

Life of Jesus: Community of Heroes

Table of Contents

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor in Chief: Robin Johnston
Senior Editor: Lee Ann Alexander
Children's Editor: Melanie Claborn
Beginner Editor: Joni Owens

WRITERS

Cylinda Nickel, Beth Randol,
 Sherii Parrett

THEME DEVELOPMENT

Joni Owens

DESIGN

Layout: Chris Anderson, Tim Burk,
 Dennis Fiorini, Elizabeth Loyd

Artist: Corbin Hillam, Wil Rowland Jr.

Editorial: Community of Heroes	2
Theme: Community of Heroes	3
A Look at Next Quarter	52

Unit 1: Jesus Is Born

Unit Focus: Children will tell that Jesus came to save us.

Week of

12.06.2015	1	God Blesses Zacharias and Elisabeth	7
12.13.2015	2	God Calls Joseph and Mary	13
12.20.2015	3	God Instructs Shepherds in the Field	18
12.27.2015	4	God Leads the Wise Men	23
01.03.2015	5	Jesus Goes to Egypt	29

Unit 2: Jesus Gets Ready

Unit Focus: Children will describe how Jesus got ready for His ministry.

01.10.2015	6	Jesus Visits the Temple	35
01.17.2015	7	Jesus Is Baptized	40
01.24.2015	8	Jesus Goes to the Wilderness	46

Unit 3: Jesus Starts His Ministry

Unit Focus: Children will identify the early moments of Jesus' ministry.

01.31.2015	9	Jesus Chooses His Disciples	53
02.07.2015	10	Jesus' First Miracle	59
02.14.2015	11	Jesus Teaches Nicodemus	64
02.21.2015	12	Jesus Reads the Word	70

Review

02.28.2015	13	Life of Jesus	75
------------	----	---------------------	----



Join us on our Facebook group. Interact with editors and Sunday school teachers. Post pictures of your class. Brag on what God is doing in your class. You teach with us; now interact with us. Check out our group, "Word Aflame Beginner Teachers Curriculum."



Beginner Teacher's Manual

Manufactured in U.S.A., December 2015, 1221611
 www.pentecostalpublishing.org • All rights reserved
 ©2015 by Pentecostal Publishing House,
 8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042



Only individual items accompanied by this icon may be copied for use in the local classroom. Do not reproduce, distribute, or transmit any other part of the Word Aflame curriculum in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without possessing prior documented approval from Pentecostal Publishing House, a department of the United Pentecostal Church International. To request permission, contact customerservice@pentecostalpublishing.com.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Editorial

Community of Heroes

Merriam-Webster defines community: “a unified body of individuals; a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society; a group linked by a common policy.” When we think of community, we picture church, school, police station, fire station, grocery store, gas station, library, post office, hospital/medical office, a park, neighborhood watch, block parties, and yard sales. While these help make up the picture of the community, the community itself is people—people who live in the same area with the same interests, communicating, supporting, protecting, helping, and serving one another.

Among those people are some we call heroes. Heroes like firemen and policemen, doctors and nurses, helpful librarians, and even mail carriers. These are people we see every day, often taking them for granted simply because they are always there. Thankfully, they are there when we need them as well.

Communities were important to Jesus, too. He visited numerous communities, making a difference in each one. In most, He was regarded as a common interest drawing people together. People flocked to see Him, hear Him speak, and see Him do miracles. He was a hero. Now He has commissioned you to do what He did: let your light so shine in your community. You are a hero in your classroom, at the altar, and in the student’s home when you make that personal visit. As we follow Jesus’ life to see how He did it, we can help our beginners realize they can do more than just live in their community; they can shine all over their neighborhood!



Blessings,

How to Download Word Aflame Teacher’s Manual Web Material

To access the PDF and DOCs of the teacher’s manual online:

1. Go to www.pentecostalpublishing.com to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click the *Sign In* icon to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click the *Create an Account* icon to open an account for the site.
3. Enter **25604** in the Search bar to find the appropriate download.
4. Click on the item to access the product detail page.
5. Click the *Add to Cart* button.
6. In the checkout process on the *Order Summary* page, enter in the *Coupon* box and click *Update Cart* to apply the coupon.
7. Complete the order process to access the download options. These downloads will be available until October 1, 2016.
8. Once the order is complete, you will see a screen with the item listed and a button with the name of the resource. Click on this button to download the resource.
9. You may also access the download from the *My Account* button and look under the *My History* section to see your orders and find the appropriate download button there to obtain the resource.

A Look at the Curriculum

Life of Jesus: Community of Heroes

The Bible is full of heroes: Noah, Joseph, David, Nehemiah, Esther, Elisabeth, Mary, John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul. Of course the greatest hero is Jesus. God loved us so much He sent His Son to save us. Because of His selfless love, we can experience Christ living in us and in turn become heroes in our world.


