

# Heroes of Faith—God's Amazing Grace

## LESSON 1: David – Sun, Feb 5, 2012

**Power Point:** God gives grace to the humble

**Power Verse:** God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. James 4:6

**Study Verses:** 1 Samuel 16-19, Psalm 59, 1 Samuel 20, 2 Samuel 22, James 4:6

**Theme:** David trusted God and His Word and humbly sought God for direction and wisdom. God's grace empowered David to achieve God's Plan, endure hardships and access His throne.

**Workers:** Jessie-Lee and Josh (teach)

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**Greeting/Handout Points and Opening Music** (as kids arrive) – Jessie-Lee

**Opening Game** – Teacher's Choice – Jessie-Lee

**Welcome/Opening Rules** – Josh

**Power Verse** – Jessie-Lee - Teach in a fun and creative way. Remember to explain what the verse means. Use our definition of believe – to be totally convince and confidently sure.

**Main Lesson** – Josh

**Offering** – Jessie-Lee

**Closing and Prayer** – Jessie-Lee

**Door** – Josh

### LESSON

#### 1. David had a close relationship with God

- ❖ As a young man David would seek God and worship Him.
- ❖ He wrote songs of praise and worship (Psalms).
- ❖ He found great strength in his relationship with God.
- ❖ When he would sing and play, evil spirits would flee from King Saul.

#### 2. David trusted God and His Word

- ❖ When David was a teenager he trusted God to defeat Goliath. He knew the Giant was messing with the covenant God had made with Israel. David trusted God's promise.
- ❖ God chose David to be King over Israel when he was young and Saul was still King.
- ❖ King Saul wouldn't give up his throne without a fight.
- ❖ King Saul sought to kill David.
- ❖ David trusted what God said would come to pass and didn't aggressively go after the throne. He wouldn't touch the King to harm him because he honoured him. He trusted God to make it happen
- ❖ Later as King, He trusted in battle. He always sought the Lord at every battle

#### 3. David was Humble

- ❖ David knew that his strength came from God.
- ❖ 2 Samuel 22:1-3.
  - David was repentant when he sinned.
  - He knew that he sinned against God.
  - God said David was a man after his own heart.
  - Jesus came through the line of David.

God's grace empowered David to achieve God's plan, endure hardships and access His throne. God's grace will do the same for you.

# Who You Gonna Be?

## Lesson 2- Be a Team Player

February 12, 2012

Power Verse:

**I Corinthians 12:27 "All of us together are the body of Christ."**

Scriptures to Study:

**Proverbs: 6:16-19; 10:32; 15:28,29; 20:18; 30:24-28**

**Summary:** The Lord is pleased when we avoid arguments and fights in our families, churches, schools and with neighbours. Stay away from people who cause arguments and rebellion. Nothing can succeed in any group without people working together.

**WORKERS: Emily F., Janet C., Devin T., (NOTE – Combined class)**

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**Before Class Preparation:**

**Everyone arrive on time and work together to be prepared for class!**

**Game:** Plan a wacky game that will engage the children!

**Offering:** Incorporate theme to create a great lesson. Place offering buckets under chairs.

**Points:** Smile and hand out points as the children arrive. 5 for Bible, 5 for attendance, 5 for a friend. Have your points ready to be handed out.

**Greeter:** Enthusiastically welcome the kids! Encourage them to come in and find a seat.

**Skits/drama:** Prepare all costumes/props needed and be sure to return them to proper place when finished.

**Team Huddle:** The goal is to be prepared for class and have team huddle before worship starts in main service. Everyone must participate in both team huddles at the beginning and end of class.

