

Heroes of Faith (Hebrews 11)

First performed at Dandenong Bible Education Centre Ecclesia 2012

WHO		Props	Background
NARRATOR	<p>"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."</p> <p>Just like the Jews who lived in the years immediately before AD70 we need to be people of faith. The world they knew was changed when the Romans took Jerusalem as God had told them through His Son and the prophets. In the same way we know that the world will be changed and the things that seem permanent will pass away at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to put our trust and hope in God who has promised us the Kingdom of God in His Word.</p> <p>"For without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."</p> <p>Today we are going on a journey to learn about some of the Bible's Heroes of Faith. We will see how they were convicted of God's existence and promises. We will also see how that faith motivated them to make difficult decisions, suffer hardship and serve God regardless of what others around them may have thought. And the best bit is yet to come! But more about that later...</p>		<p>Title slide</p> <p>Jerusalem being taken</p> <p>Path through a mountain scene</p>
NARRATOR	<p>So let's start by singing about how much we want to see the Kingdom of God established in our lifetime and do what we can now to get ready for that special day.</p>		
SONG	<p>"I want to serve God in my generation" (Praise the Lord)</p>		SONG WORDS
NARRATOR	<p>Our journey begins at the beginning of the Bible with Abel.</p> <p>"By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead."</p> <p>Next we have Enoch and then Noah.</p>		Abel

SKIT	NOAH		
NOAH <i>(Noah's wife), (sons)</i>	<i>Banging and building with wife and three sons</i>	Boat Hammers	Noah building ark
CROWD	You don't really think there is going to be a flood do you?		
	You could fit the whole world in there, the boat is so big!		
	There hasn't been a decent rain for years – what are you building a boat for. You can't float a boat on dry land you know!		
	What a waste of time and effort – wouldn't you be better building a bigger home and some fancy buildings with your skill?		
Noah	God has commanded me to build an ark for my family so that we will be saved when God destroys the earth with a flood. When God commands, I obey! God's word NEVER fails.		
SONG	Rise and Shine	Costumes: Animals	SONG WORDS
NOAH <i>Ezra</i>	Animals - it is time to go into the Ark		The finished Ark
	<i>Animals move quietly into the ark</i>		
	<i>Rain and thunder</i>	playing rumbling music on piano, older children clapping their knees	Storm
	<i>Lights flash and go out</i>		
Crowd	Let us in! Let us in!		
Narrator	But it was too late. The flood came as God had said and only faithful Noah and his family were saved. The chapter of faith in Hebrews continues by telling us about Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph – who left countries, bore children, gave blessings and wanted to leave Egypt. But now let's think about Moses. Let's see how faith in God and His promises		Rainbow and the ark Nile river

Narrator	9 plagues later, Pharaoh still wouldn't let Israel go. Instead Pharaoh hardened his heart. He would not let God work with him. God had had enough and commanded Israel to keep the Passover and get ready to leave Egypt in a mighty display of God's power and might.		Israel in bondage in Egypt
SKIT	PASSOVER		
God's voice	Celebrate the feat of unleavened bread. Select a Passover lamb and kill it. Dip hyssop in the blood in a basin and put it on the door frame. Not one of you shall go out of your house until the morning. When I strike the first born, your sons shall not be touched.	Mat on raised block with Passover food (bread, basin of blood, door frame, bitter herbs)	Room of a house
Israelites	<i>Act out the scene</i>		
Narrator	At midnight all the first born in Egypt were killed, including Pharaoh's son.	Sword	Black
Angel	<i>Moves through the Israelites and doesn't touch their baby. They then move to Pharaoh and kill his baby. Pharaoh is distraught when he wakes up and realises what has happened.</i>		
Pharaoh	UP! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested.		
Narrator	The Egyptians also urged the Israelites to leave and gave them silver and gold for the journey. The Israelites took their unleavened bread, flocks, herds and gifts and got out of Egypt. The LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, to guide them on their way. <i>The Egyptians give the Israelites lots of gifts so the Israelites leave the stage loaded with goodies.</i> But as you might expect, Pharaoh changed his mind and commanded his army to bring back the Israelites to be his slaves. But he was too late. “By faith the people passed through the Red Sea, as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.”	Silver, gold coins; clothing	Pillar of cloud and pillar of fire Crossing of the Red Sea
SONG	Go Down Moses		SONG WORDS
Narrator	Imagine Moses seeing the royal army drown in the Red Sea, the very army he		Crossing of the Red

