

Our 2005-06 SCH Theme: *Heroes of the Faith*

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for (Hebrews 11:1-2).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Noah (September)• Abraham (October)• Jacob (November)• Moses (December)• Rahab (January)• Gideon (February)• Samson (March)• David (April)• Samuel (May) | <p>Our featured World Vision child this month is Francisco Silva, a 12-year-old boy from Brazil. Please pray for him, and please consider giving generously in our chapel collection or in one of the World Vision containers around school. Thanks!</p> |
|---|--|

□ September Reflection

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family” (7a). You no doubt heard the various pieces of Noah’s story many times as a child, and what a beautiful faith story it is! Built from scratch, a huge boat, filled with animals of every kind, ends up resting safely on a mountaintop, framed by a beautiful rainbow. However, the same story told from Noah’s perspective would probably include a few more struggles than the version we’re used to hearing.

Scripture doesn’t provide much detail about the 120 years that Noah and his family spent building the ark. However, they must have faced incredible hardships and delays as they attempted their monumental building task with only basic tools. No doubt, they also experienced ridicule (and probably worse) from the people in their community. In fact, Peter later calls Noah “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5), which indicates that he faithfully responded to the wickedness surrounding them.

It’s impossible for any of us to put ourselves in Noah’s position, yet we can marvel at his faith in God as well as learn from it. God still calls His people to do things that seem impossible, and Noah’s daily trust and activity over the long haul is the model for us to follow. Also, though you may not feel much like a preacher, God also desires your righteous responses to the wickedness in your community. By faith, Noah pleased God, and by faith, so can you today.

□ Scripture References

1. About Noah
 - a. Hebrews 11:1-7
 - b. Genesis 5:1-31
 - c. Genesis 6:1-8
 - d. Genesis 6:9-22
 - e. Genesis 7:1-24
 - f. Genesis 8:1-14
 - g. Genesis 8:15-22
 - h. Genesis 9:1-17
 - i. Ezekiel 14:12-23
 - j. 1 Peter 3:13-22
2. A few more faith passages
 - a. Matthew 9:18-31

- b. Romans 1:1-17
- c. 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

□ Another Faith Hero: Wellesley Bailey (1846-1937)

Bailey was born in 1846 in Ireland. He became a Christian shortly before he sailed to Australia “to make his fortune.” When he returned to Ireland, having failed in his ambition, he decided on a whim to travel to India. He stayed at the home of a missionary and soon became aware of the needs of the local poor people. Deeply affected by what he saw, he started working as a missionary there.

Then, Bailey visited a leper asylum. Although leprosy is fairly easily treated now, at the time there was no treatment for this contagious disease, and the person was immediately and permanently isolated from family, friends, and society. Bailey saw the needs of these rejected people and started spending time among them. He shared the gospel with them, and he took care of their physical needs as well. He supplied shelters, food, clothing, and medical care, and many lepers became Christians.

Bailey went back to Ireland in 1873 because his wife Alice was sick. There he shared his experiences with others and collected money to continue his work among the lepers. In 1875, he returned to India and set up a leprosy asylum at Chamba. The work expanded rapidly, and in 1889 Bailey set up a leprosy home in Burma. Others followed in China, and by 1908 there were additional homes in Japan, South Africa, South America, Sumatra, and Korea. Bailey retired from the work in 1917 after setting up an organization to care for leprosy sufferers world wide.

There are still many leprosy sufferers in the world, mainly in poor societies. Although treatments are available and effective, many of the sufferers do not receive treatment. Therefore, the Leprosy Mission continues its goal to eradicate this evil disease.

- Adapted from www.christianheroes.com

Our 2005-06 SCH Theme: *Heroes of the Faith*

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for (Hebrews 11:1-2).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noah (September) ➤ Abraham (October) • Jacob (November) • Moses (December) • Rahab (January) • Gideon (February) • Samson (March) • David (April) • Samuel (May) | <p>Our featured World Vision child this month is Ines Escajadillo, an 8-year-old girl from Peru. Please pray for her and her family, and please consider giving generously in our monthly chapel collection or in one of the World Vision containers around school. Thanks!</p> |
|---|---|

□ October Reflection

“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice” (17a). What a difficult test for any parent, especially for an old man (“as good as dead” in verse 12) whom God Himself had promised generations of descendants through this very son! So how was Abraham able to raise the knife over his defenseless, beloved son Isaac? At some point, Abraham had simply learned to trust

God even when it didn't seem to make very good sense, and that's at least one reason why he is listed among the heroes of faith.

As always, God had a bigger picture in mind than Abraham or any other human could possibly have had. God already could see beyond Isaac to Jacob, and ultimately all the way to Joseph, the carpenter whom he chose to be his human father. Also, God the Father already knew that when the time was right, He would actually have to go through with the sacrifice of His only Son. Because of His great love for Abraham's descendants, including us, there would be no last-minute, miraculous escape for Jesus, the Lamb of God.

It is by God's design that we often lack the ability to see the bigger picture that God always sees. Why? God knows that a faith that is never tested will be weak. Instead of realizing how worthless our worry about something was "after the fact," God calls us to trust Him fully in the midst of difficult circumstances. When we do, we exercise faith in God, and as that faith grows stronger, we become more like Abraham and the other heroes of faith.

