

DAILY HOTLINE TIPS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Day 1 – Izzy Crawford

On Monday, we learned about Jesus calling disciples to follow him in the Gospel of John. Those very first disciples or heroes answered Jesus' call when they chose to follow him. And as they followed, they learned more about Jesus being the Son of God and God's Savior. They also learned the very important lesson that following Jesus is about loving God and loving others. (Project first hotline tip)

Our first hotline tip is that "Heroes are called to Follow Jesus!"

Day 2 – Karen Spisak

On Tuesday, we learned about a team of "Wonder Women" in the book of Exodus who heard God's call to help others. God's "Wonder Women" included two midwives, Moses' mother, his sister, and Pharaoh's daughter. All of these women courageously did their part to help baby Moses live and grow to become the Bible story hero many of us know him to be. Answering God's call was not easy or without risk, but the women did it anyway. (Project second hotline tip)

Our second hotline tip is that "Heroes are called to Help Others!"

Day 3 – Lizzie Frank

On Wednesday, we looked at another story from the book of Exodus and we learned about the importance of working together. The story was after Moses was all grown-up and was leading the people of Israel to the Promised Land. His father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit him, and he saw that Moses was doing too much. Jethro gave Moses the practical and life-changing advice to recruit others to help him. In the story, we saw that even the best-known Bible heroes do better when they accept help and guidance from others. (Project third hotline tip)

Our third hotline tip is that "Heroes are called to Work Together!"

Day 4 – Greg Edgehouse

On Thursday, we learned about listening to God from a familiar story in the Gospel of Matthew. The story is about the "Magnificent Magi," also known as the three wise men. The Magi received God's direction because they were paying attention to what they saw in the night sky when they observed a new, special star. They also listened to God's direction in a nighttime dream. We learned that God calls to us and speaks to us in different ways, so we need to listen.

(Project fourth hotline tip)

Our fourth hotline tip is that "Heroes are called to Listen to God!"

Day 5 – Addie Crawford

On Friday, we learned about being called to show grace from a story found in the Book of Acts. The story is about a group of heroes in the early church who showed grace to Paul and provided him with a basket ride to safety when others wanted to hurt him. The heroes were initially afraid to help Paul, but they moved beyond that fear to answer God's call to show grace. Doing that made it possible for Paul to begin sharing the good news about Jesus with many people.

(Project fifth hotline tip)

Our fifth hotline tip is that "Heroes are called to Show Grace!"

VBS THEME SONG

"Hero Hotline"

(Kids come forward and sing from the chancel)

VBS REVIEW

10am Worship, June 21, 2026

(Following the song "Hero Hotline" project the Incoming call, Hero Hotline Headquarters slide)

SUPER MEER: Hi everyone, I heard you singing my favorite song! I wanted to stop by one more time before heading out to take care of hero business on the other side of Cleveland. We sure had great fun together this past week learning about being heroes. But the phone calls have not stopped, and lots of people still need help. And since that's what heroes do, I must be on my way. But before I leave, I want to say thanks to all the little heroes I met and worked with this past week. I really enjoyed working together to help so many people. You keep up the good work and so will I. And let's all take to heart Hotline Harriet's parting words every evening, "Heroes, up, up and away!"

(Slide of Super Meer flying)

REV. JOYCE REVIEW

That Super Meer, if he wasn't flying in, occasionally crashing, and digging himself into trouble throughout the week, he was responding to multiple hero hotline phone calls. Thanks to Greg Edgehouse who was the puppet hand and voice of Super Meer all week. Super Meer's companion in the daily opening skit was Hotline Harriet. (Picture of Hotline Harriet). She is not making an appearance this morning, but I promise she was answering phone calls and looking up hotline tips at the Hero Hotline headquarters every evening.

Throughout this past week, this church was filled with a heightened sense of joy and excitement as 32 registered children gathered at 5:30pm right here at hero hotline headquarters. The number of children was consistently 31-32 each evening except for Friday when the count was lower because of families leaving for weekend trips and vacations. This is typical on Friday evening.

Each day as VBS began, I welcomed the children by saying, "welcome to Hero Hotline Headquarters where everyone's gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play!" You already heard our Bible theme verse, a short daily recap of the Bible lessons and the daily hotline tips from some of our superhero volunteers. You also just heard the theme song, "Hero Hotline." All week long, kids and adults alike learned about the qualities that make someone a superhero for God.

One of our big superhero missions this past week was that of defeating hunger. So, every evening when the kids came to the Hero Hotline headquarters they were invited to bring canned and boxed food items for hungry families in this

Chagrin Falls area. I told them that every item they donate helps weaken hunger's power.

