



Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers

Overview:

- Five Age Level Groups available
 - Ages 4s & 5s
 - Ages 1st-2nd grades
 - Ages 3rd-6th grades
 - Ages 7th-12th grades
 - Adult Bible Study
- Six week study Series OR any lesson usable as a stand-alone.

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.

Ages 3rd-6th Grades

Six Lessons/Activities/Skits/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

Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers



Ages 3rd-6th Grades

Lesson One/Abraham: The Wandering Cowboy

Setup and Introduction to Lesson:

- **Gather** in a seated setting for 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 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 learn about REAL people that are Super Heroes and Champions. But before we get started we have a "Super Hero" waiting to meet you.

SKIT: Optional, but oh so fun & teaches!

Skits are online as: ***Rockin 3S Ranch SKITS_All Ages***

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. Did you bring your Bible today? We are going to be in the Book of Hebrews 11: 6-12 and we are going to read together verses 8 and 10. You guys can follow along and fill in the blanks when I stop at a word.

Have Bibles available so students may hold the place in the Bible and follow along. Assist students in finding today's scripture verse by holding up your Bible and showing them that Hebrews is located towards the back of the N.T. Teachable moment: Students

become aware that the Bible is the truth; not a book of fictional stories and characters. As a side note: We use the King James Version. Whatever version you use, be consistent. Have everyone in the same version. If you are not, then the children will question which one is the "right one" and doubts may arise as to the authenticity of the Bible. This has become an increasingly bigger problem over the decades. Yes, the young can understand the KJV just fine. We have found Children's KJV Bibles with "helps" for 17th century words as well as cultural references from the era of Christ's earthly stay. These resources are out there. FEW children carry Bibles to church so let's teach them to use one. Not Bible Story Books, but rather real Bibles.

So the man we are talking about today 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 for fun-only Super Cowboy. No, these people in this Holy Book really lived and this man today was a REAL Super Hero.

Pray and begin. *[If you have access to a PowerPoint, use it. Tell the story in an interesting and animated fashion. They will remember!]*

Abraham was one of the first cowboys.

Abraham was a wealthy rancher who lived a LONG time ago. He owned lots of cattle, sheep, and other animals. 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 on just a few years back.

He was a cowboy in the way he approached life, too. 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. 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 did. He stayed true to the ONE true God.

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. 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. This is usually the case.

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

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

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 when you get to church and it's already class time and 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.

But Abraham obeyed God. So God gave Him a special mission and a very special blessing!

Remember it is far more important to obey God than to worry about what others think about you.

If you obey God, then He has something special for you to do for Him, too. 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 very special and he did it. But it wasn't easy!

Here's what happened.

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 blessed.

You never see Abraham asking God: If I obey You, what's in it for me? Kind of like when your parents tell you to clean up your room, or do your homework, or just "do your best to make better grades at school" or "please do not get a time out at school today." Do you answer with: What will you give me for it? What's in it for me?

No, you never see that from Abraham.

He 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. So this journey God has sent Abraham on has been side-tracked/side-lined because of PARTIAL OBEDIENCE or more like: Partial disobedience.

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 available 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.

Lot 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.

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

Abraham and his cattlemen, shepherds, and helpers go into battle with 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 that is 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.

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.

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. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins; Invite Him into your heart.
3. Have you ever done that?

Prayer.

Turn the message/lesson time over to your "Salvation Time" leader so that he/she may present the plan of salvation.

Activity-Follow-up:

In advance prepare a foam board or poster board game we call: Tic-Tac Board.

With a straight edge divide the board into either 6 x 4 that is 24 spaces/squares OR any number of spaces you choose. On each square write a question or Free Space or doctrinal question or a fun silly activity for the student to do.

Cut and cover with whatever paper you have/ construction paper/ brown wrapping paper, etc. each square individually attaching with tape. Write a random number on each square.

Have BIBLE GAME TIME. Students raise hands to pick a number; then answer question correctly and pick a small prize from a box/boot/container set at the front of the room. We have used everything from small candy and small prizes purchased from a novelty company online.

This game has ALWAYS been a "winner" and we use it often.

