



Introduction for leaders

The party – its aim and outline

This party pack can be used for any party occasion - or perhaps as an introductory session for a Friends and Heroes club - but it has also been designed as an ideal way of offering a fun, wholesome event on October 31, to the children you work with and to others.

It can be used as outreach into the local non-churchgoing community. This can be done in a very low-key way as a joyful, clean-fun party, without any spoken emphasis on our Christian message: allowing our actions, conduct, and welcoming spirit to bridge any gaps and uncertainties about what 'sort of people' attend church. Alternatively, because the event is themed on Light and Darkness, there are plenty of opportunities to talk about walking in God's true way, in the light, as opposed to Satan's, dark path to destruction.

For this reason, some of the activities below are accompanied with a short commentary. You can use these commentaries at different points during the event to highlight the party's theme and other points of interest. Section 5 contains a fuller discussion of the theme of light and choosing the right path. Please use it if it fits with the type of event you are running.

Why is the party called 'Bright Sparks'?

'Bright Sparks' is a reference both to the Lighthouse in Alexandria (lit by a fire) and also to Sollie, who is a bit of a child genius.

The Pharos lighthouse stood at the entrance to the harbor at Alexandria before and during the first century AD. The first series of Friends and Heroes is set in Alexandria in AD69, and the lighthouse is seen in many episodes (including this one, Leviathan). It is only seen briefly in this episode, but it is there. [If your children are familiar with Friends and Heroes Series 1, they will know about the lighthouse. In this case, you might set them the challenge of calling 'Lighthouse' whenever they see the lighthouse on screen.]

The Pharos lighthouse has been chosen as a way of linking out from the episode and into the party theme of Light – which is obviously the antithesis of the dark themes of traditional Halloween celebrations. It emphasizes the bright, the light and the good.

'Bright Spark' refers to a main character in the Leviathan episode – Sollie. Indeed it is Sollie's ingenuity and 'brightness' which is key to the main action of the story. Setting aside the ingenuity ('boffin') meaning for a moment, and then reading the phrase merely as 'a spark that's bright', this too allows a link out from the episode and into the theme of Light. Indeed it consolidates and reiterates the point.





This event is about light (goodness), and not dark (evil). The title tries to make this apparent but the party material also does so by using phrases and images that link back very strongly to the fun, accessible DVD material that will be used.

Party Outline

The vital component is the viewing of Leviathan, (Episode 3 of Friends and Heroes, Series 1). This is the key and the link to all the other activities and games. You need to decide how long your event should last, but it is unlikely that you will exhaust all the other options included here in an event of three hours or less.

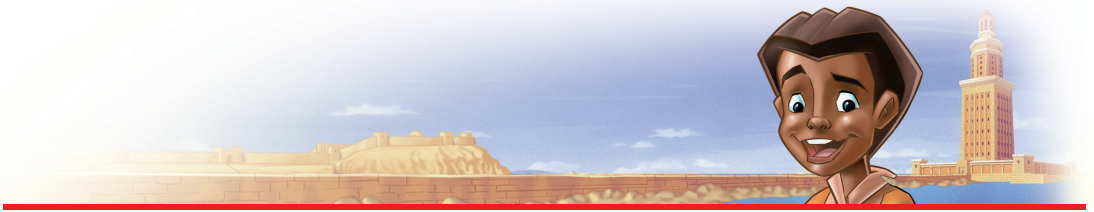
Sections

1. Set up and initial activities
2. Screening of Leviathan
3. Party Food (optional)
4. Activities and Games
5. Jesus – the Light of the World (optional)
6. Wrapping up and home-time

Also included in the Party Pack but not part of this Party Outline are two other sections:

7. Printable Resources
8. Promotional Materials





Preparation

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the DVD material prior to the event.

If you have not seen the Friends and Heroes Leviathan episode before, make sure you watch it at least once before the event – watch it now if possible. It will supply the context for all the material covered in the following sections.

Even if you are familiar with the Leviathan episode, it is important to view it again before holding your party, so that all its features – and how they link into the party's activities – are fresh in your mind.

Overview of the Sections

Section 1: Set up and initial activities

This includes hints about how to set up the room, and how you might get children in the 'party mood' as they arrive.

Section 2: Screening of 'Leviathan'

The episode lasts 25 minutes and is an essential element of the party.

General comments on the 2D adventures and 3D Bible stories:

The Friends and Heroes adventure series has been developed to increase children's awareness of the Bible, its stories and its message. It does this in the context of a 2D animated adventure story, which focuses on the lives of some fictional, first century Christian believers (Friends of Jesus, as they call themselves) - in particular, an adolescent boy called Macky. The characters are prompted by events in their lives to recall different Bible stories; and, whenever they retell a story, it is shown in the program as a 3D animation.

In the Leviathan episode the stories are David and Goliath and Peter's release from prison.

