

Take Charge of Your Life

Month: Dec.

Week #: 14

Day: d. Thur. Time: 40 min.

Robin, Will You Take Up Your Bow?

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Objectives/Aims

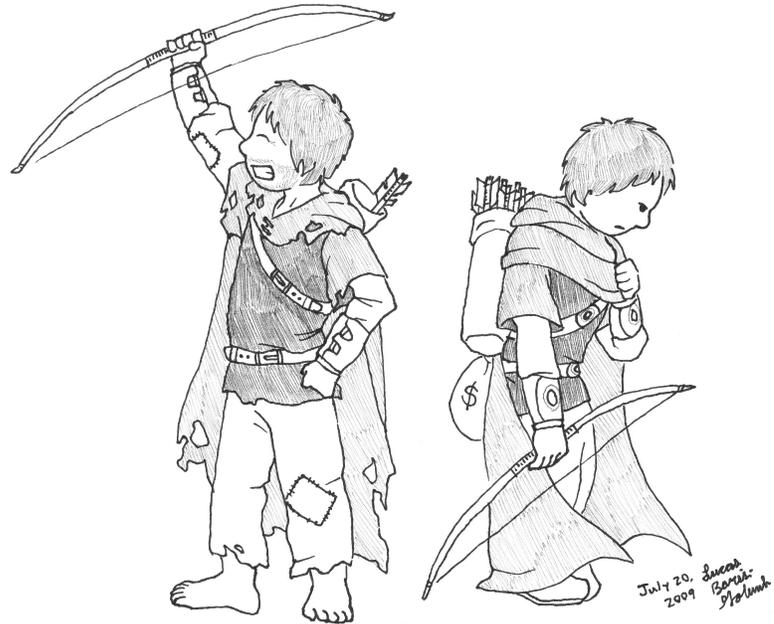
The students will: learn how the love of others and the belief in certain principles can motivate people to take up their bow (use their willpower), and how fear, laziness or selfishness can impede the use of one's will

Materials

a bow, target goal and strategies on arrows written on board

Illustration

The joyful gentleman holding up his bow, whom the Sheriff did not consider a 'gentleman' but an outlaw, is Robin Hood. The sad, wealthy and important gentleman is Robin, Earl of Huntingdon. Interesting, they seem to be the same person, but they are different...



Background

The inspiration for the following play came from the BBC's TV series of Robin Hood. This modern day version of Robin Hood casts Robin as an even more enlightened individual than previous legends. Now he even eschews killing after the five years of death and destruction he actively participated in during the 'Holy Crusades' and is even willing to

befriend a Muslim woman warrior. Even the main female character in this series, Maid Marian, is no longer simply a 'rescued princess in distress' but an active heroine who takes on the form of the 'Nightwatchman' who assists and defends the poor.

Group Activity

1. Review what was learned from the two previous day's lessons. Reemphasize the importance of goals and how they affect both the direction and purpose of our lives. Also reiterate how the arrows, or strategies, help us meet our goals.

2. Say, "Today we will be having a play called, 'Robin, Will You Take Up Your Bow?'" This play will be involving Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, and Robin Hood. After the play we will have a discussion to discover the differences between these two lead characters. For this play I need 'people puppets' that are good at taking directions, can mimic the inflections in my voice and add appropriate actions. The characters I need are: one male Robin (he will play both 'Robin, Earl of Huntingdon,' and 'Robin Hood'), two peasants that have been illegally hunting deer in Sherwood Forest, a Maid Marian (choose a girl with long hair), a guard, the Sheriff of Nottingham and a horse. I will be the narrator. The rest of the you will be the 'crowd of villagers' that witnesses the event." Direct the 'crowd of villagers' to "boo" anytime you hold thumb down and "cheer" by saying "Yeah!", "Way to go Robin!" etc. anytime you hold your thumb up. When you signal by raising your hand, they need to stop. Practice this a few times.

Robin, Will You Take Up Your Bow?

