



Heroes of the Faith II



“Moments in Church History”

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Introduction

This curriculum was designed to help introduce the children to a little bit of church history through short object lessons. These lessons can be added to a Children's Church format or within the Sunday School classroom. The idea is to give one lesson a week on these heroes of the faith to give the children a taste of their heritage and what has happened to Christianity after the time of Martin Luther as this is a continuation of the first "Heroes of the Faith" curriculum. The people selected were ones who made important contributions and whose stories could be put into an object lesson format for children. As a result of the venue and the goal of this curriculum, many more heroes of the Church were left out.

PowerPoint presentations were created to go with the object lessons to give a visual of who these people were and what they looked like. This makes it more real for the children. If you do not have the capabilities to use PowerPoint, transparencies were also created of the same material to be viewed on overheads. If overheads are not available, the best thing to do is to take the transparency and find a projector to project the image on a poster and trace it. Then you can paint or color the poster board to be viewed in the classroom or service. Remember images and objects need to be bigger for larger audiences to view.

Please feel free to adapt this curriculum to meet your needs as a Christian community desiring to train up the next generation. May God bless you with creativity and wisdom as you bring history alive. For further information on the church leaders discussed in this curriculum, please read Christianity Through the Centuries by Earle E. Cairns and The Century of the Holy Spirit by Vinson Synan.

What a great idea!



Curriculum Overview

Name	Importance	Object for Lesson
John Wesley	Founder of Methodist Started small discipleship groups that met in homes Holy Spirit fell in his meetings	House Poster
Charles Wesley	Wrote great hymns like "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," & "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"	Hymnal
Charles Finney	Great evangelist of his time Converted 1 million people 80% stayed true "Fire & Brimstone" preaching	Gavel
Edward Irving	Led the first attempt at "charismatic renewal" Prophecy came about the Holy Spirit revival occurring when last member did - Azusa St. Revival	Gift
Dwight L. Moody	Shoe salesman became preacher Joined with George Williams to launch YMCA	Shoes
William Booth	Founded the Salvation Army	Bell & Bucket
Charles Parham	First to teach about baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues as a part of everyday Christian life His student was first to speak in tongues at this time He gave the message to William J. Seymour	Dove
William J. Seymour	Preached Parham's message of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit Started the Azusa Street revival which sparked the Holy Spirit falling around the world	2 Big Boxes
Aimee Semple McPherson	Founder of the Foursquare denomination Greatest female evangelist Very dramatic preacher	Drama Mask
Billy Sunday	Baseball player turned preacher Great American revival preacher Developed DL Moody's techniques for promotions Used baseball terminology in his sermons	Baseball Bat
Kathryn Kuhlman	First female faith healer Evangelist	Medical Kit
David du Plessis	"Mr. Pentecost" Spearheaded the charismatic movement in traditional churches	Olive Branch



John Wesley

Materials and Preparation: House Poster – small groups

Draw a house with its many rooms on the poster board and have the front door and maybe even the window cut out like a flap so that it can be opened to show a picture behind the door and/or window. Behind the poster board where the door opens up, tape a picture or drawing of people studying the Bible together in the living room of the house. This way when you discuss the small discipleship groups that Wesley began, you can show the house and the people inside.

The Lesson:

John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist denomination from whom we can trace our charismatic roots. The Holy Spirit began showing up in his meetings when he preached. (Show the house poster) Another interesting thing that began to happen with John Wesley is small meetings for discipleship began in homes of the people he was pasturing. He organized these people into groups to try and keep up with their spiritual growth and to help them. (Open the doors of the house to see the people inside) These groups of people would study the Bible together and they also experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit. You may be used to going to a home of your friends for a “Cell Group” or a Bible Study (use whatever term your church has for its home meetings – if you have one. Explain the concept behind the cell movement or small group meetings that your church has). So the next time you go to one of these meetings, remember John Wesley began this when he started the Methodist denomination.



Charles Wesley

Materials and Preparation: Hymnal

Get a church hymnal if one is available. If you cannot find one, you may pick up a songbook at a Christian bookstore to substitute. It would also be good if you could find the songs written by Charles Wesley to show – a few are “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” and “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.” Also, try to be familiar with one of the songs to try and sing it with the children.

The Lesson:

(Show the hymnal) Do you know what this is? It is a hymnal - that is a book with songs in it. There have been many songwriters over the years that have written songs for this book. (If your church no longer uses hymnals, explain that people used to read the words of songs from the book so they could sing together. These days we use overheads or the projector and read it off the screen at the front of the church). The church sings these songs as an expression of worship to God. Charles Wesley was the brother of John Wesley – remember the last church history figure we talked about? Well, Charles Wesley was a song writer and the church still sings some of his songs. Have you heard of “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” or “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”? Charles Wesley wrote those songs. (At this point it would be best to sing one of these songs so it drives the point home). The next time you sing that song, remember that Charles Wesley wrote it a long time ago.