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**CLASS TIME (Based on 40 minutes of class time):**

**Game – DEVIN (5 minutes) – come up with an excited TEAM game.**

**Welcome / Newcomers / Rules (2 minutes)**

**Offering - JANET (3 minutes)**

**Skit (5 minutes) – EMILY see below**

**Main Lesson – EMILY see below (10 minutes)**

**Power Verse - DEVIN (5 minutes) – Find a creative way to teach the verse.**

**Closing Skit - EMILY**

**Summary / Confession/ Closing Prayer JANET (5 minutes)**

**DOOR: - check tags and hand-out any fliers/take home sheets**

# Who You Gonna Be?

## Opening Skit:

Have one teacher dress up as a football player. He/she can come in, pretending to talk to a team, but no one is there. Say things like: "Okay everyone, huddle up. It's time to go over the game plan." Jack, I'm going to fake to you, and then pass to Jill. Jill, you go to the outside and I'll pass it to you there. Everyone ready? Break!"

Hut one, hut two (pretend to catch the ball)

Okay, go long! (pretend to throw the ball, then wait and watch)

Touchdown! Oh yeah! (Victory dance)

Good job team (pretend to high five some people)

Teacher says:

"That Quarterback seems to be missing something really important, doesn't he? He has all the equipment, but he's missing something big...what is it? A TEAM. Just like this quarterback, we live life as part of a team – not all by ourselves. We have family, friends, neighbours, and classmates. So what does it take to be a good team player?"

## Main Lesson – Be a TEAM PLAYER

(Use photos/videos – age appropriate – of football plays, etc to demonstrate each point)

### 1. Listen to the coach

- We need to be quick to listen to our coaches. Why? Because they can see the game from the sidelines – they see the big picture.
- Who are our coaches in life? Our parents are older and wiser – they can see more than we can see, so they give us direction.
- God sees the whole big picture, and has a plan for us. He knows exactly where we fit in.
- We need to listen and obey to the wisdom of these coaches. They want what's best for us!
- Being a team player means listening to the coach.

### 2. Encourage your fellow teammates!

- Good teams celebrate victories together, and pick each other up when someone makes a mistake
- (Romans 12:15) – Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- Be quick to celebrate when you're brother scores a goal (or gets a good grade, or gets picked for a team, etc)! Being a team player means cheering each other on.
- Be quick to forgive, and encourage your friends when they are down, or they make mistakes.
- Keep the team spirit alive! God has placed you in your family for a reason – how can you encourage your family today?

### 3. Work Together! (AKA – UNITY)

- Have you ever seen a football player score a touchdown for the other team? Or seen a soccer player accidentally knock the ball into their own net?
- Good team players know where the team is headed, and they work together to score!
- You and your brothers and sisters are on the SAME TEAM. Don't fight against each other, fight together to score big wins for the team!
- It's impossible to work together if you see yourself on different teams.
- Be a team player on your family – work together!

# Who You Gonna Be?

## **Ending Skit:**

Have the same person (Quarterback) come out, this time with 2 others. Demonstrate the same skit as before, but this time with the team members in place.

## **Confession**

I will be a TEAM PLAYER!

I am on God's Team and He has a plan for me.

I will listen to God's voice,  
and do my best to work together for His Team.

I will be a TEAM PLAYER!

# Heroes of Faith—God's Amazing Grace

## LESSON 2: John Newton – Sun, Feb 19, 2012

**Power Point:** God's grace empowers me to be who God wants me to be and to do what God wants me to do.

**Power Verse:** My grace is sufficient for you, for in your weakness I am made strong. (2 Cor 12:9)

**Study Verses:** Isaiah 43:1, Ephesians 2:1-10, Philippians 3:12-14, 2 Corinthians 12:9

**Theme:** The slave trader who found Grace.

**Workers:** Jessie-Lee and Emily (teach)

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**Greeting/Handout Points and Opening Music** (as kids arrive) – Emily

**Opening Game** – Teacher's Choice – Jessie-Lee

**Welcome/Opening Rules** – Emily

**Power Verse** – Jessie-Lee - Teach in a fun and creative way. Remember to explain what the verse means. Use our definition of believe – to be totally convinced and confidently sure.