Possible squares for this lesson:

Free Space [about 3]

Tell us ONE thing you learned this morning.

For TWO prizes tell me how to go to Heaven.

Which "book" of the Bible did we read from today?

Name ONE reason God could call Abraham a Super Hero.

Who is the most famous /great-great grandson of Abraham?

Worksheet Follows.

Abraham: The Wandering Cowboy

Circle the correct answer:



Abraham was a Super Hero for God because:

- a. He wore a cape.
- b. He rode a horse.
- c. He obeyed God no matter what anyone else did.

Your mom asks you to carry your plate to the sink after dinner. You should:

- a. Ask her to give you a favor if you do right.
- b. Just do right, because it is right.
- c. Roll your eyes and then go do it.



Abraham's BIGGEST blessing for doing what God asked was:

- a. He got paid.
- b. Jesus was born into his family many generations later.
- c. He did not get into trouble.
- d. He got to go on a trip.



How can you be a Super Hero for God?

Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers



Ages 3rd -6th Grades

Lesson Two/Joseph World Champion

Setup and Introduction to Lesson:

- **Gather** in a seated setting for the introduction to *Joseph: World Champion*
- **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 or name the real life Super Hero from the Bible that we studied last time?

You will definitely get answers! And 99% of the time ALL of the answers will center on action figures, movies, cartoons, and other mass media commercialized fantasy figures and personas. 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 little 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 learn about REAL people that are Super Heroes and Champions. But before we get started we have a "Super Hero" visiting again today.

SKIT: Optional, but oh so fun & teaches!

Skits are online as: ***Rockin 3S Ranch SKITS_All Ages***

Lesson/Message:

Joseph is probably best known for his "coat of many colors". You may have had a Bible story about him already that referred to his bright multi-colored coat. You may have colored pictures of this coat in class sometime in the past.

Reference Genesis Chapters 37-50: The story covers a lot of reading but for today we are going to concentrate on WHO Joseph was and the things about him, that made him a Grand Champion. He became a world leader/champion and saved his family and his whole nation from starving to death. It was a job God had planned for him to do

since his childhood. But it took a LOT of getting prepared to do that job before he was able to save their lives.

If you are going to be a Grand Champion at any event, then you have to be trained, prepare, and accept some hardship along the way.

You can't enter the dummy roping event and expect to win first place without ever throwing a rope before. You might get "lucky" and hit the first try, but you won't be able to compete in the World Finals. You just won't have the skills needed to outlast the competition and win the Championship.

Joseph had a Grand Championship Event coming. He didn't know it! But it would mean the survival of his family and his entire nation of Israel.

Joseph was one of Dad's Favorites

Yes, it's true. Joseph was one of his father Jacob's favorites. He had made a "coat of many colors" for Joseph to wear. This was a symbol of how important Joseph was to his dad. There were 10 other brothers older than Joseph. Family tradition dictated that the eldest brother would run/rule the family after Jacob passed on to Heaven. But he had decided to not go with tradition and instead picked a favorite, Joseph. This made the other brothers very jealous of him.

Joseph had a dream about one day way out in the future that his family would bow down to him. This really made them all mad.

The older brothers were all working out in the fields one day and Jacob, the father, asked Joseph to go check on them. As soon as they saw him coming one of the brothers said: I'm sick and tired of Joseph parading around being so bossy and thinking he is better than the rest of us.

They argued whether or not to kill him but instead came to a compromise and just put him down in a deep dry hole and left him there. Pretty mean!

But he is in training for the big event and he doesn't know it yet.

Along comes a caravan of slave traders on their way to Egypt to buy/sell. So the brothers SOLD him to them.

To cover up their evil deed they covered the multi-colored coat in goat's blood and took it back to their Dad, Jacob, and told him that Joseph must have died by a wild animal. Sad mixed up family to say the least.

Joseph has to realize that his Dad thinks he's dead; so no one is coming to look for him. Just imagine how that felt.

He is sold as a slave into a foreign country where he must learn a new language by himself; how strange that must have been.

What good could possibly come out of all of this?