Charles Finney

Materials and Preparation: Gavel

Get a gavel and maybe even a law book. You may even want to set up a room for a court scene to explain the concept of a lawyer and court.

The Lesson:

Charles Finney was a lawyer who became an evangelist. (Show the gavel and/or law book and/or the courtroom set up. Explain what a lawyer and court is before explaining the concept of an evangelist – one who tells people about Jesus). Charles Finney was a great evangelist of his time. He was responsible for one million people asking Jesus to be the Lord of their lives and come into their hearts (or whatever terminology you use for the salvation experience at your church). (Relate the number of one million people to the nearest big city or even your city to explain how many people it is – a large number!) Since he was a lawyer, Charles Wesley preached the gospel from the perspective of sin and justice – we sometimes call this style of preaching the “Fire and Brimstone” style of preaching as hell and heaven are discussed. Most of the people who became Christians stayed true to Jesus, which makes this revival that happened amazing!



Edward Irving

Materials and Preparation: Gift –with candy inside

Wrap a shoebox or some other box as a gift for a child. Inside the box put some chocolate or other candy that can be shared with all the children. This will be used to talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit – so you may want to familiarize yourself with 1 Corinthians 12-14.

The Lesson:

Edward Irving led the first attempt at a “Charismatic renewal” – that is he began to discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they should show up in the church. (Show the gift). The gifts of the Holy Spirit are free and they come to people who are seeking Jesus – usually during times of worship. (If a child asks for the gift, give it to him or her and ask the child to open it and share the candy/chocolate with the other children – if you have a large group you may want volunteers to help pass out the candy.) Explain that the gifts are free, but you must receive them (that is ask for the gift and take them or use the gifting given to you for the benefit of everyone – like the candy that was shared with everyone here). [You may want to discuss the different kinds of gifts in Corinthians and how they benefit the church to build up, cheer up, and/or stir up the body of Christ.] Edward Irving was responsible for preaching about the gifts of the Holy Spirit in his Presbyterian church and a few began to show up in his church. There was a prophecy that said when the last member of the church died that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon many people around the world. After the last member died, the Azusa Street revival happened where many people around the world felt the presence of the Holy Spirit!



Dwight L. Moody

Materials and Preparation: Shoes

Get a couple pair of shoes to discuss how DL Moody was a shoe salesman. You may even want to get a child to act as a customer and “sell” a pair of shoes to him or her.

The Lesson:

(Show the shoes and/or do a quick drama of selling shoes). D.L. Moody was a shoe salesman before he became a preacher. He told many people about Jesus. How many of you attend a YMCA or have seen one? Well, Mr. Moody was one of the men responsible for starting the YMCA and it was a Christian organization. So the next time you go to the YMCA or see it, you can think of Mr. Moody. Mr. Moody also started a Bible School and taught many others how to spread the gospel.



William Booth

Materials and Preparation: Bell and Bucket (Preferably red)

Get a bell and a red bucket (preferred color) to represent the Salvation Army as we know them during their Christmas collections. Putting the Salvation Army symbol above or on the bucket will help with the idea as well. It might be best to demonstrate with ringing the bell and having a child give money into the bucket. If you know of someone in the Salvation Army, you may want to ask them to come and speak with the children.

The Lesson:

(Ring the bell and have someone put money in the bucket.) Have you ever come out of the store with your mom and seen the people ringing the bell at Christmas time for money? They usually are representing the Salvation Army. We usually know the Salvation Army as the place where you give your clothes and toys that you no longer use and they give it to poor people who need it. Well, the Salvation Army is also a place where they tell people about Jesus. A man named William Booth, also called General Booth, began the organization to tell the needy people about Jesus. They would round up people from off the streets and give them a hot meal before telling them about Jesus. This organization has even lasted till today!



Charles Parham

Materials and Preparation: Dove

Show a picture of a dove and explain that it is usually the symbol of the Holy Spirit – something that we use to represent the Holy Spirit, but the dove is not literally the Holy Spirit. You May also want to get an example of something written in another language to show the kids when explaining what tongues is (review I Cor. 12-14).

The Lesson:

Charles Parham had a Bible School where they were discussing the gifts of the Holy Spirit (show the picture of the dove and talk about the Holy Spirit). His class was studying the Bible and they decided that the evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit as seen in the Book of Acts was being able to speak in tongues. They then began to pray for this gift and a lady name Agnes Ozman was the first to begin speaking in tongues (explain tongues). Basically, she was speaking in a language that she did not know as a way of worshipping God – the Holy Spirit speaks to God in words we ourselves do not know. (Show something written in a foreign language and have a volunteer read it. It will be best if you also have a translation to show that it was a real language saying something real.) Charles Parham then began to take the message of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit to others. The Apostolic Club you see in the pictures also spread the message. One man was an African American student that received this message and spread it to the world. We will talk about him next time.



