**Ely Diocese Collective Worship Theme Plan Exemplar – Heroes of the Bible – Old Testament**

**Week by Week Template**

1. Old Testament – Hero introduction
2. Noah
3. Abraham
4. Jacob
5. Joseph
6. Moses
7. Caleb
8. Joshua
9. Ehud
10. Deborah
11. Gideon
12. Samson
13. Jonathon
14. David
15. Elijah
16. Josiah
17. Queen Esther
18. Isaiah
19. Daniel

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week**  | **Bible Scripture** | **Suggested Choral Worship** | **Core Story** | **Church Values** | **Other Themed Links** | **Bible stories****Things to note** |
| 1 | The Old Testament Bible | **God’s People John Hardwick****Jesus You’re My Superhero****Hillsong Kids****King of Me****Rend Kids Collective****My God is Number One****Super Wonderful****My God is so big and strong****Be Bold, Be Strong****Blinded by Your Grace****I’ve got the power****Unlikely Heroes****God’s People John Hardwick****Jesus You’re My Superhero****Hillsong Kids****King of Me****Rend Kids Collective****My God is Number One****Super Wonderful****My God is so big and strong****Be Bold, Be Strong****Blinded by Your Grace****I’ve got the power****Unlikely Heroes****God’s People John Hardwick****Jesus You’re My Superhero****Hillsong Kids****King of Me****Rend Kids Collective****My God is Number One****Super Wonderful****My God is so big and strong****Be Bold, Be Strong****Blinded by Your Grace****I’ve got the power****Unlikely Heroes****God’s People John Hardwick****Jesus You’re My Superhero****Hillsong Kids****King of Me****Rend Kids Collective****My God is Number One****Super Wonderful****My God is so big and strong****Be Bold, Be Strong****Blinded by Your Grace****I’ve got the power****Unlikely Heroes****God’s People John Hardwick****Jesus You’re My Superhero****Hillsong Kids****King of Me****Rend Kids Collective****My God is Number One****Super Wonderful****My God is so big and strong****Be Bold, Be Strong****Blinded by Your Grace****I’ve got the power****Unlikely Heroes****God’s People John Hardwick****Jesus You’re My Superhero****Hillsong Kids****King of Me****Rend Kids Collective****My God is Number One****Super Wonderful****My God is so big and strong****Be Bold, Be Strong****Blinded by Your Grace****I’ve got the power****Unlikely Heroes** | **What is a hero?**Discuss with the children their understanding of what a hero might do – can they think of examples – you will probably get a lot of references to superheroes such as Marvel/DC heroes.Look at different definitions of ‘hero’ – is there a common theme? What about connected words such as Saviour? Champion? Conqueror?The Bible teaches us that a hero in God’s eyes would be someone who listens, shows great faith, dedicates their life to Him and obeys His commands. They are usually people who are courageous, wise and leaders. The main difference between Superheroes of the Marvel/DC universe and the Bible is – they do not have extraordinary abilities, powers or talents. They are simply people who have true faith in God and they devote their life to fixing God’s relationship with humankind. In return, God offers guidance and protection, even when all the odds are stacked against them.  | WisdomCourageFaithCompassionKindness Responsibility Humility Love  |  |  |
| 2 | Genesis 6 | **Noah**A man chosen by God to save all humanity from a mass flood caused by God in order to wash sin away. God told him to ‘be fruitful, multiply and replenish the Earth’ after the world was starting to recover. He is considered a hero because he was obedient to God, built an ark, saved all God’s animals and restarted all of humanity.  | FaithTrustResilienceServiceHope Responsibility Courage  | Bravery BeliefObedient Chosen Water Sin Caring Patience | God tells Noah to do the same as He told Adam and Eve – to be fruitful, multiply in number and look after the world.  |
| 3 | Genesis 12 | **Abraham**A man chosen by God to begin His ‘nation’ of people. He was asked to count the number of stars and grains of sand – as that would be the number of his descendants. God meant as a Father of His people not necessarily a Father to thousands of humans. He was rewarded by God with a son named Isaac which means laughter – which is what he and his wife did when God told them they would become parents. He is considered a hero because he was obedient to God, followed His plans to leave his homeland and became a ‘Father’ (leader) to God’s people.  | FaithTrustResilienceServiceHope Responsibility Courage  | BeliefObedient Covenant | Abraham was so obedient to God, he almost killed his own son Isaac, this might be more appropriate for KS2 only |
| 4 | Genesis 25 | **Jacob**One of the twin boys from Isaac, who battled with his brother and God. A man who later talked to God in Heaven in a dream. He dreamt there was a ladder from Earth to Heaven, with angels all up the sides and at the top stood God. God tells Jacob that he and his family will be blessed and the land he sleeps on belongs to Him. God tells Jacob to spread himself like the dust of the Earth and He will always be with him. Jacob believes he has found the ‘Gate of Heaven’, naming the land Bethel which means “The House of God”. He lays a stone to represent God’s house. He is considered a hero because he changed his ways and renewed his belief in God.  | FaithHope Wisdom  | Dreamer Fighter Belief Heaven  | Jacob and Esau – the twins who fought over their inheritance. Jacob is said to have battled with God too.  |
