

HOW TO READ STORIES IN THE BIBLE

Heroes are cool. Who doesn't enjoy the Avengers or Batman, Spiderman or Black Widow? They have awesome costumes, sweet vehicles, secret identities, hidden bases, and amazing abilities. Yet most of them are also flawed people with broken pasts who have risen to face those challenges for the good of others. What's not to like?

But when you stop to think about *why* you like heroes, the answer is clear: God made you that way. He created you to appreciate and imitate someone greater than yourself. We're all wired for worship. There's just something that draws us to admire people who have power, looks, money, and influence. And when you go to the Bible, its pages are filled with incredible characters.

When you read the Bible, don't simply try to act like the people in the stories. God isn't telling us about a bunch of heroes who always come through to save the day. Instead, he's showing



how *he* is The Hero, who rescues people who do both good and bad things.

For example, when you read about David and Goliath, remember that David (the boy who would be king one day) fights on behalf of the entire army of Israelites who are too scared to go into battle (1 Samuel 17). Yet this story is written not so you could imitate David the king, but so that you would learn to trust a king who would fight for you. And so it happened that years later another King (Jesus) would wage war in the place of God's people, against their greatest enemies: sin, Satan, and death. Whether in David's day or the time of Jesus, God has always sent a Deliverer to rescue his weak and sinful people. And this Deliverer (not David) is the real Hero.





What about the story of Jonah? Is this famous story about a disobedient prophet? Is it about a huge fish? Or is it about the merciful God who gives second (and third and fourth) chances to people like Jonah, like the Ninevites, and like you and me? Who's the Hero here?

Then what about that story of Mary and Martha? Is Mary the good example and Martha the bad example? Who's the hero here? In this story, Jesus gently calls Martha's attention to how she is more interested in getting her work done than in listening to his teaching. As you read, looking for the real

Hero, you'll see that this story is more about "gracious Jesus" than "good Mary" or "distracted Martha."



**YOU SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES
BECAUSE YOU THINK THEY GIVE
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SCRIPTURES POINT TO ME!
JOHN 5:39 NLT**



And what do you see in the story of the feeding of the crowd of 5,000 people (John 6)? Is it more a lesson in sharing or an amazing example of what Jesus can do with the little you give him?

When you read the stories of the Bible, take notice of the men and women. You'll see good examples and bad examples. But most of all—be on the lookout for the greatest Hero of all: God himself!

