

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Print off the Trust Heroes' Stories for each group or each member depending on how you want to do the team discussion.

## ABRAHAM

### TRUST HERO

#### HIS STORY:

YAHWEH SAID TO ABRAHAM, "GO FROM YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR KINDRED AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE TO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU. AND I WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU, AND MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, SO THAT YOU WILL BE A BLESSING." ABRAHAM DID AS YAHWEH HAD INSTRUCTED HIM, BRINGING LOT WITH HIM. WHEN HE LEFT HARAN, ABRAHAM WAS SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD. (GEN. 12:1-4) AFTER ALL THIS, GOD CHOSE TO TEST ABRAHAM. HE CALLED HIM, SAYING, "ABRAHAM." ABRAHAM ANSWERED, "HERE I AM." GOD SAID TO HIM, "TAKE YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON ISAAC, WHOM YOU LOVE, AND GO TO THE LAND OF MORIAH, AND OFFER HIM THERE AS A BURNT OFFERING UPON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS OF WHICH I SHALL TELL YOU." WHEN HE REACHED THE PLACE GOD HAD INDICATED TO HIM, ABRAHAM BUILT AN ALTAR THERE AND GOT SOME FIREWOOD READY. HE TOOK A KNIFE AND LIFTED HIS ARM TO SLAUGHTER HIS SON. BUT THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CRIED OUT TO HIM FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, "ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM." ABRAHAM SAID, "HERE I AM." "DO NOT LAY YOUR HAND ON THE LAD OR DO ANYTHING TO HIM; FOR NOW I KNOW THAT YOU FEAR GOD, SEEING YOU HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, FROM ME." (GEN. 22:1-3)

#### QUESTIONS:

WHAT ELSE DO WE KNOW ABOUT ABRAHAM FROM THE BIBLE?

WHERE IS THE VIRTUE OF HOPE AND TRUST SHOWN IN THE STORY?

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES?

HOW CAN A SITUATION LIKE THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE? WHERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE GOD IS ASKING A LOT OF US?

HOW WOULD YOU APPLY THE LESSON TO YOUR LIFE?

## JOSEPH

### TRUST HERO

#### HIS STORY:

JOSEPH IN THE BIBLE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. (DON'T CONFUSE HIM WITH JESUS' FATHER JOSEPH....THIS IS A DIFFERENT JOSEPH.) WHAT SEPARATED HIM FROM OTHERS WAS HIS ABSOLUTE TRUST IN GOD, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. HE IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN A PERSON SURRENDERS TO GOD AND OBEYS COMPLETELY. IN HIS YOUTH, JOSEPH WAS PROUD, ENJOYING HIS STATUS AS HIS FATHER'S FAVORITE. JOSEPH BRAGGED, GIVING NO THOUGHT TO HOW IT HURT HIS BROTHERS. THEY BECAME SO ANGRY WITH HIS ARROGANCE THAT THEY THREW HIM DOWN A DRY WELL, THEN SOLD HIM INTO SLAVERY TO A PASSING CARAVAN. TAKEN TO EGYPT, JOSEPH WAS SOLD AGAIN TO POTIPHAR, AN OFFICIAL IN PHARAOH'S HOUSEHOLD. THROUGH HARD WORK AND HUMILITY, JOSEPH ROSE TO THE POSITION OF OVERSEER OF POTIPHAR'S ENTIRE ESTATE. BUT POTIPHAR THOUGHT JOSEPH LIKED HIS WIFE (WHICH WAS A LIE...THE WIFE LIKED JOSEPH BUT HE REJECTED HER.) AND HE HAD JOSEPH THROWN INTO PRISON. JOSEPH MUST HAVE WONDERED WHY HE WAS BEING PUNISHED FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING. EVEN SO, HE WORKED HARD AGAIN AND WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF ALL THE PRISONERS. TWO OF PHARAOH'S SERVANTS WERE HAULED IN. EACH TOLD JOSEPH ABOUT THEIR DREAMS. GOD HAD GIVEN JOSEPH THE GIFT OF INTERPRETING DREAMS. HE TOLD THE CUPBEARER HIS DREAM MEANT HE WOULD BE FREED AND RETURNED TO HIS FORMER POSITION. JOSEPH TOLD THE BAKER HIS DREAM MEANT HE WOULD BE HANGED. BOTH INTERPRETATIONS PROVED TRUE. TWO YEARS LATER, PHARAOH HAD A DREAM. ONLY THEN DID THE CUPBEARER REMEMBER JOSEPH'S GIFT. JOSEPH INTERPRETED THAT DREAM, AND HIS GOD-GIVEN WISDOM WAS SO GREAT THAT PHARAOH PUT JOSEPH IN CHARGE OF ALL OF EGYPT. JOSEPH STOCKPILED GRAIN TO AVOID A TERRIBLE FAMINE. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS CAME TO EGYPT TO BUY FOOD, AND AFTER MANY TESTS, JOSEPH REVEALED HIMSELF TO THEM. HE FORGAVE THEM, THEN SENT FOR THEIR FATHER, JACOB, AND THE REST OF HIS PEOPLE. THEY ALL CAME TO EGYPT AND SETTLED IN LAND PHARAOH GAVE THEM. OUT OF MUCH ADVERSITY, JOSEPH SAVED THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL, GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE.