| 5 | Genesis 37-50 | **Joseph**A man who interpreted God’s messages through dreams. After a turbulent early life, being the son of Jacob and living with his 11 brothers, he is sold to the Egyptian slave trade. He is imprisoned but eventually rises in position to become an interpreter of dreams for the Pharaoh. He is considered a hero because he stood up for what he believed in (his dreams as messages from God) despite the negativity and reactions from those around him.  | FaithHonesty Humility CourageWisdom Responsibility Truthfulness  | Family feudsJealousy Dreams  | Story of sibling rivalry and moves the story into Egypt setting up the story of Moses. |
| 6 | Exodus 7 | **Moses**A man who God chose to lead and free His people from the Egyptian slavery. Moses was a quiet, ordinary man who God chose to something amazing! The Hebrews are living under Egyptian– God wants his people out of slavery. He chooses Moses to speak with the Pharaoh to set His people free, which is rejected until God sends 10 Plagues upon the people of Egypt. After the 10th plague involving death the Pharaoh relents and allows Moses to lead the Hebrews to freedom towards the Promised Land (Canaan). He is considered a hero because he was resilient, following God’s orders and leading His people to the land of freedom (after a quick route through the Red Sea!).  | TrustFaithPeaceJusticeService PerseveranceHopeResponsibility Courage  | Bravery Punishment FreedomSlavery  | Many stories from Moses could be told here – talking to God in the form of the bush, parting of the Red Sea, talking to God up Mount Sinai when he receives the 10 Commandments. |
| 7 | Numbers 13 | **Caleb**A man chosen by Moses to spy and explore the Promised Land. Caleb represented tribe of Judah, alongside a man named Joshua and 10 other spies who went to see what the occupied land was like. Caleb and Joshua believed that the land could be conquered (despite 10 of the other leaders saying it would be impossible) because he had great faith in God’s big plan even though many of the cities had huge walls surrounding them. Several of the tribes did not listen to Caleb, nor had faith in God and they all entered up wandering the desert for 40 years. He survived this time (most of God’s people died) and when they finally arrived at the Promised Land he conquered some of the land. He is considered a hero because he was physically strong, followed God with his whole heart, knew God would give him everything he would need to be successful and completed God’s spying missions.  | CouragePeaceJusticeResilience Service HopeWisdom  | WarBelief  |  |
| 8 | Joshua 6 | **Joshua**A man who follows Moses to lead God’s people. He takes an army knock down the huge walls surrounding Jericho, the city where God wanted his people to go. This was the first battle God’s people fought in order to win the land of Canaan (the Promised Land). Joshua listens to God, follows his commands and the walls fall down on the 7th day, allowing God’s people to claim victory. Joshua is considered a hero because he led God’s people into the Promised Land and showed great faith in God’s plan.  | CouragePeaceJusticeResilience Service HopeWisdom Responsibility Perseverance  | WarBelief  | The Walls of Jericho is a popular story, naming Joshua as the leader of God’s people is important. |
| 9 | Judges 3 | **Ehud**A man who led the Israelites during a time of need. He lived during a time when the Israelites were being ruled by a King Eglon who was described as an extremely greedy and large man. Ehud would pray and cry out to God to help His people who were living in such a bad way, he felt they needed His help. Ehud who was left handed which meant he would hide his weapon in his right sock rather than the left sock which was common in those days. Ehud asked to see the greedy King alone and speak with him in private – telling his guards he had a message from God to deliver. Eglon was curious about this and allowed the audience to happen, telling his guards to make sure Ehud was unarmed. They checked his left leg for a weapon but did not check his right leg. When Ehud got close enough to Eglon, locked the doors and killed the King, escaping through the window. He then raised an army to attack the Kingdom with no King. Ehud’s army fought hard and managed to beat the Kingless army and secured freedom and peace for God’s people. God heard the cries of His people and was able to rescue them in time of need. Ehud is considered a hero because he was brave enough to kill an evil King and lead God’s people to freedom once again.  | CourageWisdomJustice  | Bravery War  | This is a murderous plot but many of the stories in the Bible include death, just be careful how you tell the story. The key important part is he was left handed which was not considered a blessing at the time.  |
