

MODELS
of
Faith
for Boys

~ STORIES ~
AND REFLECTIONS
ON **Heroes**
for Life

TONY PICHLER & PAULA RIEDER



TWENTY-THIRD
PUBLICATIONS

twentythirdpublications.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	7
Mahatma Gandhi · FAITH	9
Amelia Earhart · HOPE	12
Martin Luther King Jr. · LOVE	15
Anne Frank · KINDNESS	19
Bill and Melinda Gates · GENEROSITY	22
Saint Mother Teresa · EMPATHY	25
Pope Francis · JOY/HUMOR	28
Albert Schweitzer · COMPASSION	31
Henri Nouwen · FRIENDSHIP	35
Kurt Warner · HONESTY	38
Nelson Mandela · PERSEVERANCE	41
Desmond Tutu · COURAGE	44

God has created you to be a very special person!

Do you believe that? *Really* believe that? But you cannot become that special person on your own. You need the help of other people, and you need the guidance of what are called virtues.

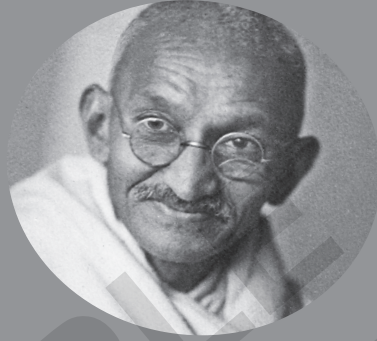
It has been pointed out that a young person needs a minimum of three important people in his or her life to grow up to be a healthy, great adult. Those three people are in addition to your parents. Who are those three or more people for you? A grandparent? An aunt or uncle? A teacher? A coach? These are people you know, respect, and look up to in life. And they know you.

Yet there are people that we can look up to in life whom we do not personally know, and they do not know us. They are our everyday heroes. These heroes may be living or deceased. The thing about these heroes is that there is something in their life that we can use as an example for our own life. Each person in this book is lifted up as a hero for you to consider. And each person is linked to a virtue.

What is a virtue? A virtue is a standard by which we live. It is the ability to act on that standard and to live up to it. There are many virtues. Which virtues do you most hold up and follow in your life? With what hero or heroes do you most identify?

Each chapter focuses on a different everyday hero. The life of the person is discussed. Then the virtue that most fits his or her life is described. An activity is provided for you to work with the virtue. A reflection question or two is also provided to help you think about how the virtue is lived out in your own life. Finally, an action step is included to help you in living out the virtue and following in the footsteps of the everyday hero.

What hero do you most identify with in your life? Maybe one day someone will say that it is *you* who they want to be like! Be a hero!



Mahatma Gandhi

I proved that our gifts and talents are not always known to us early in life. I was born in India in 1869. I was trained as a lawyer and was the first to use nonviolent civil disobedience in a dispute in South Africa—the country where I was working. Shortly thereafter, I returned to my native India to organize peasants and farmers to protest against discrimination and high taxes. I led the people in nonviolently fighting for self-rule, as opposed to being governed by England.

I was imprisoned many times and endured long periods of fasting from food and drink as a way to protest the abuses of the time. But it all paid off as India was granted independence from Great Britain in 1947. I was assassinated by a gunman on January 30, 1948.



His Virtue

FAITH

“I have faith in you!” “Oh, ye of little faith!”