□ Scripture References

1. About Abraham

- a. Hebrews 11:8-19
- b. Genesis 12:1-20
- c. Genesis 13:1-18
- d. Genesis 14:1-24
- e. Genesis 15:1-21
- f. Genesis 16:1-16
- g. Genesis 17:1-27
- h. Genesis 18:1-33
- i. Genesis 22:1-19
- j. Genesis 25:1-11

2. A few more faith passages

- a. Luke 17:1-10
- b. Romans 3:21-31
- c. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

□ Another Faith Hero: Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)

She was born in Holland into a Christian family who loved the Word of God. This upbringing, with the focus on Jesus, helped ten Boom to behave as nobly as she did after German troops invaded Holland in 1940. The Germans despised the Jews and persecuted them with great savageness. Property belonging to Jews was seized, and Jewish families were split up—with men, women, and children being shipped to various work camps and concentration camps.

Soon, ten Boom joined an underground movement that opposed the Nazi regime. Their goal was to hide Jews from the Germans and to smuggle them to safety. She and her family were eventually betrayed by someone they had helped and imprisoned. Corrie and her sister were shipped to various concentration camps where they continued to teach fellow prisoners about Jesus Christ. Her sister died while they were imprisoned. In spite of the horrific living conditions, ten Boom led secret prayer meetings and continued to [inspire](#) others with [faith](#) and [hope](#). "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known [God](#)," she said. She was released from prison by a clerical error, one week before all the [women](#) her age were killed.

"The message that God [forgives](#) has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us," she said of the experience. After the war, this remarkable [woman](#) focused on forgiveness and opened a rehabilitation center for Germans who worked under the Nazi regime. She once said, "Faith is like radar that sees through the fog -- the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see." Via the book [The Hiding Place](#) and many other ways, Corrie ten Boom's life of faith has inspired millions throughout the world.

- Adapted from www.christianheroes.com
-

Our 2005-06 SCH Theme: *Heroes of the Faith*

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for (Hebrews 11:1-2).

- Noah (September)
- Abraham (October)
- **Jacob** (November)
- Moses (December)
- Rahab (January)
- Gideon (February)
- Samson (March)
- David (April)
- Samuel (May)

Our featured World Vision child this month is Eveness Hodzi, a 5-year-old girl from Zimbabwe. Please pray for her and her family, and please consider giving generously in our monthly chapel collection or in one of the World Vision containers around school. Thanks!

❑ October Reflection

“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff” (21). It seems odd that the author of Hebrews features Jacob’s dying act instead of one of his more memorable life events: his volatile interactions with Esau, his dream of the stairway, or even his marriages to Leah and Rachel. However, Jacob’s final righteous earthly act—giving the prophetic blessings and curses that his sons and their ancestors deserved—represents the faithfulness he showed throughout his life.

Remember Jacob’s supernatural wrestling match? Earlier in life, he had managed to prevail in battles of different kinds against his brother Esau and his father-in-law Laban, but on his return to Canaan, Jacob faced an opponent whom he could not defeat—God Himself. God came by night in a form that allowed Jacob to compete with Him, but in the end, Jacob’s opponent wrenched his hip by merely touching it. Still in a clench, Jacob demanded and received this blessing: “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome” (Genesis 32:28).

Have you ever tried to wrestle with God? God’s will is often difficult to figure out, and even when it is clear, it is often difficult to accept. In faith, bring your questions, struggles, and even your disagreements to God. Trust that He can handle them, and also trust that as He blessed Jacob, He will in His own providential ways bless you.

❑ Scripture References

1. About Jacob

- a. Hebrews 11:20-21
- b. Genesis 25:19-34
- c. Genesis 27:1-40
- d. Genesis 28:10-22
- e. Genesis 29:1-30
- f. Genesis 29:31-30:24
- g. Genesis 30:25-43
- h. Genesis 31:1-21
- i. Genesis 31:22-55
- j. Genesis 32:1-21
- k. Genesis 32:22-32

- l. Genesis 33:1-20
- m. Genesis 35:1-15
- n. Genesis 47:1-12
- o. Genesis 49:1-33

□ Another Faith Hero: John Bunyan (1628-1688)

John Bunyan was born in England into a poor family that was looked down upon because they were seen as gypsies. He received little formal education, and he was practically illiterate when he gave up school at an early age. After much rebellion and a two-year stint in the army, Bunyan met and married Elizabeth, a woman of God who encouraged him to learn to read and write. He did, using religious books, and what he read began to change him.

After struggling with his own sinfulness for a long time, Bunyan finally realized the grace of God. His whole life was almost instantly transformed, and he was soon baptized. In 1655, he went into ministry and became a tremendous preacher with a large and loyal following. His life changed when Charles II took the throne. King Charles promised religious freedom but only for the established church of England. Towards the end of 1660, Bunyan was arrested and jailed for three months. He was told that if he promised not to preach anymore, he would then be released; otherwise, he would be banished from England. He refused to accept these terms and spent the next six years in jail. Although he was then released for a short time, Bunyan was soon jailed for another six years.

During this time Bunyan studied the Bible. He also wrote at least twelve books while he was in jail. The best known of his books is Pilgrim's Progress, a tale of a sinner being drawn to Jesus Christ and avoiding the pitfalls of the world and of legalism, both of which attempted to destroy his journey. He was eventually released from prison in a kinder political climate and spent the last fifteen years of his faithful life pastoring a church.

- Adapted from www.christianheroes.com