In Training for the Championship

Time passes and Joseph grows up into young adulthood as a slave. He ends up working for a fellow named Potiphar. Joseph is in charge of the man's household. He takes care of all the business. So he has learned to manage money, organize schedules.

Sounds like he might be in training for something?

The Bible tells us that EVERYTHING that JOSEPH did turned out successful. Every time he invested money for his master, it turned out to be a winner. Every time he decided what they should plant this year, the crop turned out great. He brought success to people wherever he served.

Genesis 39:2 And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Potiphar's wife decided that she is going to flirt with Joseph. He tells her No Ma'am I am not going to be fooled by your ways. So she gets mad! She tells a lie about Joseph and gets him put into prison.

Have you ever been accused of something you did NOT do? And you are punished for it! You can imagine how Joseph felt!

But he is in training for the BIG EVENT; he just doesn't recognize this as training nor does he know an EVENT is coming.

EVERYTHING that happens along the way is preparing him to handle the crisis, the event, the enormous magnitude of the event that is coming. He has no idea he is going to be "saving civilization" from starvation and his own nation Israel, which he has not been a part of since his teen years, from annihilation.

Things just don't look much like he's ever going to be a Super Champion at this point. After all, he's a Hebrew slave in an Egyptian nation and he is in prison!

How does that make him a super champion? He was in training and didn't know it.

Sometimes when things look the worst; they really aren't all that bad.

MANY times, God is just preparing and training you for a very particular job he has picked out for JUST YOU.

Joseph ends up in the prison for years. The Bible tells us that in all of his troubles he still worshiped God! He still trusted God! He wasn't bitter, he wasn't mad. He just trusted God. I am sure there were days he was depressed or discouraged but he did not give up on God at all.

The warden saw that everything Joseph did prospered and put him in charge of the prisoners.

Genesis 39:21-22 But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

He had a reputation in the prison of being a man that could interpret dreams. Whatever he said, it would happen. Remember how he had a dream that his brothers would bow down to him someday in the future? He had a gift from God.

In time, the Pharaoh had several dreams of his own. Nobody can interpret them. Word gets to Pharaoh that Joseph could. He was called out of the prison. Joseph told what the dream of the Pharaoh meant. Joseph was put in charge!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In ONE day Joseph went from prison stripes to right hand ruler in Egypt. Now, only GOD can do that.

The dream was that there was going to be 7 years when the crops grew really good. Then the following 7 years the crops were going to fail. So God had made sure that Joseph and the Pharaoh knew this in advance. Joseph put lots of food in storage. The entire region of the world had to come to Egypt to find food. SO when the "famine" hit, his family had to come to Egypt to buy food or starve to death.

So when they come to buy food, who do they have to buy it from?

Yes, Joseph. The family gets back together; the brothers repent of their actions.

AND the dream of Joseph has come true that he had back when he was a kid. His brothers had to come to Egypt to bow down to him to buy food.

And God used ALL of that to save the entire nation of Israel from starvation.

Joseph turns out to be a Super Champion. He was sent by God to preserve Israel on the earth. That was the BIG EVENT. And he never even knew he was in training.

God wants to use you to make a difference too. [Present salvation.]

Activity-Follow-up:

Play a Bible Game. In advance prepare a foam board or poster board game we call: Tic-Tac Board.

With a straight edge divide the board into either 6 x 4 that is 24 spaces/squares OR any number of spaces you choose. On each square write a question or Free Space or doctrinal question or a fun silly activity for the student to do.

Cut and cover with whatever paper you have/ construction paper/ brown wrapping paper, etc. each square individually attaching with tape. Write a random number on each square.

Have BIBLE GAME TIME. Students raise hands to pick a number; then answer question correctly and pick a small prize from a box/boot/container set at the front of the room. We have used everything from small candy and small prizes purchased from a novelty company online.

This game has ALWAYS been a "winner" and we use it often.

Possible squares for this lesson:

Free Space [about 3]

Tell us ONE thing you learned this morning.

For TWO prizes tell me how to go to Heaven.

Which "book" of the Bible did we read from today?

Name ONE reason God could call Joseph a Super Hero.

