



Level Four: Ages 7th-12th Grades

Includes: Overview of Series/Six Lessons/Activities/Skits/Worksheets

This is Only Lesson One: The entire series will be ready shortly and Titled: Rocking 3S Ranch Series for 7th-12th Included will be 6 Lessons.

Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers



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Theme:

The Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series conveys the humanness, the mistakes, the victories, and the challenges people of faith met from the early Old Testament, through the New Testament, and that we meet today.

Overview:

- Five Age Level Groups available
 - Ages 4s & 5s
 - Ages 1st-2nd grades
 - Ages 3rd-6th grade
 - Ages 7th-12th grade
 - Adult Bible Study
- Six week study Series OR any lesson/message usable as a stand-alone.
- Each Age Level package contains
 - 6 lessons/messages/Skit
 - Illustrations, activities and/or worksheets.

Lessons:

- Lesson One: Abraham, the Wandering Herdsman/Cowboy
- Lesson Two: Joseph, Resume of a World Champion
- Lesson Three: Samuel, Circuit Riding Preacher
- Lesson Four: Samson, Maverick with Super Powers
- Lesson Five: Three Hebrew Boys, Cowboys that Stood their Ground
- Lesson Six: You can be a Super Hero



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Lesson One/ Abraham: The Wandering Cowboy

Setup and Introduction to Lesson:

Gather in a seated setting for the introduction to Abraham: The Wandering Cowboy.

Have a Skit Crew ready to surprise enter the gathering on your cue.

Open in prayer.

Ask: How many of you can name a Super Hero?

You will definitely get answers! And 99% of the time ALL of the answers will center on sports or action figures, movies, cartoons, and other mass media commercialized fantasy figures. In fact, it will be a challenge to get their minds back to what you were hoping for; that is, that somewhere in their young minds there would be at least ONE real life Bible person that they could name or tell about. This is the challenge. This is your opportunity to open young eyes and minds to a REAL BIBLE vs. a Fantasy World where REAL people made a REAL difference and they can be one of the FEW themselves.

Today, we are going to talk about REAL people that are Super Heroes and Champions and even some that had Super Powers. We are going to explore what the Bible says about how you can be one of the chosen few if you are willing. But before we get started we have a "Super Hero" waiting to make an appearance today.

Skit Follows:

SKIT: Optional, but oh so fun & teaches!

[Background music appropriate for skit....personally I have used the movie theme from *The Magnificent Seven* and *Zorro* and others..but then I like the mood it sets for the entrance of the “Super Hero”; you may prefer something less dramatic.]

Enter Super Cowboy! [Have four people carry Super Cowboy on their shoulders. He will be in a horizontal position dressed as Super Cowboy which includes a sheet/cape of some fashion. They are “flying” him into the room.]

Conversation with Super Cowboy: [If you plan on a series of lessons then conversation should include Super Cowboy coming each week. This will build your class numbers and enable you to reach more young people with the messages/lessons.]

Teacher: Good Morning Super Cowboy!

Super Cowboy: Well, Good Morning, Little Lady [or insert name of teacher here.]

Teacher: What brings you to [insert name of your church/class] this morning?

Super Cowboy: I heard you were talking about ME, about a Super Hero today so I wanted to be here IN PERSON to explain ALL about myself.....me...that’d be me....Super Cowboy...emphasis on Super. Haha

Teacher: Well,....Suuuppppeerrrr...Cowboy. This lesson today comes from the Bible, God’s Holy Word. It’s about a **REAL** person/

Super Cowboy: I am a REAL person and I am alive. See! You can pinch me right here on my really big super arm. Go ahead pinch me.

Teacher: No, I don’t think I want to pinch you. [Shakes head].

Super Cowboy: Yeah, sure, go ahead pinch me right here on my arm. It won’t hurt. I am a SUPER HERO SUPER COWBOY....[braggingly said].

Teacher: Well, if you are sure it won’t hurt.

Super Cowboy: No, won’t hurt me at all.....

Teacher: [Reaches to pinch and Cowboy goes into a OH THAT HURT SO MUCH fit.] But I haven’t touched you yet!

Super Cowboy: haha..yeah...I knew that...I was just testing you.

Teacher: Suuuuppper Cowboy, I am afraid you don’t meet the qualifications for the Super Hero we are talking about today. You see, his name is Abraham and he was a real Hero and Champion. He didn’t even need to wear a costume.

Super Cowboy: NO COSTUME!

Teacher: No Costume.

Super Cowboy: [Whispers] Wasn't that kinda embarrassing and COLD in the winter?