#### QUESTIONS:

HOW DID JOSEPH HAVE TO OVERCOME MISTRUST IN OTHER PEOPLE? DO YOU THINK HE HAD THE RIGHT TO NOT TRUST HIS BROTHERS?

HOW CAN A SITUATION LIKE THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE? HAVE YOU EVER HAD A MOMENT WHEN SOMEONE HAS BETRAYED YOUR TRUST AND THEN YOU NEED TO FORGIVE AND MOVE ON?

WHERE IS THE VIRTUE OF HOPE AND TRUST SHOWN IN THE STORY? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES?

HOW WOULD YOU APPLY THE LESSON TO YOUR LIFE?

# MOSES

## TRUST HERO

### HIS STORY:

WHEN MOSES WAS BORN THE ISRAELITES WERE ENSLAVED TO THE EGYPTIANS. DESPITE PHARAOH'S ORDERS TO KILL ALL THE HEBREW MALE BABIES, "BY FAITH MOSES' PARENTS HID HIM FOR THREE MONTHS AFTER HE WAS BORN, BECAUSE THEY SAW HE WAS NO ORDINARY CHILD, AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE KING'S EDICT" (HEBREWS 11:23). THEN HE WAS PUT IN THE RIVER AND HE WAS DISCOVERED AND GREW UP IN THE PHARAOH'S COURT AS PHARAOH'S ADOPTED GRANDSON. BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH IN GOD, HE CHOSE TO BE KNOWN AS A HEBREW, EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT BEING MISTREATED. HE TURNED HIS BACK ON ALL THE TREASURES OF EGYPT, RENOUNCING HIS HIGH POSITION, AND ABANDONING A PRIVILEGED AND PROMISING FUTURE. ALTHOUGH MOSES WAS WEAK IN HIS OWN STRENGTH--AS DEMONSTRATED BY HIS RELUCTANCE TO LEAD--HE ULTIMATELY OBEYED, ENABLING GOD TO MANIFEST HIS STRENGTH THROUGH HIM. BY TRUSTING IN GOD AND HAVING FAITH, MOSES LEARNED WHAT OTHER GREAT PEOPLE OF GOD HAVE ALSO LEARNED: "WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG" (2 CORINTHIANS 12:10). GOD'S POWER SHOWS UP BEST IN WEAK PEOPLE WHO TRUST IN HIM AND OBEY. TRUSTING IN GOD'S COMMAND, MOSES WENT BEFORE PHARAOH AND ASKED HIM TO RELEASE THE ISRAELITES, SO THEY COULD GO INTO THE DESERT FOR THREE DAYS TO WORSHIP GOD (EXODUS 5:3). PHARAOH NOT ONLY REFUSED, BUT ALSO COMMANDED THE EGYPTIAN SLAVE DRIVERS TO MAKE LIFE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL FOR THE HEBREW SLAVES. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE ISRAELITES BECAME ANGRY WITH MOSES! MANY LEADERS WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP AT THAT POINT.