Did the Coat of Many Colors make Joseph a Super Hero?

Did Joseph's good looks make him a Hero?

How many ways to Heaven?

Why get baptized?

What made Joseph a Super Hero?

Talk about this as a class.



Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers



Ages 3rd-6th grades

Lesson Three/Samuel, Circuit Riding Preacher

Setup and Introduction to Lesson:

- **Gather** in a seated setting for the introduction to *Samuel, Circuit Riding Preacher*
- **Have a Skit Crew ready** to surprise enter on your cue. **Open in prayer.**
- **Ask:** How many of you can name a Super Hero or name the real life Super Hero from the Bible that we studied last time?

You will definitely get answers! And 99% of the time ALL of the answers will center on action figures, movies, cartoons, and other mass media commercialized fantasy figures and personas. 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 little 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 learn about a real man that was a Super Heroes. But before we get started we have a "Super Hero" visiting again today.

SKIT: Optional, but oh so fun & teaches!

Skits are online as: ***Rockin 3S Ranch SKITS_All Ages***

Lesson/Message:

God's Word is always the truth. God tells us in His Word that He wrote it! These people in this Holy Book really lived and Samuel was a REAL Super Hero.

This morning I need a young man to be my helper.

Set a few chairs side by side with a pillow and a blanket. Have a young man play the part of Samuel.

Superhero Samuel had a Destiny

Samuel had a Destiny. He was chosen to do something important before he was born.

Superheroes are chosen by God, trust God and did so with a humble heart. They are servants that do something spectacular for the Lord and realize that it is all done for His glory not their own glory.

Did you know that you have a Destiny, too? You can choose to do what God wants and fulfill that destiny or not; it's about choices you make now and later.

Samuel's Name meant "Asked of God"

Samuel's mother, Hannah, named him Samuel which means "Asked of God." She had prayed that she would have a child. She wanted him so badly that she had pleaded with God. She even promised God that if He would give her a child she would give him back to God.

1 Samuel 1: 11.....then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life...

Samuel's Birthday Not a Mistake

The timing of Samuel's birth is not mistake. Sad times had come to the country of Israel. The Bible says the lamp in the Temple had gone out. Eli was the priest that was in charge of keeping it light. He was lazy, backslidden, raising two sons that were supposed to inherit the job of priest but they were wicked and he had not corrected them. It was evil times in Israel. It was TIME for a Superhero.

Samuel's Super Moment: He was ready!

Our volunteer this morning is going to play the part of Samuel. Are you ready? OK, are you comfortable? Need your pillow fluffed? Blanket arranged? Doing OK?

Samuel was asleep at the priest Eli's young prophet's boarding school. Hannah had taken Samuel there to live as a young child so that God could prepare Samuel for whatever God had for his life.

But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. 1 Samuel 2:18

You see, Samuel was learning how to serve God in the temple and he was very young.

Samuel is sleeping and he hears [speak in a deep but soft strong voice] "Samuel."

[Help your volunteer to sit up in the bed and get up and go across the room like he is headed to talk to Eli in the other room.] And Samuel runs over to Eli's doorway and he says, "Yes, Mr. Eli? Here am I!"

Eli, wakes up startled and says "What?!" Samuel says, "You called me." Eli says, "You are dreaming, kid, so just go back to bed!"

[Walk Samuel volunteer back to the bed and settle him back under the covers, on the pillow, and ask him if he is comfortable now? Close your eyes; it was all just a dream...go back to sleep. Make this a fun and slightly humorous presentation.]

So Samuel settles down and goes back to sleep. Samuel is sleeping and he hears [speak in a deep but soft strong voice] "Samuel."

[Help your volunteer to sit up in the bed and get up and run across the room like he is headed to talk to Eli in the other room.] And Samuel runs over to Eli's doorway and he says, "Yes, Mr. Eli?! Here am I!"

Eli wakes up startled and says with a little bit of "put out" in his voice: "What?!" Samuel says, "Here am I!" Eli says, "You are dreaming, please just go back to bed!"