Teacher: Super Cowboy I think you need to go to your class and learn about today's super hero, Abraham.

Super Cowboy: Yep, sounds like an interesting feller all right....No costume you say?!
[Music up and four assistants put Super Cowboy up on their shoulders and they exit out the back to waves, accolades and fanfare.]

Lesson/Message:

Establish the Authority of God's Word as Fact, not Fiction

[Show the Bible.] This is God's Word. It is always the truth. It is not just made up, in fact, God tells us in His Word that He wrote it!

If you have your Bible with you, we are going to be in the Book of Hebrews 11: 6, 8-12 and we are going to concentrate on verses 8 and 10. You guys can follow along or listen.

Have Bibles available [stick to one version] or allow a moment for students to find the passage via personal media [Smart phones; iPads; iPods; all have the Bible in multiple versions available via download. Your students can easily read in whatever version you are using.]

Hebrews 11: 6, 8-12

6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

8-12 *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*

Abraham was a REAL man, NOT like a “for fun only character” like [Name one of the action heroes] one of the action heroes, nor like our dressed-up “Super Cowboy”. No, these people in this Holy Book really lived and this man today was a REAL Super Hero.

Pray and begin.

Abraham was one of the first cowboys.

Abraham was a wealthy rancher who lived about 1950 years before Jesus came to earth in human form. Abraham owned herds of cattle, flocks of sheep, and managed pasture land. He had ranch hands/servants and ran a full-time ranch that covered many acres.

He is most likely the first recorded cowboy that had to herd his cattle across open range for a long distance probably further and definitely over a longer period of time than the early trail drives took the Texas cowboys.

He was a cowboy in the way he approached life.

He thought for himself. He didn't just “go with the crowd” in their social structure.

He didn't fit into the main stream of thinking. In fact, he lived in a culture of people that were idol worshipers, but **he was not**. He didn't worship like all the people around him. He stayed true to the ONE true God.

Do you know what people around Abraham did for church time? History tells us that they would sacrifice their own kids to get blessings from their idols, Talk about selfish ignorant people!

But did you know, if you aren't careful you will be worshiping an idol, too.....only just a little bit differently....it might look more like....

“I don't want to go to church today, we stayed up too late at the ranch rodeo Saturday night; I'm tired!” or “I want MY WAY!” That's idol worship in a different form. More like worship of “myself” and what “I WANT” instead of what God wants.

Idol worship might look more like: All you want to talk about is your latest accomplishment. There is a time for expressing yourself, but when “what you did” and “what you won” or “what you are wearing” is the subject on your heart/mind during Bible class time, then there is some “idol worship” going on.

You will find that many times the people you know at school, maybe some of your family members even, will not follow God. This has nothing to do with what YOU need to do.

In fact, my mom used to tell me that “just because everyone else is running and jumping into the creek, does not mean that you have to!” Good advice. Simply put: Just because everyone else is doing something, does not make it right. Think for yourself, even if that means you are the only one not “doing what everyone else is doing.” The majority could be wrong. In fact, this is usually the case.

Abraham obeyed God no matter what other people thought about it.

Let's see what made an ordinary person become a Super Hero in God's eyes.

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Abraham obeyed God.

- Didn't question
- Didn't push back against God
- Didn't DELAY
- Didn't make EXCUSES
- AND didn't ask **WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?**

Abraham starts off with the same situation as any born-again young man or woman.

- He makes choices.
- He either takes a stand when others don't or he goes along with the crowd.
- He faces that one decisive day when God calls on him & he must be ready.
- You can either go with God or not.

If you obey God, then He has something to work with. If you don't obey God, that is, you decide to do things YOUR WAY, then you may miss His purpose and blessing on your entire life.

Abraham became a Super Hero for God because God asked him to do something hard and he did it. In fact, if you read the entire life of Abraham in **Genesis 11:27-Genesis 25:8** you see he was asked for several HARD things. He not only had to go against a sinful family culture, he had to battle an army of four kingdoms at once with just his ranch hands in order to get his nephew, Lot, out of a bind; and later on he was asked to even sacrifice his son, Isaac. Good news, that was just a test to see if he would obey. God "provided Himself" a lamb for the alter instead of Isaac, but it was probably the most heart wrenching dramatic thing he ever had to do.

It all started with that FIRST TIME God called on him. He obeyed.

God told Abraham to pack up his wife and move.

That's it. That sounds easy enough. But it wasn't. Sara, his wife, asked him where they were moving to. His answer: I DON'T KNOW; we are just moving.