Narrator: Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, has just returned from spending five long years fighting in the Crusades, a war where the Roman Catholic Church was attempting to defeat the Muslim Seljuk Turks and recapture Jerusalem and the sacred "Holy Land." He was sick and tired of all the killing and had vowed never to kill another man. Upon returning to his homeland of England and his beloved Huntingdon estate, Robin discovers the evil deeds of the Sheriff: unfairly taking people's land, levying huge taxes and hurting the poor. Robin is so outraged that he takes his trusty bow, thrusts it towards the heavens and declares:

Robin, Earl I shall fight this evil tyranny and injustice as long as my heart beats in my chest!
[Robin goes off stage]

Crowd: [Thumbs up] Cheer! [Raise your hand to signal them to stop]

Narrator: The next day, Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, is called to Nottingham Castle to witness, along with a crowd of villagers, the execution of two of his friends. They have been caught hunting the king's deer. They were hunting the king's deer because their families were starving to death. This was because the sheriff had levied extremely high taxes, which didn't leave them even enough money to buy food. [The two peasants and the Sheriff of Nottingham come on stage. The two peasants kneel next to each other with the Sheriff standing behind them]

Sheriff: [Pretends to be hanging a noose around the neck of the two peasants. Say in a loud, commanding voice] You two are guilty of hunting the king's deer. Feeding your starving family is no excuse! Usually, the punishment would not be so severe, but we must make an example of you! The two of you shall hang by the neck until dead!

Crowd: [Thumbs down] Boo!

Sheriff: [Facing the crowd, says in a loud, commanding voice] Silence your rabble or you shall join your friends at the gallows!

Robin, Earl [Bounding onto stage with his bow held high. He shouts) Stop this injustice! Hanging a person for wanting to feed his family is not right!

Crowd: [Thumbs up.] Yeah!

Sheriff: [Glares at the crowd until they become silent. Taking Robin's arm and leads him to one side of the stage. Says in a soft, cunning, but strong voice] If you oppose me, I will take away your lands. I will strip away your precious title. No longer will you be an earl, a nobleman. You will no longer be welcomed at the castle, its banquets or any of its official functions. You will be nothing more than a peasant. In fact, if you defy me, you will be known as an outlaw, a common criminal, nothing more than a 'hood.'

Narrator: Robin, Earl of Huntingdon ponders what the sheriff says... He doesn't want to lose his land, his title, his social status, his power!

Guard: [Enters the stage leading a struggling Maid Marian by the arm. He announces in a loud voice to the Sheriff] Lord Sheriff, I caught this one defying your edict by feeding the people in the village where you plan to garrison your soldiers!

Narrator: Yes, the Sheriff needed a place to house his large number of soldiers. So he hatched an evil plot to quarantine a village saying that there was a plague or a sickness, that would kill everybody. Nobody could enter or leave this village, meaning the villagers were starving to death.

Maid Marian: [Address the Sheriff in a strong voice] You can't do this! These people are starving to death and there is no sickness!

Narrator: The Sheriff was furious that his evil plot had been exposed in public. And learning that the Sheriff had tricked them, the villagers voiced their extreme displeasure.

Crowd: [Thumbs down] Boo!

Sheriff: [To the crowd] Silence! [Turning to address Maid Marian] How dare you defy me! Perhaps you should join these thieves on the gallows! No, wait, you are much too beautiful for that! No, I think you should lose some of your beauty.... some of your hair! Guard, cut off her hair!

Crowd: [Thumbs down.] Boo!

Guard: [Pretends to start cutting off her hair]

Maid Marian: [Struggles and attempts to pull away] No! No! Not my beautiful hair!

Robin, Earl: [Once again stepping forward and raising his bow.] Wait! You can't do this! This isn't right!

Crowd: [Thumbs up] Yeah!

Sheriff: Oh, I can't can I? Continue to defy me Robin, and you'll not only lose your lands and title, but maybe you'll get to visit my dungeon as well. And, oh yes, I have a lovely torture chamber that I think you'd really enjoy! In the end, you also might get to hang at the end of a rope!

Narrator: Robin thinks to himself that he really wouldn't like the discomfort of a dungeon, or the pain of a torture chamber. And he really values his life so he doesn't want to die. Besides how could he ever rescue his friends or Maid Marian? There were far too many guards and they were within the confines of the castle. Surely he would fail and lose his life!