Now as a side note here, the Bible tells us that: *Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him. I Samuel 3: 7.*

That means that Samuel had not ever had a personal conversation with God yet, himself. He had not even understood to be listening for that time in his life that God would make it clear to Samuel that he would need a PERSONAL one on one relationship with God, not just serve in the Temple.

Now a THIRD TIME: So Samuel settles down, goes back to sleep. Samuel is sleeping and he hears [speak in a deep but soft strong voice] "Samuel."

Maybe this time, he just wanted to pull up his covers over his head? Maybe he was thinking: This poor old Priest Eli is LOOSING HIS MIND; he just keeps calling my name in HIS sleep. Maybe he was thinking: THIS IS GETTING OLD! That old guy is just talking in his sleep! MAYBE he thought those things.

MAYBE he didn't.

But he OBEYED ANYWAY!! And he goes to see what Eli wants and he says: Here am I.

[Help your volunteer to sit up in the bed and get up and run across the room like he is headed to talk to Eli in the other room.] And Samuel runs over to Eli's doorway and he says, "Yes, Mr. Eli?! Here am I!"

No hateful attitude about having to get up a THIRD time to answer to this old man that just keeps on calling his name in the middle of the night and then denying it; nope, we see simply: **Here am I.** Wow.

Samuel's Surrender

Eli realizes God is calling Samuel by name. He instructs him how to answer God.

We don't know if Samuel went back to bed eager and excited that God was calling him out by name; we don't know if Samuel went back to bed scared to death!

We do know he went back to bed willingly without being pulled, pushed, coerced or threatened. And he waited. This time when the Lord called Samuel, the Bible tells us that God came and STOOD by Samuel and called him by name.

The Lord gives Samuel explicit instructions to tell Eli. He was to tell Eli how bad a priest he had been! That judgment was coming because of Eli's sins.

Now that seems like a LOT to put on a little kid! But God Himself asked this of Samuel. And do you know what Samuel said: **Here am I!**

Samuel's Superhero Life: Circuit Riding Preacher

Samuel's entire life is a VERY exciting story in the Old Testament. ALL of his life it seemed he had superpowers. He traveled all over the Region telling people what God wanted done in their country and in their lives. He was a Circuit Riding Preacher!

Do you know how he got those Superpowers?

And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed forever. I Samuel 2:35

He got these Superpowers because he understood God and did what God wanted.

Samuel's Testimony and Greatest Weapon

1 Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

What a testimony!

He listened to every word from God. He was careful to speak the truth and to live by everything God said.

Samuel lived long enough to anoint the first two kings of Israel. [Saul and David.]

He was not afraid to tell the King when he had sinned.

1 Samuel 13:13-14 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.

He took his position/job seriously.

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

Want to be a Superhero for God?

Then LISTEN to Him and Do what He wants.

You won't hear God call your name out loud like He talked to people many times in the Bible.

But you will know when He talks to your heart. When Jesus went back to Heaven after He arose from the dead as He was leaving He told us that He would send the Holy Spirit to the earth. This is Who [not an it] will speak to your heart and you will know it's time to accept Jesus as your Savior that is, be "saved." You are all old enough now for Him to be talking to some of you. When He does, will you respond with Here am I Lord?

[Pray and present the salvation presentation here; Use the flash cards and instructions under the Salvation Heading on the website, if you like.]

Activity-Follows:

Play a Bible Game. In advance prepare a foam board or poster board game we call: Tic-Tac Board.

With a straight edge divide the board into either 6 x 4 that is 24 spaces/squares OR any number of spaces you choose. On each square write a question or Free Space or doctrinal question or a fun silly activity for the student to do.

Cut and cover with whatever paper you have/ construction paper/ brown wrapping paper, etc. each square individually attaching with tape. Write a random number on each square.

Have BIBLE GAME TIME. Students raise hands to pick a number; then answer question correctly and pick a small prize from a box/boot/container set at the front of the room. We have used everything from small candy and small prizes purchased from a novelty company online.

This game has ALWAYS been a "winner" and we use it often.

Possible squares for this lesson:

Free Space [about 3]

Tell us ONE thing you learned this morning.

For TWO prizes tell me how to go to Heaven.

