



What Does a Hero Look Like?

You wouldn't know it to look at him, but the little old man in the center of this photo was one of the toughest Jarheads ever.

In 1942 when he was only 14, Jacklyn "Jack" Lucas enlisted in the Marine Corps after convincing the recruiter he was 17.

Posted to a depot unit at Pearl Harbor, Jack was bored and wanted action, so in January of 1945, he rolled up a combat uniform under his arm, sneaked out of camp, and stowed away aboard a Naval Transport that was taking 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division to Iwo Jima.

Not knowing what to do with him, the Marine battalion commander busted Jack one rank, then assigned him as rifleman to C Company. A few days later, Jack turned 17.

The day after landing on Iwo Jima, Jack dove on top of one Japanese grenade then pulled another beneath him. The blast ripped through his body, but saved his comrades.

It took 21 surgeries to save him, and for the rest of his life carried in his body more than 200 large pieces of shrapnel.

On October 5th, 1945, Jack Lucas received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman in a ceremony on the White House lawn. He is the youngest Marine ever to receive the nation's highest honor.

He then returned to high school.... as a freshman.

After college, Jack entered the Army as a Captain in the 82nd Airborne, and survived a training jump in which neither his main chute nor his reserve chute opened.

Two years before he died in 2008, Jack was honored by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, who presented him with a Medal of Honor ceremonial flag at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C.

It was during that ceremony that this photo was taken.

We have no photos of Jesus Christ as he hung on the cross at Calvary. We have the written description of the crucifixion, but no movies or color photos. Not even a live pencil drawing. However, the bravery of the Son of God to give his life for all of us in a cruel and unfair, unjust way is remarkable. So, when we talk about heroes, like Jack Lucas, let us not forget the greatest hero of all time, Jesus Christ.

Question Time:

1. Jack Lucas offered his life for his fellow Marines. Is he a hero?
2. Why is Jesus Christ a hero?
3. Do you know any heroes? Can you name them or their profession?

Scripture: John 15:12-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command.

Next Steps: Go to the internet and look up Medal of Honor recipients and read some of the stories about them. Hershel "Woody" Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor

recipient from the battle of Iwo Jima. Look him up. As of March 19, 2019 he was still active and the Navy launched a ship in his name and honor. But ever greater is the story of Christ. Remember, no greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

The Professional video is about 38:00 minutes long, but it contains the following and is a great video for your children and for you.

This animation consists of 25 parts that will take your family on a journey through the Old Testament, learning how God worked through some of our favorite Bible stories. We can learn so much from the heroes of the Bible! Some of them are unlikely heroes – ordinary and flawed people who God uses in extraordinary ways to move forward His great plan. This video devotional plan will uncover some of your favorite Bible characters and encourage you to see how God worked through them – and think about how God is working through you!

Old Testament Heroes Includes 25 Famous Figures In The Bible: 1. ADAM - Made in God's Image. 2. NOAH - God Remembered Noah. 3. ABRAHAM - God Made 3 Promises. 4. ISAAC - God was Faithful to His Promise. 5. JOSEPH - God Was With Joseph. 6. MOSES - God Helped Moses. 7. JOSHUA - God Was Always With Him. 8. THE JUDGES - God Sent Helpers to Israel. 9. RUTH and NAOMI - God Provided a Redeemer. 10. SAMUEL - God Spoke Through Him. 11. SAUL - God Rejected Him as King. 12. DAVID - God Made Him a Promise. 13. SOLOMON - God Made Him Wise. 14. JEROBOAM and REHOBOAM - God Split Israel in Two. 15. ELIJAH - God Proved He is Real. 16. ISAIAH - God Sent Him. 17. CYRUS - God Sent His People Home. 18. EZRA - God Did Not Leave His People. 19. NEHEMIAH - God Gave His People Strength. 20. ESTHER - God Made Her Queen. 21. JOB - God Gives and Takes Away. 22. EZEKIEL - God Warned His People. 23. JEREMIAH - God Promises a New Covenant. 24. JONAH - God Sent Him. 25. DANIEL - God Protected Him.