| 10 | Judges 4 | **Deborah**A woman who was a judge who made decisions about people according to the Laws of God. She would sit under a tree and people would come to her. Deborah would listened and delivered news from God too. One day God told her that there needed to be 10,000 men sent to battle against Sisera. Barak, one of the military leaders, who was a mighty warrior, questioned Deborah and told her if this was really what God wanted, then she should have to join them- so she did! She believed that God was with her, she went alongside the warriors although did not engage in the battle and this gave courage to Barak and the army that this is what He wanted. They attacked, they won. Deborah is considered a hero because she arose as a leader to awaken others to stand up and fight. She showed great faith in God and When leaders lead, others follow. | CompassionFaithPeaceJustice Honesty Service Wisdom  | Love Leadership Equality  | The first of two women considered to be heroes in this series. |
| 11 | Judges 7 | **Gideon**A man who led the Israelite army to win a war despite the overwhelming odds against him. Gideon was a shy and humble man who did not have much belief in his own talents. He was very honest, hardworking and showed great faith in God. Gideon was chosen by God to lead an army against the mighty Midianites and with only 300 men! He asked God to show him signs that his plan would work – including the wetting of a fleece and dew upon the ground. Gideon is considered a hero because he obeyed and trusted God, he listened and did exactly what was asked of him, despite having everything against him.  | HumilityFaith TrustFaithService Perseverance Responsibility Courage  | BeliefPath finderMiracle Obedience  | It is interesting how God instructed Gideon to reduce his army. |
| 12 | Judges 13-16 | **Samson**A man blessed with great strength from birth. There are many stories of Samson with the traditional sense of a hero such as beating a group of the Philistine army with a donkey bone and killing a lion with his bare hands. But his weakness would be discovered through the woman Delilah who cut off his hair and this took away his ‘power’ of strength. He is then captured by the Philistine army, blinded and tied to the pillars inside a temple. As time goes by, God gives Samson his strength back and he pulls the pillars down destroying the temple and all inside, including himself. Samson is considered a hero because of his strength in battle and the fact he lived and gave his life for God.  | FaithJusticeHopeCourage  | Strength – inner and physical | Samson also liked to tell riddles – maybe you could include them or use as a reflection moment |
| 13 | 1 Samuel 13 | **Jonathon**A man who was the son of King Saul and close friends with David (the boy shepherd who became a King). He was a faithful and trusted friend to David - who God decided would become King after Saul had died. Jonathon knew this was God’s plan and accepted it despite his Father disagreeing. Saul planned for David’s death so he would never become King but Jonathon warned David before it could happen. He refused to join his Father and chose to side with David. Jonathon is a hero because he was obedient to God and understood His plan, even if it meant he would not be King after his Father. | ServiceFaithTrustPeaceRespect | FriendshipChoosing sides | King Saul was the first King of Israel but he did not trust God, he disobeyed Him and committed lots of sin. He was not a good King and this led to the search of a new one through Samuel.  |
| 14 | 1 Samuel 17 | **David**A man who beats a giant with a slingshot as a boy and is chosen by God to become King as a man. David loved God with all his heart and he wrote many Psalms to reflect this love. The story of David is a young shepherd boy who spent his life in the fields looking after sheep and killing predators such as wolves with his slingshot. One day, he is chosen to join the army and face an 8ft Philistine giant who killed every opponent he had come against. David removes all of the armour he had been given to wear as it was too big and restrictive. He walks bravely up to Goliath and beats him with a stone in his slingshot that hits him in the middle of the head. David is a hero because although he was small, he was mighty and he put every faith in God to protect him against this mighty enemy.  | LoveTrustFaith PeaceJusticeResponsibility WisdomCourage  | Confidence Self esteem  | David – the shepherd boy, who became King. He was chosen by Samuel. He loved God with all of his heart, wrote many songs called Psalms to celebrate this love.  |