Which "book" of the Bible did we read from today?

Name the three parts of the Trinity of God. [Most kids have never heard of this one!]

Name ONE reason God could call Samuel a Super Hero.

How many ways to Heaven?

Give me ONE of the Ten Commandments

Why get baptized?

Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers



Ages 3rd-6th grades

Lesson Four/Samson, Maverick with Superpowers

Setup and Introduction to Lesson:

- **Gather** in a seated setting for Samson, Maverick with Superpowers
- **Have a Skit Crew** ready to surprise enter on your cue.
- **Open in prayer.**
- **Ask:** How many of you can name a Super Hero or a real life Super Hero from the Bible?

You will definitely get answers! And 99% of the time ALL of the answers will center on action figures, movies, cartoons, and other mass media commercialized fantasy figures and personas. 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 little 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.

Before we get started we have a "Super Hero" visiting again today.

SKIT: Optional, but oh so fun & teaches!

Skits are online as: ***Rockin 3S Ranch SKITS_All Ages***

Lesson/Message:

God's Word is always the truth. God tells us in His Word that He wrote it! So the man we are talking about today 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 for fun-only Super Cowboy. Samson was a REAL Super Hero. Pray and begin

Superhero Samson had an opportunity.

Samson had a great opportunity to have a tremendous life. When he was your age he had not messed up his life. At this age, you have not "messed up" your life either. None of you have been in a bad marriage; none of you have been in jail for drunk driving or taking drugs. And you NEVER have to! That's the great thing about your age; you have a clean slate in front of you. The choices are yours to make.

Today we are going to look at the life of a Superhero that was not always a Superhero.

Samson was born after an angel of God made the announcement to them that Samson was coming and that he would be a Nazarite [a very special type of super-Christian] from his birth onwards and that he would *"...begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."* Judges 13:5.

One of the symbols of being a Nazarite was to never cut your hair. *Judges 13:5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb:*

Samson's Strength

How did he get his strength? Did he work-out? Did he do weight training?

The Bible says: *1 Timothy 4: 7b-8... and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

Nope, didn't get it that way.

It was purely a gift from God. He did nothing to deserve it. God had a plan and He gave the gift to Samson to use to begin to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines.

Samson had a Weakness

But Samson had a weakness. His strength, that is, the symbol of his strength was his weakness as well. Or was it?

In fantasy stories characters like Superman had kryptonite. Batman was nothing without his armor and the Hulk was nothing without his strength.

In the TRUE stories from the Bible we saw that Abraham's weakness was his family; Joseph's weakness was youthful pride and Samuel was limited by Israel's faith also. Samson's weakness, was it his hair? Or something else? Lack of spiritual discernment?

Samson's Maverick Years

People who train horses will tell you that not all horses are trainable. And if you have ever owned cattle, then you know there is always one in the herd that tries to lead all the others a direction other than the rest of the herd.

Ever watch a Cutting and Sorting Event? Now there is a prime example of trying to get that last calf or two to respond to the horse and rider's instructions. Seems like there is always a "maverick" in the bunch; that one calf that will cut and run.

That was Samson; he cut and ran.

Samson had super physical strength and could have had super spiritual strength; but alas he chose not to walk with God.

He knew that as long as he kept his hair uncut, God had told him that he would keep his physical strength.

But Samson met a girl; a not so nice girl. She was getting money from the enemy, the Philistines, to try to find out how he stayed physically strong.

He gave into her asking and pleading to know how he was so strong. He finally told her.

God had given him these special strong powers as long as he did not cut his hair, the symbol of his Nazarite vow. He fell asleep and she cut his hair. The enemy, the Philistines, captured him and put him in prison for many years. They even put out his eyes, making him blind.

The Superhero that Israel had hoped would deliver them from the Philistines, he had "cut and run" like a Maverick. Everyone suffered loss.

Samson is a Superhero at the End of His Story

What if Samson had not been a Maverick? But he was.

The good news is that he got another chance; it didn't end well for him personally, but it was another chance.

One day the Philistines the enemies of Israel were having a big feast and party. They went down to the prison and took Samson out to make fun of him. They put him between two big columns that held up the stadium that these enemies of God were in. Let me read it to you.