**Main Lesson** – Emily

**Offering** – Jessie-Lee

**Closing and Prayer** – Jessie-Lee

**Door** – Emily

### MAIN LESSON

#### 1. Discovering your destiny begins by believing God loves you and has a special plan for your life.

- ❖ Born in 1725 – His father was a sea captain and was always away at sea
- ❖ His mother who was a Christian raised him alone.
- ❖ His mother always told him God had a plan for his life.
- ❖ Two times as a young boy he was almost killed—once when he was thrown off a horse and almost landed on some sharp stakes and another time when his friends launched out in a boat without him because he was late—the boat overturned and his best friend died because he couldn't swim. John didn't know how to swim either and he too would have drowned that day.
- ❖ His mom died when he was 7 and he was sent to boarding school.
- ❖ At 11 he went to sea with his dad and there was traded to the British Navy.
- ❖ Later he was taken slave in Africa and almost died again, but didn't recognize God working in his life.
- ❖ John then became a ship's captain of a slave trade ship
- ❖ And once in a storm the ship nearly sank and he called out to God for help. God saved the ship and John finally realized God loved him and had a purpose for his life

#### 2. Transformation

- ❖ After returning from being a slave trade sea captain, John began to share his testimony. He was asked to speak in so many places his friends suggested he become a minister
- ❖ He had great difficulty finding churches to support his \_\_\_\_\_ to be a minister. He persevered and finally became a minister at a small chapel in Olney, England
- ❖ He never gave up trying
- ❖ His sermons became so popular the congregation grew and they had to build on
- ❖ John started writing worship songs and hymns with his friend William Cowper
- ❖ It was around this time he wrote "Amazing Grace."

#### 3. God's plan for John Newton

- ❖ John was sorry for his sin of slave trading
- ❖ He was thankful God forgave him but he wanted to make right his wrong so he prayed.
- ❖ God answered his prayer by sending William Wilberforce to him. William was a government official.
- ❖ Together they worked hard to change the laws of the slave trade. Finally in 1807 just months before John Newton died the British Government passed a bill ending England's role in slave trade.
- ❖ John had run his race, completed his course and achieved the goal God had in mind for him.
- ❖ God's grace was working in his life helping him be and do all God had for Him.

# Heroes of Faith—God's Amazing Grace

## LESSON 3: Steve Warner – Sun, Feb 26, 2012

**Note to teachers:** For the days we have guests, please keep everything short: no game, short verse, short offering, and emphasis on interview.

**Power Point:** God's grace empowers us to achieve God's Plan, endure hardship and access His throne.

**Power Verse:** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in a time of need. (Heb 4:16)

**Study Verses:** 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 3: 12-14, Ephesians 2:1-10

**Theme:** God's grace is at work in each of us; helping us to fulfill the purpose to which he has called us to.

**WORKERS:** Jessie-Lee and Josh

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**Greeting/Handout Points and Opening Music** (as kids arrive) – Jessie-Lee

**Welcome/Opening Rules** – Josh

**Offering** – Jessie-Lee

**Power Verse** – Josh - Teach in a fun and creative way. Remember to explain what the verse means. Use our definition of believe – to be totally convince and confidently sure.

**Main Lesson and Open Mic Discussion** – Jessie-Lee & Josh co-interview (see below)

**Closing and Prayer** – Jessie-Lee

**Door** – Josh

### LESSON

**Interview: Hero of Faith (Steve Warner)**

*Suggested interview questions (also take questions from the kids)*

1. Share how you came to Christ
2. How did you know what God called you to do?
3. What is the most difficult thing you have endured?
4. How did you get through it?
5. How are we to approach God's throne?

# Amazing Grace: The Story of John Newton

by Al Rogers

(This article is reprinted from the July-August 1996 issue of "Away Here in Texas".)



**John Newton 1725-1807**

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound..." So begins one of the most beloved hymns of all times, a staple in the hymnals of many denominations, New Britain or "45 on the top" in Sacred Harp. The author of the words was John Newton, the self-proclaimed wretch who once was lost but then was found, saved by amazing grace.