William J. Seymour

Materials and Preparation: 2 Big Boxes

Get two fairly large boxes to sit on top of each other with the open portions facing towards the speaker and away from the audience. This will be an example of Seymour's pulpit at Azusa Street. Be prepared to stick your head in the top box to show how many times Mr. Seymour would stick his head in the box as he prayed and waited on the Holy Spirit to show up.

The Lesson:

(Have the box pulpit visible and talk from behind it and even walk around it for a while). William Seymour was an African American who would sit outside of Charles' Parham's classes so that he could learn more about the Bible. He could not go inside the class because at that time Black and White people were not allowed in the same places. But Charles Parham allowed him to sit outside the class to learn. Mr. Seymour learned about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. He then moved to California where he began preaching this message. A revival broke out where many people began coming to a house to learn more about the Holy Spirit. They then began meeting in a warehouse at Azusa Street. This is now known as the Azusa Street Revival that spread around the world! Mr. Seymour was the preacher that spread this great message to many. His pulpit was two shoe crates stacked on top of each other (show boxes). Many times he would stick his head inside the box to get out of the way and allow the Holy Spirit to move (stick your head in the box). He would pray for the Holy Spirit to show up in their meetings and many healings and special gifts of the Holy Spirit would happen in the meeting. But the most important thing to Seymour was that people learn the good news about Jesus!



Aimee Semple McPherson

Materials and Preparation: Drama Mask

Get a drama mask or make one using a paper plate and yarn to attach or hold up in front of your face. Aimee was quite a dramatic evangelist and this will be shown in the object lesson. She is an interesting character that you may want to read about.

The Lesson:

Aimee Semple McPherson was a female evangelist (someone who told others about Jesus). She was so famous that she ended up starting her own denomination now known as the Foursquare denomination. Aimee Semple McPherson was very dramatic (show the mask by holding it up to your face). She would do many dramatic acts to explain the gospel and gain attention so she could tell others about Jesus. One time she rode a motorcycle into her church dressed up as a policeman. She then screeched on the brakes saying "Stop, your going to hell!" She became very popular and was in the newspapers a lot. She had a church near Hollywood and the stars were even interested in her sermons and dramas. So, realize that you can be entertaining when sharing the gospel - Aimee Semple McPherson was!



Billy Sunday

Materials and Preparation: Baseball Bat

Get a baseball bat and maybe a glove to represent the sport of baseball. Billy Sunday was a baseball player and this will probably interest the children.

The Lesson:

(Show the baseball paraphernalia and ask the children what sport it represents). Billy Sunday used to be a baseball player. He then became an evangelist – what we would call a great revival preacher. Revivals are when big groups of people come back to the Lord. Billy Sunday developed DL Moody’s techniques on promoting big Revival meetings. He was most known for using baseball terminology in his preaching. Can you imagine your pastor explaining the Bible in baseball language? The next time you see a baseball game, think about Billy Sunday who became an evangelist.



Kathryn Kuhlman

Materials and Preparation: First Aid Kit / Medical Kit

Get a first aid kit or put a medical kit together with some gauze, Band-Aids, ointments, etc. This is one kind of medicine and we will discuss how miracles can happen where sick people are healed.

The Lesson:

Have you ever been sick? (Show the medical kit) Have you ever gotten a scratch or a bite that your parents used Band-Aids or other items from this medical kit to make it better? (Discuss some of the items in the kit and what they are used for). Well what if God healed it as soon as you were sick? That would be a miracle and it would be great wouldn't it? Kathryn Kuhlman was a woman evangelist who was known as a faith healer. She was the first woman to be a faith healer. At her meetings she would talk about Jesus and pray for the sick. Many of the sick people would be instantly healed at the meetings. Praise God! Wouldn't you like to pray for the sick and see them get better!



David du Plessis

Materials and Preparation: Olive Branch

It would be best to get an actual olive branch, but a picture of one will work. We are using the olive branch as a symbol of peace that David du Plessis extended to the traditional churches. He reached out to many denominations and at the time of this publication, is still alive today.

The Lesson:

(Show the olive branch and explain its symbolism for peace). One man has been very peaceful as he has reached out to many denominations that were not known for being charismatic to bring the message of the Holy Spirit and cooperation to them. David du Plessis is the man known as “Mr. Pentecost” because he brought the message of Pentecost to many denominations like the Catholics who were not known for being Charismatic or “Spirit-filled.” Remember that Pentecost happened in the book of Acts when the Holy Spirit first fell on the disciples who were praying (Acts 2). It is a great new time to see many new churches and groups of Christians experiencing the Holy Spirit today. Think of “Mr. Pentecost” and share your experiences of the Holy Spirit with some of your friends.