Judges 16: 27-30

27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

28 And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

What more could he have accomplished had he just yielded to God early on instead of "just at the end?" why wait until the end? Wonder what he'd personally tell you today if he could stand here and tell you how to live your life. Let's pray.

[Present salvation here. Use the salvation flash cards from the website if you like.]

Activity-Follows:

Play a Bible Game. In advance prepare a foam board/poster board game we call: Tic-Tac Board.

With a straight edge divide the board into either 6 x 4 that is 24 spaces/squares OR any number of spaces you choose. On each square write a question or Free Space or doctrinal question or a fun silly activity for the student to do.

Cut and cover with whatever paper you have/ construction paper/ brown wrapping paper, etc. each square individually attaching with tape. Write a random number on each square.

Have BIBLE GAME TIME. Students raise hands to pick a number; then answer question correctly and pick a small prize from a box/boot/container set at the front of the room. We have used everything from small candy and small prizes purchased from a novelty company online. Possible squares for this lesson: See Lesson Three for ideas.

Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers



Ages 3rd-6th grades

Lesson Five/3 Hebrew Boys Stand their Ground

Setup and Introduction to Lesson:

- **Gather** in a seated setting for the introduction to *3 Hebrew Boys Stand their Ground*
- **Have a Skit Crew** ready to surprise enter on your cue.
- **Open in prayer.**

SKIT: Optional, but oh so fun & teaches!

Skits are online as: ***Rockin 3S Ranch SKITS_All Ages***

Lesson/Message:

Superheroes Secret Identities.

Superheroes in make-believe often have a secret identity. The REAL superheroes, that is, superheroes for God did not stand out in a crowd but were more often than not background sort of people.

Today we are going to talk about 3 Hebrew boys who had been living normal lives until the King of Babylon conquered their land, Israel, and took them captive along with most of their nation including their friend, Daniel.

They had no idea they would have to "cowboy up" in the near future. They didn't even know what a "cowboy" was. Even today the movies, the general population, and especially non-cowboy cultures think that the term "cowboy up" means something rash, empty-headed, and careless. Folks in the culture know that is the opposite of a real cowboy. To "cowboy up" simply means to stand for something right, take the heat if need be, and get the job done no matter the pain or trouble involved. I was raised in Southwest Oklahoma and this was instilled into us as young folks. But nonetheless, these Hebrew boys are about to become Cowboys.

Sometimes people get nicknames. For example since you are someone's brother, your family might call you "Bo." Or if you are the youngest in the household, you might be called "Shorty", for example. King Nebuchadnezzar couldn't pronounce the Hebrew names very well so he changed these young men's names.

So King Nebuchadnezzar changed their names as did he their friend Daniel's:

- Hananiah became Shadrach
- Mishael became Meshach
- Azariah became Abednego
- Daniel became Belteshazzar

From Ordinary to Extraordinary

Ordinary boys carried into captivity to be slaves to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon; no one special, but they were able to walk into the fiery furnace. Why?

Daniel Chapter 3 has the whole story. *[Our experience is that this age group can handle the story directly from the Bible, especially as clearly as this chapter relates the events. Read it aloud yourself, do not ask the children to read the passage, but briefly talk through the story as you read it].*

Daniel 3

3 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then a herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

Briefly, this is what happened.

These three young men were smart, sharp, well respected. The King had noticed they were exceptional. And even though they were slaves or captives, he had put them in charge as overseers in much of the government programs. He respected their decisions and their opinions.

Naturally, there were "enemies" and people that did not like what these Hebrews, these foreigners, these slaves, were in positions of authority. So these Chaldeans watched and waited for an opportunity to "bring them down." They "set up" the scenario that resulted in this event.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a big ego. He built a statue and made a proclamation that everyone had to bow down and worship this gigantic statue that he had put up in the town square. Needless, to say the Chaldeans were watching these three cowboys, these troublemakers, these rebels from Israel. And sure enough, they didn't bow.

