

HEROES ARE NOT CHOSEN - THEY CHOOSE

Alex: This is a story about a girl named Elsa. Her life was pretty good. She lived in a nice house with her parents and her sister. She wore cool clothes and had all the latest gadgets. And she was part of the cool group at school, the one all the other kids looked up to. So, as we said, her life was pretty good.

Sarah: But not everything was at it seemed. There were times, when Elsa knew that things were not all that cool in the cool group.

Grethe: Sometimes, they were pretty mean to other students, the ones who didn't fit in. They would bump in the hall at school and pretend not to see them. At night, on Facebook, they would write insults about them. Once in while, someone would take a picture of them, and post it up on the internet, so everyone could make fun of it.

Elsa: I know it's not right. Really I do. But what will happen if I say anything? They'd pick on me then. It's just easier to go along with it. I know I shouldn't, but sometimes, I even add an insult with everyone else. Sometimes, I laugh along when they push that kid no one likes. I know it is wrong. I feel sick about it. But I am afraid. What can I do? I am only one person, and I am not even that popular. I am not a hero. That's what I need: A Hero lesson

Kelsey (supergirl): Heeeellooooo, there! Did somebody call a hero? Here I am! You just call, and I will be by your side. One bat signal away. No wait, that's the other guy.

Elsa: SuperGirl! Just what I need! Can you tell what I need to do to be a hero?

Kelsey: Absolutely. Here's what you need: Just get born on an alien planet.

Elsa: But, I have already been born.

Kelsey: Hmmm. Well, then you just need to discover your superpower.

Elsa: Um, I don't have any superpowers.

Kelsey: Super strength?

Elsa: No.

Kelsey: X-ray vision?

Elsa: Uh, no

Kelsey: The power to fly?

Elsa: No.

Kelsey: Leap tall buildings?

Elsa: No! No supper powers.

Kelsey: Um, okay, well, my lessons done here.

Elsa: What! You haven't taught me anything.

Kelsey: Sorry kid. I think you're out of luck. Leave the heroics to the big guns. Gotta go put my powers to good use, and save someone.

Elsa: Wow. That really wasn't helpful.

Sarah: Elsa, sat there feeling very helpless. After all, she hadn't been born on an alien planet.

Alex: She couldn't fly on her own, she didn't have superstrength, or the power of invisibility.

Grethe: So basically, she was right back at the beginning – and feeling even more helpless than before. But wait, who's that?

Harry Potter (Tristan) : Hey there, what's wrong?

Elsa: Harry Potter! You're a hero. Awesome. Do you have any tips to share?

Tristan: Um, let's see. All you need, is an owl to arrive at your house one day, tell you, you are a wizard, and take you off to wizard school, where you will learn really cool power spells.

Elsa: Spells, come on!

Tristan: Absolutely! If you want to confuse your bully: just try the Confundus Spell! Or if you want something to scare the bully off: try the Expecto Patronum! Although that one does take a lot of practice.

Elsa: But I'm not a wizard.

Tristan: Wait – are you a.....Muggle?

Elsa: Afraid so.

Tristan: But, what about a prophecy. When you were born, did someone say that you would do great things - you know, map out the path for you?

Elsa: Um no. You should just go, you are no help at all.

Alex: So, Elsa, sat paralyzed – unsure what to do. Here again, she didn't have the ingredients to be a hero.

Sarah: No wizard spells.

Grethe: And as far, as she knew, no one had ever prophesied that she was going to be famous. She really needed a hero to help her...

Clara: Hello there, My name is Irene – Irene Sandler. I understand you might need some advice - on how to do the right thing.

Elsa: Well, I have figured out the step. But I am trying to get up the courage to take it to the next level.

Clara: Courage – that's such a big idea, isn't it? Sometimes, you don't know you have it, until you need it. Look at me, I was just an ordinary girl, born into a pretty ordinary Polish family. Let me tell you my story: During World War Two. Some terrible things were happening to my Jewish neighbors. And at one point, the German army put them all in ghetto – the Warsaw Ghetto, they called it, and ordered them to stay there.

Elsa: You mean they couldn't leave? What about their families, their homes?

Clara: That's right. They couldn't leave. They were forced out of their homes. There wasn't much food. And many people started to get sick.

I knew we had to get everyone out that we could. So we started smuggling out the children and the babies in ambulances and trams, disguising them as packages, right under the noses of the German soldiers.

Elsa: We? You mean you weren't alone.

Clara: Of course not! I could never have done that alone. That's the thing about heroism – heroes also need help. They don't work solo. We had to hide the children with Polish families or the local orphanage. When you ask people for help, it is amazing what they will do.

Elsa: So no superpowers and no prophecy?

Clara: That's right. A smart hero creates a network of other heroes. They seek out the help of others. And they have faith in people to do the right thing.

Grethe: Suddenly, Elsa had a brainstorm. There must be others in the group who felt like her – who didn't like all the bullying and wanted it to stop. Maybe she could rally them to join in.

Alex: After all, if everyone stood up and said they didn't like the pushing in the hallway, or the nasty comments on Facebook, if everybody spoke with one voice, then how could the bullies keep it up. Their power would be gone.

