

EYES ON THE STARS



1. Who was one of your heroes when you were young?

Who is one of your heroes now?

2. Name someone famous in each of the following categories.

- A famous music star—
- A famous athlete—
- A famous politician—
- A famous writer—
- A famous actor or actress—

3. What would you consider to be heroic? Check three of the following.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Sunday school | <input type="checkbox"/> Wearing the right kind of clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning up my room | <input type="checkbox"/> Getting a part in a movie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being on the cover of
<i>Teen People</i> magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing a hit song |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering at a nursing home | <input type="checkbox"/> Telling the truth when it's easier to lie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winning the state lottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Being voted my team's MVP |

4. What do you think?

The person I most want to be like when I grow up is—
Why?

5. Match the following verses with the correct letter.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Joshua 9:9-10 | a. a defeated hero |
| 2. 1 Samuel 17:51 | b. a wise hero |
| 3. 1 Kings 4:29-34 | c. a heroine |
| 4. Proverbs 31:10-31 | d. a famous God |
| 5. Matthew 4:23-25 | e. a hero people followed |

EYES ON THE STARS [heroes]

THIS WEEK

Media has the power to create heroes and heroines. But these celebrities—shaped by TV, sports, movies, or music videos—aren't necessarily heroic. Sometimes their moral behaviors aren't ones that they'd like our kids to follow. Heroes and heroines these days can be anyone from professional golfers to world leaders. They are heroes because people admire and respect them. This TalkSheet will help you discuss why they look up to certain people and what a hero is.

OPENER

Try this charades-type game! Before your meeting, write names of some heroes or heroines in large letters on individual pieces of 8½ x 11 paper or Post-It notes. You can include different kinds of heroes including (but not limited to)—

- Superheroes—Superman, X-Men, Spiderman, Batman, and so on.
- Sports champions—Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan, Andre Agassi, Brandi Chastain, Marion Jones, and so on.
- Actors—Julia Roberts, Jim Carrey, Robin Williams, Cameron Diaz, and so on.
- Music stars—Madonna, Dave Matthews, Garth Brooks, Faith Hill, Britney Spears, and so on.

Once you've got these on paper, don't let your kids see them. Split your group up into two (or more) teams. Each team will take turns having a volunteer come up to the front. You'll then stick a piece of paper or Post-It on the volunteer's back or forehead (a hat with duct tape on the front works well). Don't let the volunteer see the name of the hero! In a given amount of time (a minute or so), the other group members have to describe the hero or heroine on the paper to the volunteer—without saying the name of the person in any context. If the volunteer can guess the name of the hero, the team gets a point.

THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. What heroes or heroines did your youth have when they were younger? How about now? How many of them still have the same hero? Have them share why the person is important to them and considered to be hero-worthy.
2. Discuss the difference between a famous person today—known as a celebrity—and a hero or heroine. A celebrity is a creation of media publicity. Heroes earn their titles and they often reflect on the merits of what they have done. Heroes take moral positions and live by exemplary standards.

3. Point out that heroic deeds don't always bring fame. Fame has nothing to do with morality today—instead it deals with what is popular and trendy. And remind them that a heroic act may be something as insignificant—even cleaning up their room—because it is an act of discipline, obedience, and respect.
4. Ask the kids to share the people they chose. You'll most likely get a variety of answers. Take this time to talk about their role models. What traits or characteristics should good role models have? Are their heroes good role models for them?

5. These verses deal with heroes and heroines in the Bible. Discuss with your kids what made each of them heroic and how God used their deeds.

THE CLOSE

Everyone has a hero—but they should be smart about who they choose. The apostle Paul said, "Imitate me." He wasn't boasting! He was saying, "I'll be your hero. You need a hero who acts as Jesus wants him to do. Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:17, author's paraphrase). Don't model yourself after anyone who doesn't reflect the values and high standards of the Christian faith.

Challenge your kids to choose their heroes wisely—and also to live heroically through their actions and examples. Some of your kids think they're nobody—encourage them to believe they can do great things for the kingdom of God.

MORE

- The Bible is full of people who would be considered heroic. Have the group find examples or stories of heroes in the Bible—who would they consider hero-worthy (besides Jesus, of course!)? What actions or characteristics make them heroes of faith? What can they admire about this person? What does God consider heroic?
- Hold a contest to see who can find the most interesting facts about their hero or heroine. Challenge them to look on the Internet, in magazines, or wherever they can find some information. And whoever brings the most unique, quirky, or interesting fact about their hero gets a prize. Have your kids vote on the best one. Did this info change the way that they feel about their heroes? How?