loyal to Him. Turn to the last book in the Bible, Revelations 3:21. Let's read it together. "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne." What does this verse tell us about how God feels about those that are loyal to Him? (*They will be with Him in Heaven.*)

DO: Pull out the index cards with the scenarios written on them.

SAY: I have two cards here in my hand. Each has a scenario written on it. Today we are going to choose one of these cards and then role play the situation. Let's see if we can show ways to stay loyal to God.

DO: Allow one of the recruits to pick a scenario card from your hand. Read the card to the group and ask for volunteers to role play the scenario. When they have finished role playing, talk about the ways they showed loyalty to God. Ask for additional ways that the group may have thought of to show loyalty.





Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 4 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Large sheet of paper with LOYALTY written down the centre of the page so that it can be made into an acrostic
- Sheets of paper – one for each squad member
- Pencils

DIRECTIONS

SAY: Sometimes it seems hard to show loyalty. We need to stand up for what we believe in and often that means going against what others may be saying. Sometimes, you may be the only one who believes as you do. We have learned though, that God is pleased with those that are loyal and He has a plan for us.

SAY: What does it mean again to be loyal?

DO: Use the word loyalty to help the recruits visualize these ideas. Using your large sheet of paper with loyalty written down it make an acrostic similar to the following for your recruits.

L	I	S	T	E	N		L	I	S	T	E	N
S	H	O	W	S	U	P	O	B	E	Y		O
P	R	A	Y				Y	E	A	R	N	S
A	L	W	A	Y	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	O	R			A	L
B	E	T	R	U	E	T	O	G	O	D		L
S	T	U	D	Y	H	I	S	W	O	R	D	

DO: Give the recruits their own piece of paper and have them create their own acrostic so that they can remember what it means to be loyal to God.

SAY: Let's spend some time asking God to help us to be loyal to Him. Today, we can ask God to help us in situations that we are facing at school or at home, or we can simply ask Him to help us listen to Him, talk to Him each day, believe in Him and His Word and study His Word. As we pray, feel free to pray as well. I will begin our prayer time and then I will allow time for each of you to join in and talk to God. It doesn't matter if two or more of you are talking at the same time, God can still hear each of you. When it is quiet again, and it seems that everyone has said all that they would like to, I will close our time of prayer together.