| 15 | Kings 2 | **Elijah**A man who stood up against a huge crowd of people with a different view of God. God told Elijah to help his people to turn away from the false Gods, to repent their actions, return back to the one true God and oppose King Ahab. In an effort to prove the one true God, Elijah goes up a mountain with King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and 850 prophets of Baal, setting them a challenge. Whose God can set fire to the offering of a bull on the altar? The prophets of Baal scream, shout and call for their God but nothing happens. They continue, getting louder and Elijah starts to taunt them, but still nothing happens. In the end, Elijah asks for the one true God to do the same and soaks the bull with water – making it seem impossible to set alight. Elijah cried out to God on behalf of the people of Israel and God showed His greatness. At Elijah’s cry, God rained fire from Heaven upon the altar and the flames not only consumed the sacrifice, but the wood, the altar and the dust around it. Elijah is a hero because he never gave up hope or faith in God, performed miracles, whilst faced against great threat.  | FaithTrustWisdom Courage  | Power Belief  | Many stories involving Elijah in the Bible, this is just one of many.  |
| 16 | 2 Kings 22 | **Josiah**A man who was a grandson and son of two very bad Kings. Josiah wanted to be a better King than those who came before him. He is known as one of the world’s youngest Kings as his reign began at 8 years old. He raised money to rebuild the temples and it was during this time the Book of Law was found. After this discovery, Josiah shared the Laws with God’s people and made a covenant to re-establish the Commandments, He cleansed the temples of all objects related to other beliefs, showed and led his people to have a better relationship with God. Josiah is a hero because he was a brave, influential and wise King at such a young age. He was fully committed, obedient and listened to God and as a result he was blessed for his behaviour.  | ServiceCourage FaithResponsibility  | Covenant CommandmentLaw  | Connect back to Moses – 10 Commandments on the stone tabs.  |
| 17 |  | **Queen Esther**Esther was chosen as a Queen of Persia because she won a beauty competition (she was also beautiful on the inside). Esther was a Jew and followed God – she trusted and believed He had a plan for her. She was raised as a Jew despite living in a foreign land. There was a plot to kill her husband the King but this was foiled and the King lived. There was then a plot to kill all Jews but unbeknown to the King, Esther herself was Jewish surely that meant she would die too if it was found out. Esther decided to see the King but was afraid because anyone who went to see the king without him inviting them, could be killed. She decided to risk her life to save others - to save her people. Esther went to the King and he was not angry, but invited her in to talk to him. Esther was not only obedient, beautiful and kind, she was also wise. In the end, she managed to tell the King about her God, her faith and her people. Queen Esther united God’s people and they were allowed to live without fear. Esther is a hero because she put others first even though it was potentially life threatening for her. God saved her and his people because she never turned her back on Him.  | TrustFaithRespect Compassion Honesty CourageWisdom  | Beauty Plots Revenge  | Won her Queen title due to her beauty – however she was beautiful on the inside and showed great power.  |
| 18 | Isaiah 53 | **Isaiah**A man who spoke about the Messiah and made great prophecies about how he would recognised. Isaiah was a prophet who pointed to the ruling and suffering Messiah. Isaiah’s purpose was to bring back the nation of Judah – God’s nation back to the faithfulness as well as tell them about the coming of the Saviour and His future reign. Isaiah is a hero because many of his prophecies came true in the New Testament through Jesus, in history and some are still coming true today.  | FaithCourageWisdom Service Truth Hope  | ProphetsProphecies Messiah  | There are many prophecies from Isaiah but 53 is studied in the UC Digging Deeper Salvation unit.  |
| 19 | Daniel 6 | **Daniel**A man who had great faith and trust in God. He would pray to God every day, usually at the window where he could be seen and nothing would turn away from him away from God. Daniel had a good relationship with the King and they would often talk and discuss matters. Until one day, a new rule was passed that only the King would be worshipped and any other form of prayer or worship to any other would be deemed as a punishable offense. Daniel felt so strong in his faith that he did not stop praying and consequently he was arrested. The punishment was to be placed in the lion’s den – where it was sure he would die. The King could not settle that night, he was worried and upset about his friend Daniel. But, Daniel had great faith and belief, God closed the lion’s mouth and he survived. The King was relieved and allowed Daniel to go free. Daniel is a hero because he stood up for what was right, believing and trusting in God.  | TrustFaithRespect Compassion Honesty CourageWisdom  | Plots RevengePunishment  | The plotters in this story are then thrown in the pit at the end of the story – it is your choice to include this part of information.  |