The King sends for them, and then tells them they **MUST** bow to his god or they will burn. But the Superheroes [who didn't even know they would be Superheroes] answered the King:

Daniel 3: 17-18...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

So by proclamation the furnace is heated up seven times hotter than normal, the guards that threw these cowboys into the fire, the guards, mind you, they died from the heat of the fire.

But something happened to these cowboys. They walked around inside of the fire. And when the King peered in to see this miracle, what did he see? He saw a fourth person walking in the fire with them and he looked like GOD Himself!

Needless to say, the young men are brought out of the furnace and the God of Israel is exalted and proclaimed as God.

What made them Extraordinary can make you Special too.

They believed God. They knew that God is really alive and He is in charge!
God wants to use YOU.

You are neither the first generation nor the last that will have to make a choice of whether to believe God and serve Him, or go with the world's philosophy.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

[Present salvation here. Use the flash cards from the website if you like.]

Activity:

Prepare in advance questions related to today's lesson as well as questions related to Bible doctrine. Have small "rewards" for prizes. PLAY A GAME. Tic-Tac-LIVE suggested.

Rocking Three "S" Ranch Series:

- Super Heroes
- Super Champions
- Super Powers



Ages 3rd-6th grades

Lesson Six/Super Champion You

Setup and Introduction to Lesson:

- Gather in a seated setting for the introduction to Super Champion You
- Have a Skit Crew ready to surprise enter on your cue.
- Open in prayer.

SKIT: Optional, but oh so fun & teaches!

Skits are online as: **Rockin 3S Ranch SKITS_All Ages**

Lesson/Message:

God says You can be a Super Champion.

Superheroes are not just born; they are developed. While many of the Superheroes we have studied started out with something special about them from early childhood or even before they were born like Samuel or Samson, most do not.

Hebrews 11 in the Bible is often called the "Hall of Faith" because it lists many people that God recognizes by name as having lived by faith.

He makes no mistakes, so these are listed for us to study and think about. He is telling us that these were people, not perfect people, but people just like you and me, but something made them so special and different that He, that is God, is listing their names for us to look at their lives.

Here's what the Bible says:

Hebrews 11:6 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.

God is telling us that we must trust Him, follow Him, and depend upon Him.

How can we do that?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

God says, you have to want to please Him in order to do great things for Him.

God says that the prophet Elijah was a human being with the same kind of problems, thoughts, aches and pains, fears, and doubts that all people go through yet; he was able to have miracles happen at his request.

God says, you can be a Super Champion.

When you watch a cowboy/cowgirl compete at an event you can usually tell if their heart and mind and soul are into the event.

Sometimes things go wrong, but you can still tell if their head was in the trying.

If a cowboy shows up to a roping without his rope, you'd say he wasn't serious about his roping event today.

If a cowgirl shows up to a barrel race to compete and she's left half the horse tack back at the barn, you'd say she wasn't all that "into" the race wouldn't you?

Yet, we decide to live for God and go out halfway prepared for the event [life] and expect God to give us the victory.

You have to ask.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Most of the time we ask God for things or situations it is with the wrong motives or reasons. That is one of the main reasons we don't get answers to specific prayers.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

If you want to be a Super Champion for Jesus, then you have to ask. Then you have to be willing to depend upon Him and follow through.

The only thing separating you from a powerful Christian life is the desire to do God's will and the faith to trust Him to empower you to do what He want you to do.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

[Present salvation here. Use the flash cards from the website if you like.]

ACTIVITY and Follow-up:

Play a Bible Game. In advance prepare a foam board or poster board game we call: Tic-Tac Board.

With a straight edge divide the board into either 6 x 4 that is 24 spaces/squares OR any number of spaces you choose. On each square write a question or Free Space or doctrinal question or a fun silly activity for the student to do.

Cut and cover with whatever paper you have/ construction paper/ brown wrapping paper, etc. each square individually attaching with tape. Write a random number on each square.

Have BIBLE GAME TIME. Students raise hands to pick a number; then answer question correctly and pick a small prize from a box/boot/container set at the front of the room. We have used everything from small candy and small prizes purchased from a novelty company online.

Possible squares for this lesson: See Lesson Three for ideas.