	<p>would have seen growing up and may have had a hand in ruling if he had stayed in Pharoah's family.</p> <p>Moses and the Israelites saw an amazing thing that day, something that was talked about for generations to come. It was talked about by all the nations who lived around Israel, including those in Jericho.</p> <p>Rahab was one of those in Jericho who knew what God did for Israel that day. So when she was told that her city would fall to the Israelites, she knew she had to do something to be saved. She hid the spies and then hung a scarlett cord out of her window when the Israelites marched around the city seven times before it fell flat.</p>		<p>Sea</p> <p>Rahab's house on the wall of Jericho</p>
SONG	Joshua fought the battle of Jericho		SONG WORDS
	<p>Rahab knew what would happen and had the courage and faith to do something about it! And not only was she saved but all those in the house with her – her family and all who belonged to her.</p> <p>There are so many we could think about. Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, Samuel and the prophets.</p> <p>They really were daring, courageous people. Just like Daniel after he had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dreams and been raised to a position of great leadership in Babylon.</p>		<p>Rahab's house</p> <p>Daniel's image</p>
SKIT	Daniel in the Lion's Den		
Darius' men	<p>Just who does this Jew think he is? I wish we were as good rulers in the Kingdom as Daniel is. He never does a thing wrong and always makes good decisions.</p> <p>What a goody two shoes! I am so jealous of his success in this government. I wish I was as good as him. It's not fair!</p> <p>Yeah, these people who always do what is right. They think they are something special don't they. Always praying, thinking about their God and doing what their Scriptures tell them to do.</p>	Black window frame (at shop) and seat with view of city on powerpoint behind it	City of Babylon

	<p>Wait – I have an idea. Let's make a law that if anyone prays to anyone but Darius then they will be thrown into a den of lions.</p> <p>That's a great idea. I bet Daniel won't dare become mince meat for the hungry lions at feeding time!</p>		
Daniel <i>Hamish</i>	<i>He is quietly in the corner, acting out praying, ruling wisely etc.</i>		
Narrator	<p>But of course the other rulers didn't expect Daniel to be a man of faith and refuse to obey the law and continue to pray three times a day as he always did. Much to Darius' dismay, Daniel was thrown into a pit of lions (children act this out as narrator speaks).</p> <p>Meanwhile Darius lay awake all night, worrying about his much admired and respected administrator (<i>Darius acts this out as narrator speaks</i>).</p> <p><i>Alarm clock goes off at 6am and Darius rushes to the den.</i></p>	Brown cushions, lion costumes and masks, den cut out	Pit of lions
Darius	Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"		
Daniel	O king, live forever. My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.		
Narrator	Daniel was brought out of the pit and Darius' men were thrown in instead, along with their wives and children. They were eaten before they even reached the ground!		
SONG	Dare to Be a Daniel		SONG WORDS
Narrator	Wow! That's exciting stuff. There is one more hero of faith that we will see before our journey ends today. This time it is someone who showed great faith with the support of his friend. Remember Paul and Silas? Paul was travelling through Phillip, a Roman colony and leading city of the district of Macedonia. On the Sabbath he, Silas and Timothy, were sitting by the river, speaking to Lydia, a lady who sold purple cloth and God. She invited them to stay at her house for a few days which they gladly did and so began to preach the Gospel in that city.		River
Narrator	Let's see what happens when they go down to the river again and see a fortune telling girl who was making lots of money for her owners.		

SKIT	Paul and Silas in prison		
Slave girl	These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved!		
Paul	In the name of Jesus Christ I command you, the evil spirit, to come out of her!	Reeds from Egypt scene	
Slave girl	<i>Suddenly she is well and no longer crazy.</i>		
Girl's owners	You have just stopped us making any money! How dare you take away our income. Just who do you think you are?		
Crowd	Yeah, who do you think you two are? Come and face the music! <i>Drag Paul and Silas to the judges.</i>		
Judge	Strip these men and beat them then throw them into prison.	Prison wall	Prison
Paul & Silas	<i>Stripped and beaten and thrown into prison with crowd jeering.</i> <i>Put in stocks in the prison. Jailer guards them.</i> <i>TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK – clock strikes midnight</i> <i>Start singing hymns and praising God.</i>	Stocks Alarm clock hymn	
Jailer	What is that I can hear? Is that really singing? Who in this prison ever sings – especially at midnight? <i>Earthquake, lights flashing.</i> <i>Runs to Paul and Silas with a light to see if they are still secure. He brandishes a sword, ready to kill himself.</i> “What's the good of keeping my life? If these prisoners escape I will be killed anyway!”	playing rumbling music on piano	
Paul	Don't worry – we are all here!		

Jailer	What must I do to be saved?		
Paul	Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.		
Narrator	Then Paul and Silas spoke to the jailer about the word of God and to all the others of his house. The Jailer washed their wounds and took them to his house (<i>children act this while the narrator is speaking</i>). That night the jailer and his family were baptised and the jailer was filled with joy.	Window cut out from Daniel scene Reeds and water from Egypt scene	
SONG	Shine as lights		
Narrator	That's exciting isn't it? To see how two people's faith inspired others to know God and be saved? That's the power of example and of personal preaching. And we can all shine – from the youngest to the oldest.		
Narrator	But you know the best bit – all these people are yet to receive eternal life in the Kingdom of God. They are asleep in the grave, waiting for Christ's return when they will receive the promises along with all those who love Christ's appearing.. And they admitted they were aliens and strangers on the earth. They were longing for a better country – heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. The challenge for us is, do we live by our faith?		Kingdom scene
SONG	Christ is returning		SONG WORDS