As part of our hunger defeating mission, the kids were especially excited about buying a sheep to give to a hungry family through Heifer International. I shared with them that a sheep helps a hungry family by giving them wool for clothes, milk to drink, and when the family sells the extra wool then they have money to buy food and other items they need. After only 3 evenings we collected the \$120 needed to buy a sheep. So, I asked the children what they wanted to buy next to help a hungry family. They enthusiastically supported buying flocks of chicks. So we talked about chicks growing up to become chickens who can lay eggs for a hungry family can both eat and sell; of course, chickens also provide meat. Between Thursday and Friday, another \$110 was collected; that money can buy 4 ½ flocks of chicks. As we focused all week on the mission of defeating hunger, I pointed out each day that even though hunger is strong and hurts many people, we are stronger when we work together. Between Thursday and Friday, another \$110 was collected. That money will buy 5½ flocks of chicks.

Each evening, the daily update report on the mission to defeat hunger was followed by the opening skit with Super Meer and Hotline Harriet. But they were not the only characters, because all the kids were participants as they put on their capes and masks and played the parts of superheroes. The children were divided into four groups, the purple, blue, green, and yellow hero response teams. Each team was led by one or two sidekick crew leaders. Our sidekick crew leaders were Alex and Addie Crawford, Fatma Shahin, Hayden Schron, and Wilson Kentner. After the opening skit, each of the four hero response teams split up and went to one of five different activities: crafts was led by Carrie Crawford; Science was led by Allison Witalec and her helper, Izzy Crawford; the Bible story was led by Deborah Sorace and Kris Welch; music was led by Karen Spisak and her helper, Lizzie Frank; games was led by Mark Muntean.

Some of the fun craft activities that Carrie did with the kids included making a hero wrist cuff, a hero medal, and a hero frame. Each frame, of course, included a picture of a superhero child. Every time I walked into Allison's science class to take pictures, what I saw time after time were kids enthralled by and excited to help with experiments – experiments like the one that determined the difference in mass between diet and regular pop, like the interesting chemical reactions that unfolded when combining baking soda, vinegar, and soap, and like the fun and challenging balancing experiments. Each days Bible story included a short video as well as activities to support the Bible lesson. I was impressed with how well the children paid attention to Deborah and Kris, and how focused they were when working on the lesson activities. In Music class, Karen taught the kids the words and motions to the Hero Hotline songs, but she also had them marching around the sanctuary, and playing instruments. Today during worship, you are enjoying four of the ten VBS songs that were introduced this past week. And when it came to games, those kids were well exercised as Mark kept them running and playing for basically the entire 15 minutes of each class.

Besides the opening and closing times, snack time was another time when the entire group of children, youth helpers and adult leaders all came together in Harris

Hall. As is appropriate, we began that time together with a prayer – to be specific, I taught all the little heroes the superman grace. By the end of the week everyone was singing it and doing the motions. (If you know it, join me in singing and doing the motions). The snack leader, Pam Wurster, along with her helpers, Charissa Sallach and Sarah Alexander, prepared the snacks and had them all ready to serve upon the prayer's ending. They were careful to address the food allergy concerns each day, and they always had on hand a backup snack for those who didn't like that day's snack or who were still hungry after they finished eating it. Overall, I think the success rate of our daily snacks was very high.

I really cannot say enough about the exceptional quality of volunteers who worked together and who made this past week not only successful and fun, but truly special and meaningful for all the children who attended. Evening after evening, one parent after another shared with me how much their children were enjoying the week and could hardly wait to come back each evening. Yes, it was an exhausting week for all of us volunteers, but it was also a wonderful week. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize a few additional volunteers who were absolutely essential to the week's success.

I can't say thank enough our church's administrative assistant, Meg Babic, and her superhero powers of creativity and organization. Much of the scenery designing and then ordering of the decorations that were needed was done by her. You do not want to miss the hero posters she designed that are hanging in Harris Hall. Make sure you see them today, because they will be coming down with all the other decorations. Meg also created the daily class schedules and power point presentations as well as this morning's power point and the VBS recap video that you will be watching very soon. Patrice Hendricks helped keep track of and organize into groups the kids who registered. Gary Welch did much of the decorating with the help of several others. And every evening, Marianne Morgan was in the back running the Power Point presentations during the opening and closing times as well as the music videos for all the music classes. Plus, Denny Tallerico did some troubleshooting throughout the week and is running the power point this morning.

So many wonderful volunteers, so many smiles, so much fun and laughter. I am so grateful to every individual who helped, including those of you who purchased and donated needed items and those of you who were praying all week long for the volunteers and children who gathered in this church. VBS is a wonderful example of what can happen when people of faith work together. There is even more I could say, but as the old idiom says, "A picture is worth a thousand words." So, I now invite you to enjoy the following video presentation of pictures from this past week's Hero Hotline Headquarters Vacation Bible School. As a heads up, Pastor Harlen was here on Thursday evening and can be seen in several of the pictures. Let the video begin...

VIDEO RECAP