“Have a little faith in me.” Have you ever heard

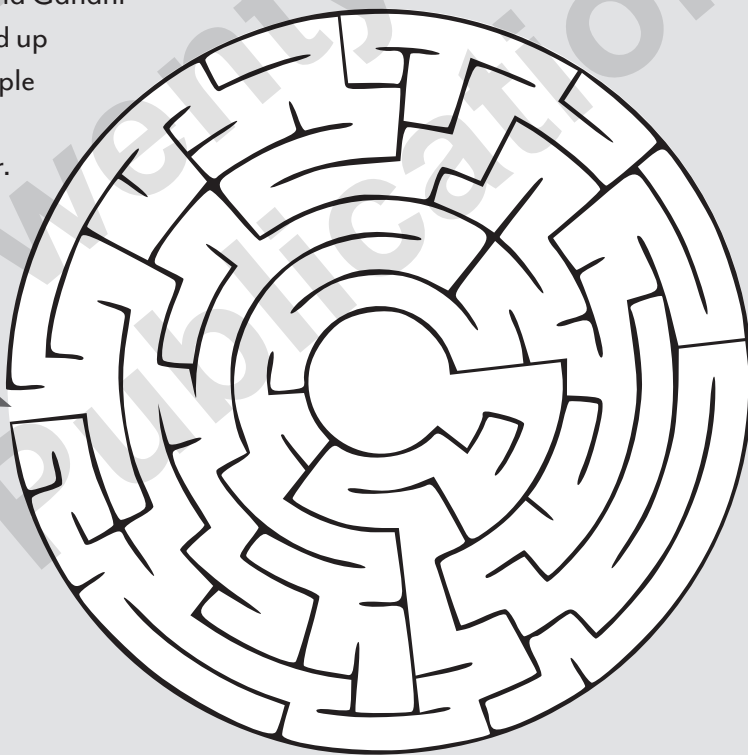
these sayings? Maybe they were said of you. Maybe you used them when speaking of someone else. Whichever, faith is the virtue that requires a little leap. Sometimes a big leap! Faith is a gift from God that helps you take that leap from what you can see and touch to what you cannot see and cannot touch.

ACTIVITY

Faith Labyrinth: A labyrinth is a sacred path. Find your way from the start point to the center of the labyrinth, reflecting on the faith of Mahatma Gandhi

as he stood up
for his people
by fasting
and prayer.

**START
HERE**



JOURNAL / REFLECTION

Has faith ever given you the courage to stand up for something? If so, give an example.



ACTION

While sitting in a public space, take a moment to see life through the eyes of those who surround you.



HIS WORDS

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

We may never be strong enough to be entirely nonviolent in thought, word, and deed. But we must keep nonviolence as our goal and make strong progress towards it.



Amelia Earhart

Do you believe I can fly? I certainly did! I was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. I was determined to do it and I did! On May 20, 1932, I set out from Newfoundland, Canada, and flew across the ocean to Londonderry, Northern Ireland, where I landed the next day, on May 21. This wasn't my only record for flight, but it was probably the one that most people remember the most.

I was involved in more than just flying airplanes. I also taught at Purdue University and became an early supporter of equal rights for women. One of the things I am most proud of is that I helped to form the Ninety-Nines, an organization that supported female pilots.

In 1937 my navigator and I were attempting to fly around the world when our airplane disappeared in the Pacific Ocean. My navigator and I know what happened, but unfortunately no one else does; so our disappearance remains an unsolved mystery.



Her Virtue

HOPE It is said that without vision, it is difficult for people to move forward. Another way to speak about vision is with the word *hope*. Hope is when you want or desire something, and you expect that, at least someday, this desire will become a reality. You might hope you will receive a new bike for Christmas. You might even expect to receive one, as you drop hints (maybe even writing a letter to Santa Claus) that the bike you really want can be found in a store at the mall. We do not always have our hopes become reality. But if we lose hope, we lose everything. Keep the flames of hope alive!

Amelia Earhart had a hope that would not die. She hoped that she had the equipment, knowledge, and the energy to fly across the ocean. She hoped that she would make it without crashing and become the first woman to do so. Her hope turned into a reality when she landed in Ireland after the long flight. She hoped that she could do it! And she *did* it!

ACTIVITY

Amelia's flight: Find the words that fit each cloud and help Amelia fly across the ocean: **dream, wish, faith, belief, goal, promise.**





HER WORDS

You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process, is its own reward.

I have often said that the lure of flying is the lure of beauty.

JOURNAL / REFLECTION

What is something you hope for, and how can you make that dream become a reality?



ACTION

Share your dream with someone you trust, and create the steps needed in making the above dream become a reality.