Lucas: Hi Elsa. I understand you might be looking for some advice on how to take the first step in being a hero. My name is Chris Mburu. Can I share my story with you – It's the story of how one stranger's act changed my world.

Elsa: One small act?

Lucas: That's right – an act as small as \$15. My hero was Hilde Beck, and she was the woman with \$15. But she had a hero too – a stranger, someone like Irene Sendler. That person saved Hilde Beck during the Holocaust and helped her get out of Germany. She went to live in Sweden. And one day she decided to give \$15 a month to help a child in Africa get an education. She didn't know the name of the

child, and she told me later that eventually she didn't even think about that \$15. For her, it was a very small act.

Elsa: That's true. \$15, that's not even my allowance for the month.

Lucas: But for me, it made all the difference in the world. That \$15 made it possible for me to go to school. It got me to the place where I am now, a human rights lawyer who works with the United Nations. And it made it possible for me to create a scholarship fund for more kids in Africa. My point is little steps make huge differences – little steps make change real.

Sarah: Now that got Elsa thinking: Maybe she didn't need to stop the bullying all at once. She just needed to find a place to start.

Alex: The more she thought, the more she really saw how simple it was. She could send a private email to the student who was being bullying to let them know they weren't alone. She could talk to them nicely in school.

Elsa: But that's not that hard. It doesn't really feel heroic.

Grethe: But Chris Mburu's point was that sometimes heroism starts with one good deed, one kind word – and that's all it takes. But something still held Elsa back. She still didn't have faith in herself. But she was about to get one last visitor, with the most important advice of all.

Noah: Hey there. I am Peter, you might know me from the Bible. I used to travel around with a guy named Jesus.

Elsa: I guess you know what's been happening. I am working up the courage to change life for the better, but I just don't know if I can do it.

Noah: Listen, I hear you. I was just a fisherman, until Jesus came along. But he had faith in me. I became his friend. I made some pretty bad mistakes along the way, but he forgave me for this. And when he was gone, I had learned enough to know what to do: I kept spreading his message. That we should love one another as we want to be loved.

Elsa: That's a pretty good message. But how did you find that push from inside to do it?

Noah: Here's the thing about being a hero: Heroes are ordinary people – in fact, some of the most amazing heroes started out as people no one would have even noticed. But they had faith in themselves – they knew that God had faith in them. And that faith was powerful, it spurred them on. We don't need a prophecy, or superpowers. Because we have a guide, we have the lessons laid out for us in the gospel.

Alex: Suddenly, Elsa, realized that he was right. The lessons were all there: the story of the woman at the well, who with one small conversation, had opened up the mind of Jesus to see things differently.

Sarah: And in the lesson of the Good Samaritan, who stopped to help the man on the road when no one else would, and then sought the help of others to heal and care for him.

Alex: And most of all, in the lesson of Jesus: who gathered a team, and taught them to have faith in other people to do the right thing.

Lucas: To make change in little steps.

Clara: And to organize in a deliberate way to make that change happen.

Noah: But the last part was to have faith in themselves – as Jesus has faith in us. They had faith that they had the power to make their change real.

Elsa: I understand now. In the end, we are all chosen to be heroes – by God, who gives us all the tools we need. And then we have to choose for ourselves.

Grethe: She knew what to do: It would start with one simple act of kindness – one small heroic step. And grow from there. Amen.

Let us pray...Heroic God, you choose all of us to be heroes and you give us the tools that we need to be that change for the better. Help us to make good choices through small heroic steps, and to grow from there. We pray in the name of Christ our Saviour who calls us into mission for others. Amen.

Friday

7 pm Service

8 pm Definition of a Hero; Obedience to Authority

Movie Great Debaters

Mean Girls, Armageddon

Saturday

8AM: Breakfast (peer pressure exercise)

9AM: Peer Pressure and Conformity (HIP)

10AM: Jesse and refugee presentation

12PM: Sub war lunch

1PM: Meditative walk

2PM: Free Time

3PM: mask-making

5:30 PM: Supper (Monk's)

7PM Prepare the play

8PM Movies: Cool Runnings, Little Women

Good Samaritan:

Obedience to authority

*[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybpg_B9S_q0
&feature=plcp&context=C3856ba0UDOEgsToPDsk
J1xqSNiQdHHNNhRpmpaymb](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybpg_B9S_q0&feature=plcp&context=C3856ba0UDOEgsToPDskJ1xqSNiQdHHNNhRpmpaymb)*

Help someone feel included in a group setting.

Ask someone for help.

Give at 3 sincere compliments to people at this retreat.

Go out of your way to open the door/hold the door open for someone.

Do a good deed without someone asking.

Convince someone else to help you do a good deed.

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What defines heroes?

Who are our heroes?

Why are they heroes to us?

Heroic qualities:

- 1) Heroes work in teams
- 2) Heroes ask questions
- 3) Small acts can be heroic
- 4) Heroes are not chosen, they choose

YOUR JOB IS TO CONVINCЕ EVERYONE TO STOP SHOOTING EACH OTHER

CONVINCE EVERYONE IN THE GROUP TO NEAK UP AND SHOOT PASTOR JOEL BY SURPRISE