In our community are many heroes, people who sacrifice much to give us a better place to live. We also have heroes in our church: pastor, teachers, greeters, worship leaders, ushers, and of course parents. As we study how Jesus was a hero in His communities, we will also study the heroes in our everyday lives.


Community Heroes

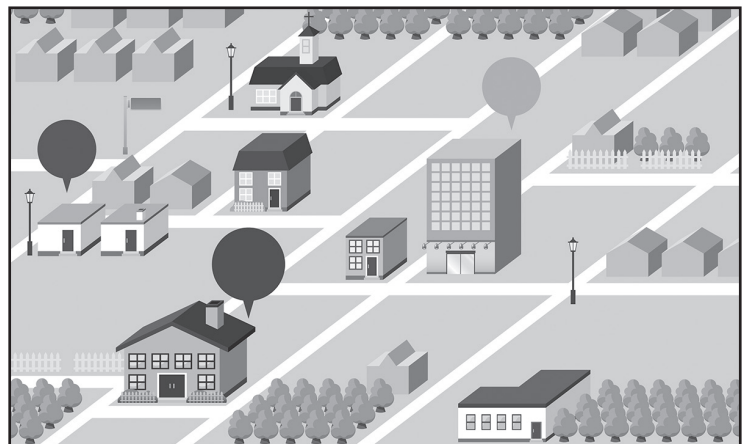
Wall 1 will focus on community heroes and their props. Use the art from the transparencies to create life-size characters. Enlarge these onto long sheets of wide butcher or wrapping paper.

Use bright colors and add fun touches with each character. For example, color the fireman and policeman to match the uniforms in your community. Visit your local stations and ask if they can provide any safe props to display with your heroes. Badges, hats, aprons, smocks, and scrubs could be secured to the paper characters. The characters will be flat on the wall, but props offer a good 3-D effect. Add the caption from the resource packet, "This Little Light of Mine."

Wall 2 will require more creativity as you turn it into a map of your community, focusing on the area around your church. Obtain a city map from your chamber of commerce. Mark the main streets and community buildings you want to display. Be sure your church is in the center! Sketch the streets and buildings onto paper as a guide for your wall drawing (accuracy is not important). Cover the wall with white paper and lightly sketch your streets in place.

Use construction paper to create the buildings: fire station, police station, library, hospital, post office, school, grocery store, and church. Add some houses (especially those of your students who live near the church). If you are in a rural area, include some outlying barns. Farmers and ranchers are part of our community too. Vary the colors and shapes (horizontal and vertical, wide and narrow), adding windows and doors. Identify each building: Fire Station 1, Police Station, and so on. Add some trees, light posts, stop signs, and other landscaping items. Scale is not as important as recognition, so be sure students see familiar spots. See the theme art  for building ideas.

 Items listed with this icon are available as a downloadable resource from our website as well as the CD in the resource packet. Follow the download instructions on the resource packet instruction sheet.



A Look at the Curriculum

If possible, obtain pictures of your community heroes and buildings and post these around the perimeter of the map to act as a “frame.” Enlarge them and print on copy paper. Include pictures of your church heroes as well. Add the caption, “I’m Gonna Let It Shine.”

Wall 3 will focus on opportunities to serve, to help emphasize what Jesus did in His ministry. Download pictures from the Internet such as a homeless family, a sick person, a food pantry, a hurt dog, someone shoveling snow, and other acts of service. Print these as large as possible and mount on the wall. Consider providing plastic tubs and collecting non-perishable food for a food pantry, medical supplies for Compassion Services International, and baby supplies for a women’s shelter. Add the caption, “Shine All Over My Neighborhood.”

Wall 4 is the teaching/worship wall (the wall with the white/black board). Consider doing a black silhouette of your community skyline, or use the transparency to make a generic skyline. Mount the attendance/memory charts at child level. Designate an area near the writing board for a word wall. (A word wall holds cards with new words learned during the quarter, such as *righteousness*.) This could be partitioned off with a border or could simply be a large piece of posterboard. Mount the *Kids in Missions* map (TRP) of Asia on this wall. Add the New Testament map (TRP) to this wall and refer to it each week so the students will know the communities Jesus visited. Add the caption, “Let It Shine Till Jesus Comes.”

Bulletin Boards

If you have bulletin boards, any of the above ideas could be used in a smaller scale. A bulletin board of the community map would be helpful when discussing local heroes as you let students point out a hero’s workplace each week.

One bulletin board needs to be a salvation board. Enlarge pictures of people in your church who are praying, being baptized, and receiving the Holy Ghost (this could be people with hands raised in worship). If possible, let all the pictures be children, especially those in your class. Divide the board into three areas and label them respectively: Repentance, Baptism, and Holy Ghost. Mount the pictures in the appropriate areas.

If you have a bulletin board outside your classroom, let it focus on your students. Take a picture of each student holding a candle, enlarge it as much as possible, and cut out the figure. Mount it on the board. Consider adding a real candle in place of the photo version. Use cutout letters to form the caption, “Shining for Jesus in My Community.”

