

HEART OF A HERO

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

Heroes make wise choices.

BIBLE

Joseph is Held Captive: Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-23 (James 4:17, 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

ACTIVITY: A Tangled Mess ▲

- Welcome! This week, we're talking about how heroes need to make wise choices!

ACTIVITY: Don't Get Caught in a Web ▲

- When Spider-Man captures villains in his webs, the villains get stuck and can't move. They're trapped!
- Sin is anything we do that isn't what God wants us to do. Sins like lying can be like sticky spiderwebs. When you tell one lie, you start telling other lies to cover up the first one, and before you know it, you're trapped in a web of lies.

QUESTION: What are some webs we can get caught in? ▲

- **What are some ways in our lives we can get caught in a web?** It could be any poor choice, a bad behavior, disobeying our parents, lying, selfish

attitudes, or anything else that traps us.

- We don't have to stay trapped in a web forever! Jesus is ready to help us get unstuck! We'll learn about how Joseph got into a bad place, but he remained honest and did the right thing.

SO WHAT?

STORY: Share a Story ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have a leader share about a time when they felt they were being treated unfairly, and how they reacted to this. Try to think of an experience the kids would relate to, such as being accused of something they didn't do or getting in trouble for something they didn't do.*
- When we get in trouble or get accused for something we didn't do, we have to choose to do the right thing and have a good attitude. We're going to learn how Joseph reacted when he was accused of something he didn't do.

THE BIG IDEA: Heroes make wise choices. ▲

This week's Big Idea: **Heroes make wise choices.**

BIBLE STORY: Genesis 37:12–36; 39:20-23 ▲

- Last week, we read about Joseph getting a special gift from his father. It made his brothers really jealous. Let's read from the Bible to see what happened next.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!*
- Joseph's brothers became jealous when he told them about the dream where they bowed down to him. **What did they do to him?** They planned to kill him, but instead, they threw him into a big hole, which was a well. But he didn't stay in the well. **What happened next?** His brothers sold him into slavery.
- **Do you remember what happened to Joseph's robe?** The brothers soaked it in goat's blood and took it to Joseph's father, pretending like

Joseph was killed by an animal. His father was very sad.

- When Joseph was sold to the merchants, he ended up as a servant in the home of a man named Potiphar. Potiphar trusted Joseph and put him in charge of everything, and things were looking up for Joseph. Then, Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to sin with her, and he refused. She got mad at him and lied to get him in trouble. Potiphar had Joseph thrown in prison.
- But even in prison, God was with Joseph. Soon, the prison guards started to like Joseph.
- Joseph needed great courage to face these injustices. **Where do you think his courage came from?**
- Joseph made wise choices and did the right thing, even when people tried to get him to sin. He refused to sin and chose to do the right thing and be honest, even if it meant he would get in trouble.
- Integrity is standing up for what's right and doing the right thing at all times no matter what.
- You can make wise choices, have integrity, and do the right thing, too!

OBJECT LESSON: Types of Metal ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hold up a piece of aluminum foil and a metal or steel tool, such as a wrench.*
- **What do you think these two things are made out of?** They're made from the same base material, metal! The aluminum foil is very thin metal. This tool is also made from metal. Which one is stronger? The tool! **When something hard puts pressure on the aluminum foil, what do you think will happen?** Let's try having two people pull it and see what happens. It breaks!
- **When life puts pressure on you and bad things happen to you, will you break like the aluminum foil? Will you give in to temptation and make the wrong choices? Or will you let God give you super strength, like this steel, to help you stand up for what's right and make good choices?**

ACTIVITY: Find the Good ▲

- **Do you think it was hard for Joseph to find the good in the bad situations? Do you think it's hard to have a good attitude and do the right**

thing? When we can't see what's coming and don't see the big picture, it can be hard to do the right thing and make the right choices. Let's play a game to see how hard it can be to find the good when we can't see the full picture. The ping pong balls represent the good things that happen to us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Spread out five ping pong balls on the floor of your playing space. Have the group of kids make a circle on the floor around your playing space. Choose two kids to play: one will wear a blindfold and get on their hands and knees on the floor while their partner gives them verbal cues. Give them one minute to collect five ping pong balls. You can play as one large group or with multiple groups racing.*
- **Was it hard to find the good when you were blindfolded? Did it help to have your partner's voice giving you direction?** Sometimes, it's hard to find the good things in our lives when we can't see the full picture and don't understand what's happening, but God gives us guidance and helps us if we listen to Him.

NOW WHAT?

ACTIVITY: Doing The Right Thing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read aloud the below scenarios and have the kids give a thumbs up if the person handled the situation in a wise way or a thumbs down if they did not.*
 - *Tommy's brother was asking him too many questions about a game he was playing, so Tommy yelled at his brother to get out of his room. (Thumbs down)*
 - *There was a boy playing on the playground alone, so Josh went over to ask him to play with his friends. (Thumbs up)*
 - *Mary saw her mom left \$5 on the kitchen counter, so she took it to buy an extra candy bar at lunch. (Thumbs down)*
 - *Julia decided she wanted to wear her sister's shirt to school even though her sister said no, so she waited until she left and took her shirt anyway. (Thumbs down)*
- **How could these situations be different using wisdom?**
- **Do you ever have a hard time making the wise choice?**
- In every situation, we always have a choice to make.

PRAYER: Ask Jesus For Help ▲

- Jesus helps us make the wise choice if we ask Him for guidance.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to close their eyes and think of something they need help knowing what to do.*
- We can ask God for help any time we need it. Let's pray together and ask God to give us wisdom to make wise choices in the situations we're thinking of.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION ▲

- **What is one wise choice Joseph made?**
- **Is it tough to resist temptation when someone tries to get you to do something wrong?**
- **Have you ever been treated unfairly? If so, how did you feel?**
- **What are some ways we can grow in courage and strength to stand for justice like Joseph?**

ACTIVITY: The Game of Choices ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Game of Choices printables and cut the cards apart (or let the kids help you think of and write down good choices and bad choices on index cards). Mix them up and put them in a stack in the middle. Have one kid read a card, and see who can be the first to say "Good choice" or "Bad choice." If it's a bad choice, they have to tell you what a good alternative choice would be in that situation.*