INTRODUCTION: GOD’S PEOPLE (C.3.FALL)

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-11

**Goal for the trimester:** Learn about the lives of some true heroes of faith and explore what it means to be a hero in God’s kingdom. That they would not only learn the stories and facts, but that they would come to understand that God has a plan for their lives and wants to use them. That they would be challenged and encouraged to trust in God and obey God when they are invited to participate in God’s mission.

**Message for the teacher:**

It doesn’t matter what our weaknesses are, when we trust in God we will be used by God for the good of the kingdom of God. God is the one who makes us into heroes. Some people might look like heroes on the outside, but a true hero might not look anything like what we see on tv or the movies.

During this trimester the children will study the true heroes of faith; people who trusted in God and were obedient, even when they didn’t think they were capable of doing what God was asking them to do.

The word “hero” brings a lot of images to mind for the children, especially images of superheroes. They might think of characters like Superman, Batman or Wonder Woman. Or maybe they will think of the famous sports stars or television actors. Generally when children think about heroes, they think about them as having some extraordinary talent or gift.

The children in your group are not superheroes, but they are real-live heroes in God’s kingdom when they respond to God’s voice, trust in God and obey the opportunities God puts in front of them. In this way God can use them to help others. The lessons this trimester focus on how we can all be true heroes in the sense that the Bible teaches when we listen to God’s voice, trust God and obey.

Study carefully each of the Bible passages that will be taught this trimester. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through God’s word.

**Note:** Plan ahead of time when you will do the presentation of the special projects for the families, parents, and congregation. Some options include:

* During a Sunday service
* after a Sunday service
* during a class session
* a week-night when you have a ministry time at your church
PROJECT FOR THE TRIMESTER

The following are options to choose from for a trimestral project. In each lesion, you will be able to participate in an activity that will be related to the project you choose.

**Option #1: Olympic Games**

There will be Olympic Games in order to engage the children who at this age tend to be competitive.

You can divide the class into three groups representing three different true biblical heroes. Then during each class there will be a small game focused on the lesson of the day. The teams will receive a point according to how they do. At the end of the trimester, you can give out gold, silver, and bronze medals.

1. **Tic-tac-toe**
   - **Materials:** A large piece of poster board with a large tic-tac-toe board on it
     - 10 question cards
     - 5 cards with an "X" and 5 cards with an "O"

   **Instructions:**
   Divide the class in two groups. One group will have the X cards and the other will have the O cards. Each team will have the opportunity to answer a question from the lesson (which will be on the question cards). If the team answers the question correctly, they may place their X or O card on the board. The first time that has three of their cards in a row wins.

2. **Discover the Bible Verse** (review Bible verses)
   - **Materials:** A large poster board with the Bible verse written on it (space the words enough apart that each word can be covered by an index card)
     - Index cards with the numbers 1-20 written on them
     - Question cards

   **Instructions:**
   Write out a Bible memory verse on a poster board. Cover each of the words with an index card (the first word covered by the index card with the #1 on it and then sequentially the other index cards.
   Divide the class in 2 or 3 groups. Each group will have the opportunity to respond to different questions regarding the Bible story. When they answer correctly they will decide which index card to remove (by saying the number) in order to read the word
that is behind it. The first team that guesses the Bible verse wins. Type of questions that can be asked include: true/false, multiple choice, short answer, fill in the blank, etc.
3. True or false?
Materials: Questions about the Bible story.

Instrucciones
Divide the class into a couple of teams. Ask questions about the Bible story. For each question they answer correctly they will receive a point. The team with the most points at the end of the game will receive a surprise.

4. The question game
Materiales: A game board (made out of poster board in the form of a labyrinth).
Some sort of marker for each team (a certain color button or coin), a dice
Questions about the Bible story

Instructions:
Each group will choose their marker and will have a turn to move on the board. Have certain instructions written out on the board (go back one space, go forward 2 spaces). Also have the questions correspond to the board (make the squares on the board a certain color and have the questions categorized by color). Be creative. This is your opportunity to make your own board game.

5. Charades: Who am I? (Review)
Each group will have the opportunity to act out the life of one of the Bible heroes they’ve studied. They should choose one person to act it out for the rest of the group. Have the names of the heroes written out on slips of paper that they can select from a basket or paper bag. Their team will have one minute to guess who the child is acting out. They will get one point for each guess that is correct.

6. Bible verse games
*"Decoder"
Materials: index cards with one word of the Bible verse on each of the cards

Instrucciones:
Hide the cards around the room before the children get them. Have them look for the cards and then put them in the correct order.

*Secret, secret
Materials: A card with the Bible verse for the lesson
Instruction:
Everyone sits in a circle. The teacher begins with the first word of the Bible verse and whispers it into the ear of the child sitting to his/her right. That child will do the same in the ear of the person to his/her right. The word should be spread around the whole circle. When it gets to the last person then the teacher will add another word, whispering the first and second words of the Bible verse to the child to his/her left. This will continue until the teacher has said the whole Bible verse. Then have the last person share the Bible verse that he/she has received. If it is incorrect, ask the person next to them if they can correct any errors.

OPTION #2: Unexpected heroes of the faith

#1: TRUE HEROES OF THE FAITH TELEVISION SHOW
During the trimester they will work together as producers of the most popular television show during Biblical times, “True Heroes of the Faith.” Each week they will draw scenes of the Bible story, featuring the Biblical hero, and they will write a story that will later be turned into a program to share with their parents.

A cardboard television: Use a cardboard box to serve as a tv. Cut a hole in the front side of the box that will serve as the tv screen, where the program will be presented. Cut slits in each of the sides of the box, where the illustrations can pass through. Make sure the box is big enough for the size of paper you are using to make your illustrations. Only one illustration should show on the screen at a time.

#2: TRUE HEROES OF THE FAITH: LIVE SHOW
They can work as directors of the most popular tv show in Biblical times, “True heroes of the faith.” Each week they can prepare a text based on the Bible story and the hero they learned about. At the end each class, they will do a live show where someone acts out the part of the Biblical hero.

#3: LOOKING FOR: TRUE HEROES OF THE FAITH
The teacher will tell a story each week about a true hero. The children will use their artistic abilities and will create a mural on large sheets of paper on one of the walls in the classroom. The mural will include details of the heroes and the events surrounding their lives. The teacher will take pictures of the children to include on the mural and they can write important facts about their life with God.

#4: TRUE HEROES OF THE FAITH LIVE
You will need outside help for this. The idea is that someone from outside of the class will act the part of the hero and the children will become interviewers who will ask
questions of the hero. They will take notes and then write a summary of the hero and the hero’s life.