Teacher Tip

When decorating your room, keep in mind the height of your students. Items placed high on a wall are easily visible from across the room and may get their attention, but are not practical for up-close appeal. Students should be able to interact with your room (not just at story time), so keep items at heights they can reach and easily read and touch.

Door Poster

Mount the door poster from the resource packet on the entrance door at the child’s height.

Brother Usher

Brother Usher is the class mascot and can be a puppet or a person. He should wear a badge (preferably one of your church usher badges) and a bright-colored suit jacket or sport coat. His chief duties include greeting the children, helping them learn the Bible point as noted, and directing them where to go between segments. He can also help with crowd control. Not every lesson includes dialogue so he should be prepared to ad lib as needed.

An alternative Sister Usher will also work. She should wear a smock and the badge identifying her as the usher.

Each week in the activity paper, the story focuses on a hero, either from the community or within the church. Brother Usher should talk about the day's hero as the children are working on their attendance charts. This will be a simple brief recognition of that hero, as the chief focus each week is on the Bible-related items (memory verse, story) and not the theme. Dialogue is presented in lesson 1 as a suggested format to follow each week.

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. EMT | 4. Pastor | 7. Worship Leader | 10. Usher |
| 2. Parent | 5. Policeman | 8. Greeter | 11. Librarian |
| 3. Mailman | 6. Teacher | 9. Fireman | 12. Babysitter |


Bible Points

Every week the children learn a short take-home phrase summarizing the lesson objective. Brother Usher and the teachers work together to teach the students the weekly Bible point. Each time the Bible point is said, hold up a map of your city (or any map) as a cue.

End of Lesson Discussion


In order to measure what your students “know” or “learned” from your teaching, use these discussion starters. They present an opportunity for students—not the teacher—to recall, explain, summarize, compare, hypothesize, revise, illustrate, and show their depth of knowledge on the lesson's subject.

Volunteers

Using a label gun, prepare a name label for each student. Print and cut out enough volunteer badges  on cardstock so each student can select one badge. After students color their badges, add the name labels. Obtain a toy truck with an open back (such as a dump truck) and place the badges in it. (After all, construction workers are community heroes too.) When you need a volunteer, draw a badge from the truck. This will ensure every student has opportunity to volunteer and the same students are not always used.


Attendance and Memory Charts

Purchase an activity paper for each student. Remove the staple and separate the papers for weekly distribution. The charts are combined on the activity paper wrapper. On the first Sunday, give each child a chart and let him write his name on the line. Each week the child attends, he colors the hero character of the day.

Each week the child practices his unit memory verse, he colors the numbered community item. When he can quote a unit verse, he colors the designated item. A master of each chart  is available for visitors.

Bible Verses

A unit Bible verse is studied for each unit. The multiple-week study will explain the verse as well as encourage memorization. An additional Bible lesson verse that connects to the Bible story is mentioned in the story and in the activity paper.

The special memory passage is Galatians 5:22-23, which teaches the fruit of the Spirit. A poster is included in the resource packet, and a small version is on the activity paper. Refer to the SMP Ideas  for ways to teach the passage during class.

Kids in Missions

The focus this quarter is Asia. In the resource packet is a map and a list of missionaries in Asia. Consider spending time the first Sunday of the month praying for the missionaries and doing the suggested activities on the *KiM* insert [🔗](#). Profile sheets of the missionary kids serving in Asia are available at www.upwithmks.com/profilesheets.html. Print these and distribute for the students to color and take home as a reminder to pray for them.

If your church partners with missionaries in the Asia region, ask your pastor's permission to copy their plaques and display them on wall 4 next to the *KiM* map.

Teacher Training Helps

Our website offers several teacher training articles as well as other items to enhance your teaching experience: a child information form, Characteristics of Beginners, and how to build a tree. A standard supply list details items that should be regularly available and are generally not listed on each lesson's supply list (such as pencils, markers, scissors, glue, etc.).

pentecostalpublishing.com/pages/teachers-training

A teacher training article, "Loving Children with Special Needs" is included in the resource packet and as a downloadable resource. This piece is three-hole punched for placement in your personal or classroom resource notebook.

Extra Resources

Provide resources to help keep early birds occupied until class starts. Include music videos, music CDs (provide headsets), puzzles, games, and books. Visit pentecostalpublishing.com as well as dollar stores or online sites.

Consider these items from pentecostalpublishing.com:

- *Mary's Christmas Story* (Arch Book)-19907
- *The Shepherd's Christmas* (Arch Book)-19908
- *Big Book of Bible Puzzles*-24360
- *Eleven Chickens in a Boat*-24974
- *Itty Bitty Bible Activity* books-20941/20942/20933/20944
- *Pencil Fun* books-8168/8176/5075/5073/8171/5074/8175/5076
- *Wise and Silly* books-23668/24469/23887/25326/26008
- *Salvation Station Color Book*-13567