BUT MOSES PERSEYERED. ALTHOUGH HE HAD TO APPEAR BEFORE PHARAOH AGAIN AND AGAIN, HE FAITHFULLY OBEYED GOD'S COMMANDS, AND GOD ULTIMATELY BROUGHT ABOUT THE COMPLETE DELIVERANCE OF THE ISRAELITES. FINALLY AFTER THE MULTIPLE PLAGUES, MOSES LEFT EGYPT WITH THE ISRAELITES ONLY TO HAVE THE PHARAOH'S ARMY FOLLOW HIM. MOSES HAD TO LEAD THE PEOPLE THROUGH A PARTED SEA...AND HAD TO TRUST THAT THE WATER WOULD NOT ENGULF ALL OF THEM. HE NOT ONLY HAD TO TRUST IN GOD BUT HAD TO HELP OTHERS LEARN TO TRUST. LEADING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF COMPLAINING PEOPLE THROUGH THE WILDERNESS WOULD HAVE TESTED THE STRONGEST LEADER'S PATIENCE. THE PEOPLE REPEATEDLY FORGOT (OR IGNORED) GOD'S MIRACLES OF PROVISION AND DELIVERANCE. THEY HABITUALLY DOUBTED GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND QUESTIONED HIS GOODNESS. THEY EVEN ACCUSED MOSES OF BRINGING THEM OUT INTO THE DESERT SO THEY COULD DIE! MOSES HAD TO STAY STRONG EVEN THOUGH ALL THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM DID NOT TRUST IN GOD. THEY WERE THE OPPOSITE OF TRUSTING... WHEN THE 12 ISRAELITES RETURNED FROM EXPLORING THE LAND OF CANAAN, THE PEOPLE REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT GOD WOULD HELP THEM DEFEAT THE CANAANITES.

## MOSES

### TRUST HERO

EVEN THOUGH GOD HAD PERFORMED MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE, THEY CHOSE NOT TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND. THEY TALKED OF CHOOSING A NEW LEADER AND OF STONING MOSES AND AARON (NUMBERS 14:10). FINALLY, THE LORD TOLD MOSES, "I WILL STRIKE THEM DOWN WITH A PLAGUE AND DESTROY THEM, BUT I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A NATION GREATER AND STRONGER THAN THEY" (NUMBERS 14:12). HOW DID MOSES RESPOND? HE INTERCEDED ON BEHALF OF THOSE UNBELIEVING PEOPLE. HE PRAYED, "IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR GREAT LOVE, FORGIVE THE SIN OF THESE PEOPLE, JUST AS YOU HAVE PARDONED THEM FROM THE TIME THEY LEFT EGYPT UNTIL NOW" (14:19). HE TRUSTED THAT THE PEOPLE COULD CHANGE. WHEN THE ISRAELITES ARRIVED AT THE DESERT OF ZIN, THEY FOUND NO WATER TO DRINK. ONCE AGAIN, THEY QUARRELED WITH MOSES AND BLAMED HIM FOR THE SITUATION. GOD TOLD MOSES, "SPEAK TO THAT ROCK BEFORE THEIR EYES AND IT WILL POUR OUT ITS WATER" (NUMBERS 20:8). MOSES AND AARON GATHERED THE PEOPLE TOGETHER IN FRONT OF THE ROCK, AND MOSES SAID, "LISTEN, YOU REBELS, MUST WE BRING YOU WATER OUT OF THIS ROCK?" (20:10). THEN MOSES STRUCK THE ROCK TWICE WITH HIS STAFF, AND WATER GUSHED OUT. BECAUSE MOSES HAD STRUCK THE ROCK IN DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LORD, GOD TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND. MOSES' TRUST IN GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE ENABLED HIM TO ACCEPT THIS DECISION AND CONTINUE TO LEAD AND ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE. HE TRAINED JOSHUA AS HIS SUCCESSOR AND ASSURED HIM THAT GOD WOULD BE WITH HIM. "THE LORD YOUR GOD GOES WITH YOU; HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU" (DEUTERONOMY 31:6).

### QUESTIONS:

HOW DID MOSES HAVE TO TEACH OTHER PEOPLE TO TRUST IN GOD EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE SO HARD OF HEART AND BLIND TO GOD'S MIRACLES?

HOW CAN A SITUATION LIKE THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE? HAVE YOU EVER HAD A MOMENT WHEN OTHER PEOPLE AROUND YOU TRIED TO BRING YOU DOWN OR DOUBT AND YOU HAD TO KEEP THEM GOING?

WHERE IS THE VIRTUE OF HOPE AND TRUST SHOWN IN THE STORY? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES?

HOW WOULD YOU APPLY THE LESSON TO YOUR LIFE?



