



FAMILY STUDY

Hero Shopping

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"Hero Shopping"

Role Models and Heroes

Most of us have people whom we look up to or admire, whether they are people we know personally or people we admire from afar, such as athletes, actors or musicians. Perhaps their talents or accomplishments are impressive to us, or maybe we just think they're good-looking or cool.

While it is okay to admire people for certain things, it is important to understand what GOD finds admirable. Most of the time, God's criteria for heroism is completely different than our human criteria. Nevertheless, you and your family likely have human role models whom you admire. It is a good exercise, however, to talk with your family about the people you admire and why you admire them. Do you really want your children to model themselves after the latest movie star or hit musician? We encourage you to go through this study with your family, study the Scripture passages, and discuss the questions included here. May this study help you and your family to understand that true heroes model themselves after Christ!

Hebrews 11: A Study in Role Models

Read Hebrews chapter 11 and ask these questions:

- Q. What do all the heroes mentioned in this chapter have in common?
- Q. Were most of these people rich?
- Q. Were most of these people famous in their time?
- Q. Did most of these people think more of themselves, or of God?

What We Should Imitate

We often want to imitate our heroes. Let's take a look at what God wants us to imitate. Read these verses:

John 13:15

Jesus commands us to imitate Him.

1 Corinthians 4:12-16

Imitate Paul because of his willingness to suffer for Christ.

Hebrews 6:7-12

Imitate the faithful and patient in Christ, not becoming lazy.

Hebrews 13:7

Imitate those who demonstrate their faith through godly living and preaching.

3 John 11

Imitate what is good--not what is evil.

Ephesians 5:1

Be imitators of God.

Philippians 4:9

Imitating Godly people helps to bring us closer to God.

Heroes (Except Christ) Are Flawed

While there are many things we can learn from people we look up to, it is important to remember that, aside from Christ Himself, all people have flaws. This is stated perfectly in Romans 3:23.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Your Children's Heroes

We suggest a dialogue between you and your children to discuss who they look up to and who they want to imitate, whether they are sports figures, actors, performers, or even fictional characters. Questions like these can be useful:

- Q. What do you admire about these people? Is it their personalities? Their appearance? The skills and talents they have?
- Q. What things do you think God finds admirable about these people? Do they lead lives that are pleasing to God?
- Q. What skills do these people have which are really important in life?
- Q. Are these people sinners? Do they ever lie, for example?
- Q. What can you learn more from these people; good behavior or bad?
- Q. Do these people care about and help other people? Do they care about whether they're setting a good example?
- Q. Do these people care about YOU?
- Q. Do you want God to be pleased with you?
- Q. How can you make your own life something that others admire?

We are Being Imitated

Whether we know it or not, we are constantly an example to others. In our schools, jobs and neighborhoods, we are being watched by unbelievers. To them, we represent all Christians. How we act effects how they view Christians they will meet in the future. Even those who are Christians will be encouraged or discouraged by how we behave around them. Parents, your children are watching you and will imitate the things they see you do for better or for worse. Consider these verses:

Hebrews 4:11

Our disobedience can cause others to fall.

Titus 2:7

Set others an example by doing what is good.

1 Timothy 4:12

Even young people can set an example.

1 Timothy 1 :16

Christ uses us as examples to others.

The Ultimate Role Model

And remember, while many people have admirable qualities, God is to be admired and imitated above all others! He is perfect and holy. He is good. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. Best of all, He loves us--so much, in fact, that He sent His only Son to die for us.

Jesus suffered greatly in order to pay for our sins, and He did it because He was thinking of YOU. He never sinned, He helped people, He spoke the truth in love, and He gave up everything to save you. Now THAT'S a role model!