

HERO Post Event Bible Study #2

Theme Verse: Hebrews 1:1

Theme: Spoke Through the Prophets



Opening Activity: Telephone Charades

1. Prep
 - a. Brainstorm some hilarious actions to be acted out
 - i. Going skydiving
 - ii. A dog with a treat on its nose
 - iii. A nerd's first date
 - iv. Capturing a wild snake
 - v. Etc...
 - b. Write them in large letters on a piece of paper
2. Pick around six students to stand in a line, all facing the same direction, front to back. (If you have a larger group, feel free to go through this activity several times.)
3. Show the clue to the last person in line in each group, as well as the audience (everyone not in the line.)
4. The person who received the clue taps the next person in line and acts the clue out to them, without talking or noise (the rest of the line cannot watch.)
5. Each person has thirty seconds to silently decide what they think the person is acting out, then they have to turn around and act out what they think the clue is to the next person. This goes on until the end of the line. The last person in line guesses out loud what they think the clue was.

Discuss:

1. For those of you who received the clues first, was it easy or difficult to accurately act it out to the next person in line? What made it so?
2. If you weren't the first person in line, what made this activity challenging? Do you feel like people clearly acted out the clue? Do you think you did?
3. What would have made this activity easier?

Say Something Like: A lot of times, when we read the Old Testament, it's difficult to understand what it has to do with our lives under the New Testament. Jesus wasn't born, yet, and it seems like the Old Testament is full of a lot of stories of people in horrible circumstances making various horrible decisions. But if it's in the Bible, it has to be more than that, doesn't it?

At this point, break into small group circles for deeper discussion. Assign to each group one of the readings below. Small groups should comprise three students at minimum, guided by an adult or student leader if possible. If your group is small, feel free to continue as one group.

Read:

1. 1 Samuel 17:12-51

Discuss:

1. What kind of people were refusing to fight Goliath? Why were such “qualified” men unwilling to face him?
2. If you look at David purely from an earthly perspective, does David have what it takes to face Goliath? Why or why not?
3. In spite of his apparent lack of qualifications, David went and faced Goliath. What was motivating Him to stand up against Goliath? (*Check out verses 45-47 if they’re stuck.*)
4. What did God use David to accomplish for Israel?
5. Can you see parallels to Jesus’ life in this account? Name some. (*Jesus was “not qualified” according to the culture – a poor, uneducated carpenter’s son and not a prince; He faced people who had all the apparent resources to stop Him; in the Garden of Gethsemane, He faced fear but submitted to God’s will; He ultimately worked salvation for everyone through His actions.*)

2. Ester 4

Discuss:

1. Imagine your boyfriend or girlfriend has not wanted to see you in a month. How would you feel? What would you think about your relationship?
2. Ester’s husband had not asked to see her in a month, and she faced certain death if she went to him without permission, unless he chose to spare her. How do you think she felt when Mordecai told her she had to go to the king to plead for the Jews to be spared? (*If it helps, explain Ester was likely 14 years old, and to defend them she also had to reveal she was a Jew, something she had never told him.*)
3. What gave Ester the courage to face the king? (*See verse 16*)
4. Can you see parallels to Jesus’ life in this account? Name some. (*Jesus was “not qualified” to change anything – a poor, uneducated carpenter’s son with no apparent power; He faced people who had all the apparent resources to stop Him; in the Garden of Gethsemane, He asked God to take the responsibility of the cross from Him, if possible; He prayed to God prior to facing the “authorities” of the Jewish leadership and Pontius Pilate; His faithfulness ultimately worked salvation for everyone.*)

3. Daniel 3:8-30

Discuss:

1. The furnace the king threatened to throw people in if they didn’t worship his image normally burned at 2,372 degrees Fahrenheit. What does that tell you about why so few people stood up for their faith in God?

2. Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand up for their faith in the face of this? Did they know 100% that God would prevent them from burning to death?
3. What do you think would have been the cost if Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had not been willing to go into the furnace? What would it have meant in the wider picture for all the Jews in Babylon? For the worship of the One God? *(Remember, the Israelites were the ultimate source of the Messiah, as well. The last of them who live here in Babylon, except for these three, are worshipping the image the king set up.)*
4. Can you see parallels to Jesus' life in this account? Name some. *(Jesus was "not qualified" to change anything – a poor, uneducated carpenter's son with no apparent power; He faced people who had all the apparent resources to stop Him; in the Garden of Gethsemane, He faced fear but submitted to God's will; His faithfulness ultimately worked salvation for everyone.)*

Wrap up any discussion that comes out of this in your small group, then join up in one large group with the other small groups to wrap up.

Discuss:

1. What were some thoughts that came out of the discussions you had on the different passages your groups read? I'd like to hear a little about each Bible passage. *(Take time to debrief together.)*
2. After this discussion, what similarities did you notice between these three accounts? *(Make sure they notice all three of them share parallels with the account of Jesus' life on earth.)*
3. What could it mean for you that God used the faithfulness of unqualified, powerless people to demonstrate His saving love to a generation of people?

Say Something Like: It is recorded in Hebrews 1:1, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets." As you learned today and at the District Gathering, God was speaking about Jesus through the work of people faithful to Him. In this case, they were "Prophets" named David, Ester, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They weren't perfect people, but their faithfulness to God pointed to a day when God would show His faithfulness to us through His son, Jesus. As you go tonight, I want to challenge you to ponder this question: How might God be "speaking through you" in your day-to-day lives, as well?

Close in Prayer asking God to help them be open to how God might use them to speak into the world they live in from day-to-day.