Robin, Earl: [Slowly drops his head, his shoulders slump and he drops his bow as he walks off stage. On his way out he murmurs] I can always find new friends... And Maid Marian's hair will grow back... someday!

Crowd: [Thumbs down] Boo!

Narrator: Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, has decided that his land, title, and social privilege are more important than his friends. He also doesn't care much for pain and he's afraid he'll lose his life in the end. What's more, he's afraid that that he will ultimately fail. So much for his targeted goal of "fighting evil tyranny and injustice as long as his heart beats in his chest!" Seems he doesn't have much of a heart, and if it is a heart, it is made of either stone or chicken soup. But wait! Who is this!

Robin Hood: [Bounding onto the stage, scooping up the fallen bow and holding it high, he exclaims in a loud, commanding voice:] It is I, Robin Hood! I shall fight this evil tyranny and injustice as long as my heart beats in my chest!

Crowd: [Thumbs up.] Yeah!

Narrator: With that bold statement, Robin Hood notches two arrows at once to his bow. He draws the string back powerfully and lets the two arrows fly. The arrows fly straight and true, slicing the nooses holding his friends and they fall free from the gallows of death. Jumping rapidly to their feet they make a hasty escape with Robin keeping their captors at bay with his notched arrows. Meanwhile, Maid Marian stomps on the toe of the guard and pushes him off the platform. Together, she and Robin leap onto the back of a nearby horse. With a wide, brazen smile and an insolent nod to the sheriff, Robin follows his peasant friends out of the castle gates. On the way out he shouts:

Robin Hood: [Holding his bow high.] Right overcomes [might, my dear sheriff! I shall see you again soon!

Crowd: [Thumbs up.] Yeah!

Sheriff: [Shaking his fist in the air and with anger in his voice he shouts after Robin.] You are no longer an Earl, no longer a noble man, not even a peasant! You are an outlaw, a criminal! You are nothing but a... hood!

Robin Hood: [Laughs off stage at the sheriff's taunt.]

Group Discussion Questions

1. Why didn't Robin, Earl of Huntingdon save his friends who had been hunting the king's deer?

A: He was fearful of losing his land, title, and social privilege. Say, "Fear of losing one's social status, privileges or acceptance are some reasons why people choose not to take up their bow or use their willpower.

2. Why didn't Robin, Earl of Huntingdon save Maid Marian from the public disgrace of having her hair cut off?

A: He was afraid of the discomfort of the dungeon, the pain of the torture chamber and ultimately losing his life. He was also afraid of failure. Say, "Fear of physical pain or the fear of failure are some other reasons why people choose not to take up their bow or use their will power.

2. Why did Robin Hood save the peasants and Maid Marian?

A: He cared for them as they were his friends. He was also a principled man who thought that the punishments were unfair. Say, "Robin's motivation for saving the peasants and Maid Marian was that he truly loved others and he was a man of integrity. This is a person who believes in and lives his life by a set of important principles. These principles include 'justice,' where you treat other people fairly.

3. Were Robin, Earl of Huntingdon and Robin Hood the same person?

A: Yes.

What made them different?

A: They made different choices.

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

4. Which of these two men would have become a legend and why?
A: Robin Hood, because he was a hero. He used his bow, his willpower, and made a difference in the lives of others.

5. Why was Robin, Earl of Huntingdon's heart said to be made of either stone or of chicken soup?
A: Stone because he really didn't care about his friends or chicken soup because he was afraid of pain, death or failure.

6. Was Maid Marian a person who used her bow? If yes, how so?
A: Yes. She defied the Sheriff's edict and fed the poor. She also overcame the guard.

