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“The Hero Story”

by
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What After reading to his/her daughter at bedtime, a parent compares hero stories to that of Jesus, proclaiming Him the ultimate hero.

Themes: Jesus, King, Gospel, Redemption Story, Good News

Who Dad (or Mom)
Daughter (optional)- age 6-9

When Present

Wear Living room chair
(Props) Book- The Legend of King Arthur
If using optional ending- Daughter is wearing pajamas and Easter shoes

Why Philippians 2:5-11

How Talk to the audience as if talking to one person. Keep up the pacing and energy as you speak, being careful not to let your words drag. He or she is passionate and truly believes what they are saying.

There is an optional ending that includes a Daughter.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

*Dad (or Mom) steps into the scene as if backing out of their daughter's room, speaking to an unseen child. He has the book "King Arthur" in his hand. *Optional- have a little girl's voice responding to Dad. She isn't mic'd, the audience only hears a faint little girl's voice.*

Dad: Okay, sweetie, it is time to go to sleep. I mean it. No, that's all we're reading for tonight. Well, I can't tell you because it would ruin the story, now go to sleep. *(Looks at the book)* Yes, he's very brave. You'll have to wait until tomorrow night to see if he gets the sword out of the stone. We'll read more tomorrow. *(Starts to walk away and then—)* No you cannot wear your new Sunday shoes to bed— *(Thinks)* You know what? *(Smiling)* Knock yourself out. Leave the shoes on. Kay, night-night.

To audience; sighs deep with tiredness.

She loves this book. I loved it too when I was a kid. Knights and kings and adventures...all the makings of a great story. My Dad started to read to me when I was a kid and my imagination just lit up. I was hooked. When I could read on my own, I wore out more than a few library cards. I love a great story.

He sits in a comfy chair, leaning forward to tell the story.

We all do, right? I mean, there's a whole city in California full of people with more money than they know what to do with because people will take out a second mortgage just to go to a movie theatre and watch the story live on the screen. And it's usually the same story repackaged and retold.

Holds up the book.

It's the "farm boy" story. You know? *(Explaining)* The farm boy, who has a comfortable life, yearns for something more, and is called to adventure. He heads into the unknown. Faces great trials. Traverses the *(air quotes)* "underworld" and is reborn! The farm boy is transformed into the hero at last and makes things right with the world in order to return home with great treasure.

You know the story, right? Or, I should say...stories. Almost all of the greats. Homer's Odyssey. Star Wars, my personal favorite. There's Braveheart, Harry Potter, Superman, in fact pretty much ANY superhero movie. *(Holds up book)* King Arthur.

The main character fights through impossible odds against evil, and just when it looks like all hope is lost, he emerges victorious. There's even a fancy word for it—the monomyth...or simply "the Hero's Journey".

It's a formula for storytelling that is used over and over and over again. Why? Because it works. People love that story. It strikes a chord. And I don't think it's any coincidence.

That story is *the* story of Jesus. God's son. God in a bod. The original storyteller. The author of creation. He made the earth. And then he made mankind and gave them a choice. They chose wrong and it separated us from Him. But God loves us so much, He created a way for us to still be with Him, through Jesus. It is an epic and sweeping story.

See, we are created, in the very essence of our beings, to be drawn to the hero story. We are created in the image of God and that means that humanity is specifically shaped to understand the greatest of hero stories. The farm boy—Jesus—grew up and was called out of comfort—Heaven—had to survive through seemingly impossible odds—His life here on Earth—at great sacrifice—His death on the cross. Through his rebirth at the resurrection he performed the great atonement—defeating sin—before he returned home with great treasure—the redemption of mankind.

The Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, is baked into our DNA. Humanity has this deep need to understand the hero story and we are drawn to it, generation after generation. (*Smiling*) Which is how I explain my obsession with Star Wars to my wife.

**Note: If the actor is female, simply change the line to, "And that's how my husband explains his obsession with Star Wars."*

The following scripture from Philippians 2 can be read from a Bible or memorized. (I recommend memorizing it. It's a really great scripture to have in your head.)

The Gospel story is *the* Hero story. It's the story of Jesus. Paul sums it up perfectly in Philippians: Jesus, did not consider equality with God a thing to be held on to, but made Himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant being made in the likeness of man. And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Now that's a hero's journey.

Optional ending:

Daughter enters wearing her pajamas and Easter church shoes.

Daughter: Daddy, I can't sleep 'cause I'm afraid King Arthur isn't going to find the grail. And that Lancelot isn't a good guy. And that Guinevere doesn't

truly really love him. And that the bad sorceress is going to take over the kingdom.

Dad: *(speechless)* Uh, well...he...you know what. I have another story about a king.

Daughter: You do?

Dad: Uh huh.

Daughter: Does this one win in the end?

Dad: Oh yeah.

He picks her up, or holds her hand, and the following conversation happens as they exit the stage.

Daughter: But how do you know?

Dad: Because I've read the book.

Daughter: Well, now you've spoiled it for me.

Dad: It's time for you to sleep.

Daughter: But I need a drink of water.

Dad: You've already had a drink of water.

Daughter: Is this king a good king?

Dad: The best. You might say he's the king of all kings.

Daughter: He sounds nice.

Lights out.