Newton was born in London July 24, 1725, the son of a commander of a merchant ship which sailed the Mediterranean. When John was eleven, he went to sea with his father and made six voyages with him before the elder Newton retired. In 1744 John was impressed into service on a man-of-war, the H. M. S. Harwich. Finding conditions on board intolerable, he deserted but was soon recaptured and publicly flogged and demoted from midshipman to common seaman.

Finally at his own request he was exchanged into service on a slave ship, which took him to the coast of Sierra Leone. He then became the servant of a slave trader and was brutally abused. Early in 1748 he was rescued by a sea captain who had known John's father. John Newton ultimately became captain of his own ship, one which plied the slave trade.

Although he had had some early religious instruction from his mother, who had died when he was a child, he had long since given up any religious convictions. However, on a homeward voyage, while he was attempting to steer the ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his "great deliverance." He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he exclaimed, "Lord, have mercy upon us." Later in his cabin he reflected on what he had said and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him.

For the rest of his life he observed the anniversary of May 10, 1748 as the day of his conversion, a day of humiliation in which he subjected his will to a higher power. "Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has bro't me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." He continued in the slave trade for a time after his conversion; however, he saw to it that the slaves under his care were treated humanely.

In 1750 he married Mary Catlett, with whom he had been in love for many years. By 1755, after a serious illness, he had given up seafaring forever. During his days as a sailor he had begun to educate himself, teaching himself Latin, among other subjects. From 1755 to 1760 Newton was surveyor of tides at Liverpool, where he came to know George Whitefield, deacon in the Church of England, evangelistic preacher, and leader of the Calvinistic Methodist Church. Newton became Whitefield's enthusiastic disciple. During this period Newton also met and came to admire John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Newton's self-education continued, and he learned Greek and Hebrew.

He decided to become a minister and applied to the Archbishop of York for ordination. The Archbishop refused his request, but Newton persisted in his goal, and he was subsequently ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln and accepted the curacy of Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton's church became so crowded during services that it had to be enlarged. He preached not only in Olney but in other parts of the country. In 1767 the poet William Cowper settled at Olney, and he and Newton became friends.

Cowper helped Newton with his religious services and on his tours to other places. They held not only a regular weekly church service but also began a series of weekly prayer meetings, for which their goal was to write a new hymn for each one. They collaborated on several editions of Olney Hymns, which achieved lasting popularity. The first edition, published in 1779, contained 68 pieces by Cowper and 280 by Newton.

Among Newton's contributions which are still loved and sung today are "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," as well as "Amazing Grace." Composed probably between 1760 and

1770 in Olney, "Amazing Grace" was possibly one of the hymns written for a weekly service. Through the years other writers have composed additional verses to the hymn which came to be known as "Amazing Grace" (it was not thus entitled in Olney Hymns), and possibly verses from other Newton hymns have been added. However, these are the six stanzas that appeared, with minor spelling variations, in both the first edition in 1779 and the 1808 edition, the one nearest the date of Newton's death. It appeared under the heading Faith's Review and Expectation, along with a reference to First Chronicles, chapter 17, verses 16 and 17 [see the below for this Scripture – **Graham Pockett**].

Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)  
That sav'd a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears reliev'd;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believ'd!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promis'd good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease;  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who call'd me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

The origin of the melody is unknown. Most hymnals attribute it to an early American folk melody. The Bill Moyers special on "Amazing Grace" speculated that it may have originated as the tune of a song the slaves sang.

Newton was not only a prolific hymn writer but also kept extensive journals and wrote many letters. Historians accredit his journals and letters for much of what is known today about the eighteenth century slave trade. In *Cardiphonia*, or the Utterance of the Heart, a series of devotional letters, he aligned himself with the Evangelical revival, reflecting the sentiments of his friend John Wesley and Methodism.

In 1780 Newton left Olney to become rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, St. Mary Woolchurch, in London. There he drew large congregations and influenced many, among them William Wilberforce, who would one day become a leader in the campaign for the abolition of slavery. Newton continued to preach until the last year of life, although he was blind by that time. He died in London December 21, 1807. Infidel and libertine turned minister in the Church of England, he was secure in his faith that amazing grace would lead him home.