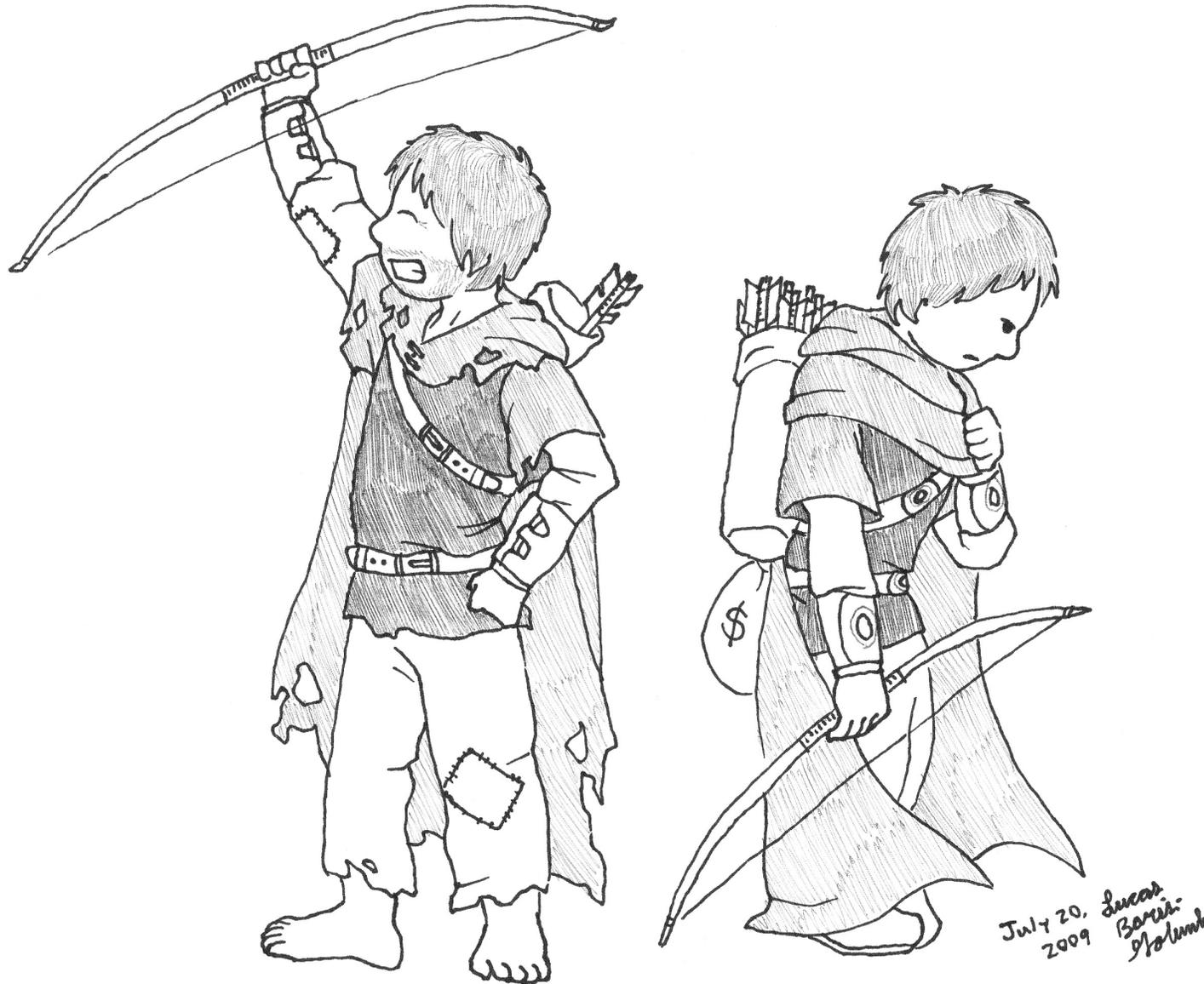
7. Why do you think this play was entitled, "Robin, Will You Take Up Your Bow?"
A: It illustrates Robin's choice, or the exercising of his willpower, to meet his targeted goal.

Conclusion

Say, "Yes, Robin Hood was not only good with a bow and arrow, but legend has him being a strong-willed man who took action and lived up to his convictions. Do you want to be a Robin, Earl of Huntingdon, or a Robin Hood? It's your choice to either take up your bow and use your willpower or to not do anything!"

Dec 14 d. Thur.

Take Charge of Your Life: Robin, Will You Take Up Your Bow?



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