



**Focus** Each of us can be a hero in someone's life if we're willing to follow God's voice.

**Open** What gets your adrenaline going (e.g., riding roller coasters, speaking in front of groups, traveling, driving in traffic, meeting new people)?

**Read** The book of Acts shows us that Saul of Tarsus, a Jewish Pharisee, relentlessly persecuted the believers of the early Church in Jerusalem (Acts 7:57–8:3; Acts 9:1–2). While Saul was on his way to Damascus to capture and imprison Christians there, Jesus appeared to him in a vision. After encountering Jesus, Saul became blind, and his companions led him by the hand into Damascus to wait for further instructions from the Lord. God then sent Ananias to pray for Saul. Saul's sight was restored, and he was baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:3–18). Saul the persecutor became Paul the apostle who helped build the early Church and wrote several books of the New Testament (Acts 13:9).

Ananias was a hidden hero. He had not been mentioned before. Nor do we hear anything about him after his encounter with Paul. He became a hero because of three decisions he made: He followed the voice of God into an uncertain and uncomfortable situation; he chose obedience and fellowshiped with Saul, a former enemy; and he facilitated God's power to flow through him to do God's work.

Ananias chose to be obedient and embrace someone with a dark past and call him brother, and he chose to humbly do what God asked of him, never looking for personal recognition. Like many of us, he was not a prominent leader. He was simply a person who was filled with the Holy Spirit and responded to God's voice. We can follow Ananias' example. At any given moment, God may call on us to be heroes to our spouse, our children, our co-workers, our friends or our enemies. We are God's hidden heroes.

**Talk**

1. Before hearing this message, had you noticed Ananias' part in this story? Can you identify with his role as a hidden hero? Why or why not?
2. Read Act 9:10–13. When has God asked you to do something that scared you? How did you respond? What gave you the courage to obey?
3. The grace of God compels us to embrace people from all walks of life because Christ died for them. Some people can be difficult to love. Is there someone the Holy Spirit is asking you to look beyond their past and embrace?
4. Do you know someone who seems to be good at following the Holy Spirit: they hear His voice, they obey and God's power is displayed? What have you learned from their life?
5. Why do you think we sometimes want people to notice when we obey God or sacrifice for others? How does Acts 9:15 help us keep the right attitude?

**Live**

Who are the hidden heroes in your life? How have they helped you to go further in the Lord? Find a way to honor them and express your appreciation.

**Pray**

Lord, we thank You for giving us Ananias as an example of an ordinary hero. We praise You, Holy Spirit, for guiding us in everything. Please help us today to live our lives with love, obedience and humility. Give us grace to be hidden heroes in our world.