Do what?! She just got the garden planted, her family lives HERE, she knows the neighbors; what do you mean move? And you don't know where? We just put up a new barn last summer! She's involved in the local ladies' club; and what about your Thursday night roping event with the guys? And ALL OF

OUR FRIENDS live HERE! Grandma is buried here! The kids have their sports programs going and we made a commitment to that; we need to keep our commitments!

Well, it was a LITTLE bit different than that, you see, they didn't have any kids yet.

Abraham said, "None of that matters, Sara. God told us to pack up and move; so let's pack up." So they loaded everything up on the horses and wagons and camels and donkeys. They put the chickens in cages, tied the goats up to the carts and off they went. And Sara goes with him, too.

He was a super hero with God because He obeyed!

His family [other than Sara] thought he was nuts! Heading out with all those cattle, sheep, tents, and chickens and you don't know WHERE you are going; but GOD told you to go! And remember, his parents were idol worshipers, also. Family ties can be strong influences! But to obey God was far more important to him.

Because he obeyed God no matter what other people thought, he was greatly blessed.

You never see Abraham asking God: If I obey You, what's in it for me? What will you give me for it? What's in it for me?

No, you never see that from Abraham.

He just obeys God out of respect, trust, and faith in God. He did what was right because it was right.

Everything should go GREAT, right? Well, there was this little problem of PARTIAL OBEDIENCE that enters into the story.

Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred and from thy fathers' house unto a land that I will show thee.

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him and Lot went with him:

Nephew Lot, decides to tag along. Not only that, his own Dad tags along. The Dad gets ill, so they stay in a Haran until his Dad passes away. This trip, this trek that God has sent Abraham on gets delayed for several months into the trip. So this journey God has sent Abraham on has been side-tracked/side-lined because of PARTIAL OBEDIENCE or more like: Partial disobedience. Dad passes away; journey ready to continue, right? Not quite, there's still this little problem of Partial Obedience.

Anytime you partially obey, that is not obedience.

Next problem: Nephew Lot is still with him. So Abraham realizes he needs to get things straightened out and back on track because Lot's ranch hands are fussing with Abraham's ranch hands about whose cattle gets to which pasture first and when.

It gets ugly. So they part ways. Lot heads down to greener pastures, he thinks, and Abraham finally gets the next part of God's instructions right; the part about separating out his immediate family from the rest of the extended family.

As a result, God's power, HIS SUPER POWER, shows up for Abraham.

Not just once, but several times throughout the rest of his life. He's on track; he's on target.

When we fail, do what Abraham did. Get back in the saddle, learn from the mistake, take God at His Word and ride again.

Lot, in the meantime, gets into a jam after he has left Abraham. He gets captured by the four mightiest Kings in the land. Lot and his family and his ranch hands and families are all tied up. Their cattle is about to be branded with the 4K brand and he is in need of the **3S** Ranch Hands to save them.

Note: 3S being the Super Hero, Super Champion, & Super Powered: Abraham.

Abraham and his cattlemen, shepherds, and helpers go into battle against the Four King's Armies. Armies that have shields, swords, and the latest armor, men trained in warfare techniques. Men that work out on a regular basis and train to war have Lot.

But Abraham has God on his side. So he takes a bunch of cowboys and although his enemies were great, God is greater.

Remember, Abraham had learned from his side-lined mistake of taking family on his journey of partial disobedience, and now was taking God directly at His Word.

Abraham and the **3S** cowboys wipe out the 4K armies. Lot is freed and goes back to his town. Abraham moves onward on his journey that God has for him.

So as a result you see Abraham blessed in his lifetime and long after he has passed on to Heaven.

In fact, he had so many great great great great great grandchildren that you can't even count them today!

Bible says that even Jesus' family tree goes back to Abraham. Bible says in *Genesis 12:3* *"...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."*

Thing is, **you** can be a Super Hero in God's eyes, too.

He's how: **OBEY GOD**. Then you can hear Him when He speaks to your heart. He is not keeping secrets from you. If you are not hearing from Him, then you may be the one with the knot in your rope.

But before you can be used of God in a mighty way, you have to first be born again/saved. That simply means that you must:

1. Realize that you are not perfect, that you have sinned.
2. Repent of your sin. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins;
3. Invite Him into your heart.
4. Do you need to start there?

Prayer.



Activity-Follow-up:

Discuss aspects/traits of Abraham's life that are common with our own lives.

- Family Pressure/Friend Pressure
- Self-Interests
- Choices