

FOCUS
Cultural Issue

TITLE
Every Man for Himself

REFERENCE
Psalm 41:1–3

• brown merit •

Psalm

... LESSON 5

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

Who hasn't imagined being a superhero at one time or another? Men dream of being the man everyone looks up to. The world tells us that to get to the top, we should use whatever means necessary, regardless of cost or casualties along the way. God's Word teaches us that God's view of real success begins with caring for those who are weak or in need. God's idea of a real hero or success is not one who has crushed others on the way up, but a man who takes the time to help others along the journey.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- What makes a true hero?
- As men of God, how do we combat the world's philosophy of "only the strong survive"?
- Who has God placed in my life in need of my help, support, and encouragement?



PREP

None

• Notes •

- This lesson includes a reference to Robin Hood. Try to focus on the character and not his questionable ethics and methods.

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Psalm

... LESSON 5

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness. Psalm 41:1–3

Gaze deep into the dark haze of England's misty forest. Listen closely and let the music of a time long since past draw you toward the faint glow of a dimly flickering campfire. Look just beyond the soft glow of dying light and there in the shadow stands a hero whose legend knows no end. Mere mention of his name conjures thoughts of adventure and admiration in the hearts of men of all times and ages—Robin Hood.

Literature, television, movies, and even comic books have entertained generations with the thrilling tales of Robin Hood and his merry men. Do you remember the first time you heard of Robin Hood? The legend of Robin Hood was built around his never-ending fight for the poor, weak, and defenseless. He didn't have super-human abilities or powers. He just took on the cause of those who could do nothing for him.

Such is the story of so many superheroes. From Superman to Batman, from Green Lantern to

Spider-man, what made them heroes is not just their amazing abilities or high-tech gadgets. It is their undying commitment to pursue justice, stand for what's right, and defend the weak.

Heroes still walk among us today, even though they don't usually wear tights, capes, or have a giant letter painted on their chest. In fact, you may be sitting in the presence of one right now. King David tells us that in God's eyes a real hero "has regard for the weak." In other words, a real hero looks out for those in need, the underdogs.

Unfortunately, the world often tells us that the only way to get ahead is to take advantage of or step on whoever is in the way. We are taught that if someone doesn't benefit us, they are of little or no importance. Culture screams at us, "If you want to make it big, take out the little people!" Can you recall a time you experienced or saw someone being taken advantage of so someone else could get ahead? How about a time when someone got overlooked, teased, or left out because they weren't the smartest, most popular, best looking, etc.?

In contrast, God gently reminds us, "If you want to be blessed, remember the weak." Look at verses 2 and 3. David tells us that when we look after others, God himself will come to our defense. When we become a hero to the weak, God will take up our cause and that is a team worth being a part of!

PRAYER: God, I want to be the kind of hero You want me to be. Help me to watch for those in need that I can help. Help me to be a man after Your heart, one who looks out for the weak and helpless. Help me to make a difference in my world by treating others with respect no matter who they are. Amen.



REFLECT

Discuss the following questions within your patrol:

- As a hero that puts others first, how can I tangibly demonstrate care for the weak?
- Is there someone within the church (elderly, shut-in, single mother, etc.) who could use your help or encouragement? This could include anything from yard work to an oil change. Think within the skill sets of the patrol members.

With the help of your group leader or pastor, arrange a time for you as a patrol to meet that need and show the love of Christ. Be sure to create something to remember the occasion, e.g., a collage of pictures, journal.



RESPOND

This week, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone who needs your help or encouragement. This could be mentoring a younger Ranger, taking time to tutor a struggling classmate, or just spending time with someone who really needs a friend. Then, be a living example of Psalm 41:1 and show the love of God, expecting nothing in return. Be sure to come next week ready to report your adventures to your patrol.

The *Fire Bible: Student Edition* provides a reading plan that follows a two-year design for reading the entire Bible. Follow that reading plan in order to earn the green Bible Reading merit.

7-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN
 Sunday ·
 Monday ·
 Tuesday ·
 Wednesday ·
 Thursday ·
 Friday ·
 Saturday ·

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