## ST JOSEPH

### TRUST HERO

**HIS STORY:** (TAKEN FROM THE WRITINGS OF JOSE MARIA ESCRIVA)

WE KNOW THAT ST JOSEPH WAS NOT WEALTHY. HE WAS JUST A WORKER, LIKE SO MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SCRIPTURE TELLS US ST JOSEPH WAS A CRAFTSMAN OR A CARPENTER. THE GOSPELS GIVE US A PICTURE OF JOSEPH AS A REMARKABLY SOUND MAN WHO WAS IN NO WAY FRIGHTENED OR SHY OF LIFE. ON THE CONTRARY, HE FACED UP TO PROBLEMS, DEALT WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND SHOWED RESPONSIBILITY AND INITIATIVE IN WHATEVER HE WAS ASKED TO DO. THE NAME JOSEPH, IN HEBREW, MEANS "GOD WILL ADD." ST JOSEPH WAS AN ORDINARY SORT OF MAN ON WHOM GOD RELIED TO DO GREAT THINGS. HE DID EXACTLY WHAT THE LORD WANTED HIM TO DO, IN EACH AND EVERY EVENT THAT WENT TO MAKE UP HIS LIFE. THAT IS WHY SCRIPTURE PRAISES JOSEPH AS "A JUST MAN." GOD COULD TRUST IN HIM AND HE TRUSTED IN GOD. ST JOSEPH'S LIFE WAS SIMPLE, BUT IT WAS NOT EASY. HE LEARNED THAT MARY WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF GOD AND THIS CHILD, THE SON OF GOD, THE DESCENDANT OF DAVID ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, WAS THEN BORN IN A CAVE. ANGELS CELEBRATED HIS BIRTH, AND DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE FROM DISTANT COUNTRIES CAME TO ADORE HIM. BUT THE KING HEROD WANTED TO KILL HIM, AND THEY HAD TO FLEE TO EGYPT. JOSEPH HAD TO HELP THE SON OF GOD HIDE IN EGYPT. JOSEPH DOES NOT OBJECT; HE OBEYS AND BELIEVES AND JOYFULLY ACCEPTS ALL THE TRIALS. JOSEPH'S FAITH DOES NOT FALTER, HE OBEYS QUICKLY AND TO THE LETTER. JOSEPH ENTRUSTED HIMSELF UNRESERVEDLY TO THE CARE OF GOD, BUT HE ALWAYS REFLECTED ON EVENTS AND SO WAS ABLE TO REACH THAT LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKS OF GOD WHICH IS TRUE WISDOM. IN THIS WAY HE LEARNED LITTLE BY LITTLE THAT SUPERNATURAL PLANS HAVE A LOGIC WHICH AT TIMES UPSETS HUMAN PLANS. WHEN HE RETURNS FROM EGYPT, "LEARNING THAT ARCHELAUS HAD SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER HEROD AS RULER OF JUDEA, HE WAS AFRAID TO GO THERE." IN OTHER WORDS, JOSEPH HAD TO RETURN TO GALILEE, NOT JUDEA WITH MARY & JESUS. WE KNOW VERY LITTLE OF THE REST OF JOSEPH'S LIFE EXCEPT THAT HE WAS A CARPENTER AND TAUGHT JESUS HIS TRADE. HE PROVIDED FOR HIS FAMILY AND LIVED A VERY SIMPLE LIFE. EACH YEAR THEY WOULD GO TO JERUSALEM TO VISIT THE TEMPLE AND PRAY. WHEN JESUS WAS 12, ON ONE OF THOSE TRIPS, JESUS STAYED BEHIND TALKING TO THE DOCTORS AND LAWYERS AND HIS PARENTS LOST HIM. THE GOSPEL TALKS ABOUT MARY'S FAITH IN THAT PASSAGE BUT WE CAN IMAGINE THAT JOSEPH PROBABLY FREAKED OUT SINCE HE "LOST" THE SON OF GOD. BUT HE HAD TO TRUST THAT GOD HAD A PLAN AND THAT JESUS WOULD BE FINE.

### QUESTIONS:

HOW DID ST JOSEPH REACT WHEN GOD ASKED SOMETHING OF HIM? DID JOSEPH LEARN TO TRUST IN GOD BECAUSE GOD HAD SO MUCH TRUST IN HIM?

HOW CAN A SITUATION LIKE THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE? HAVE YOU EVER HAD A MOMENT WHEN GOD OR SOMEONE ENTRUSTS YOU WITH SOMETHING REALLY BIG? DOES THAT HELP YOU TRUST THEM? WHERE IS THE VIRTUE OF HOPE AND TRUST SHOWN IN THE STORY? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES?

HOW WOULD YOU APPLY THE LESSON TO YOUR LIFE?