The David and Goliath story does not have obvious references to light and dark, but there are inferences and implications that can be picked up. David may be young and small, but he is pure and good, and he triumphs over Goliath, who is threatening in stature, physical power and armor. The giant Goliath literally overshadows David (and the other Israelites); and the Philistines intimidate and metaphorically overshadow the nation of Israel. By slaying the Philistines' champion, David creates a new dawn for the Israelites. They feel successful and optimistic. They have come out from the shadows and into the light. And they did so, through the actions of a boy who trusted in God and walked in His Light, even when times were hard, dark and somber.





In Peter's release from prison there are real manifestations of light and dark. Peter is asleep in jail at night; and then there is a great light and an angel appears. He is released from the oppression of jail and human, misguided authority; and through the support and constancy of God he re-engages with his mission to tell the world of Jesus Christ.

If it fits with your event, you may choose to make time to touch on these aspects of light and dark in the Bible stories when talking to the children. This party plan suggests that a good time is shortly after the DVD screening.

Section 3: Party Food (optional)

You will need to decide how much time you can spare for eating! It may be that if you are limited in time you just choose to stick with sweets and treats.

You might choose to serve more substantial food at your Bright Sparks party so we thought you would find it helpful, if you want to keep to the Roman theme, to have some idea of what the Romans ate - we have included that in the Party Food section. Otherwise you may just wish to have a cake, some rolls or cookies or something similar – ideas for this are provided too.

Section 4: Activities and Games

In order to allow you to tailor the duration of the party to the time you have available the Activities and Games are presented purely as options, for you to pick and choose as appropriate to your event. Some of them are designed to be particularly suitable for Halloween alternative parties.





Section 5: Jesus – the Light of the World (optional section)

It may be appropriate to include some sort of Spiritual 'Epilogue' at your party – this section will help you explain to the children about Jesus being the real Light of the World.

Section 6: Wrapping up and home-time

Ideas for how to end your party while encouraging the children to come to your Sunday (Sabbath) School or other Friends and Heroes club (assuming that is your aim!)

Section 7: Printable Resources

Those familiar with our Bible Lessons will know that the Printable Resources section contains all you should need in paper form to conduct this event. To make them easier to use they have been provided as separate PDF files in this Party Pack. You can print as many of these items as you need – they will all print in both color and black and white.

Section 8: Promotional Materials

The following promotional materials are included with this party pack as printable PDF files:

- Event advertising posters - these will print on standard size paper
- Hand-out flyers - these will print two to a page on standard size paper
- Party invitations - these will print four to a page on standard size paper
- Party tickets - these will print four to a page on standard size paper

There is also an Email invitation template provided as an HTML file.





The Party Plan

Section 1 – Set-up and Initial activities

Preparing the party space

Materials

- Pumpkins
- Knives for cutting
- Battery-operated push lights, or tea lights, or candles

NOTE: Ensure very careful supervision if knives and/or candles are used by or near children. Carving pumpkins can be a time consuming activity if done at the party. In most cases, preparation by adults beforehand is preferable.

Halloween Comment

This idea is particularly suitable if this material is used on or around October 31. A characteristic of traditional Halloween parties is the use of darkness and atmospheric lighting. We can happily borrow this characteristic, but without any of the underlying evil which is sometimes promoted or suggested by other Halloween activities. After all, a central feature of this event is a screening of a DVD program. Doing this in a dark or dimly lit room, like a cinema, is entirely normal.

If you wish, you can prepare pumpkin lanterns, either in advance of the event or with the children when they arrive. Instead of 'scary' faces, we suggest carving the name SOLLIE (who is a true, if somewhat humble hero in today's story). His name can be done altogether in one pumpkin, or by individual letters in a number of pumpkins. If you have need for more lanterns, you might choose the character name CLAXUS as well (as a counterpart to Sollie). Of course caution needs to be exercised if tea-lights or candles are used in these lanterns. An alternative light source would be battery-powered LED push lights, which are available from hardware stores and online retailers. Make sure lanterns are placed in a suitable location, where they are not going to be knocked over easily.

You may also like to hang some balloons around your party area. These can be used later in 'Toga catapults' (see Section 4 – Activities and Games).





The importance of sweets or treats

The importance of sweets or treats, as giveaways and collectables throughout the evening, should not be ignored. The treat part of 'Trick or Treat' (which has now become a common feature of modern-day Halloween celebrations) is something that children get excited about. They look forward to collecting lots of sweets and treats. This party picks up on this desire to collect treats, and it leaves the nasty side (of tricks) far, far behind.

Make sure that you do award (hand out) sweets and treats regularly for the children to collect. The giving can be at the end of every activity, or for whatever reason you like. In addition to sweets, other small treats can be given out, for example Lighthouse cookies (see Section 3 Party Food). And of course not all treats need to be edible! Most supermarkets and dollar stores do large packs of pencils, color pencils, felt-tips, gel pens and erasers at very low prices. Remember everything should be small enough to fit inside the bag.

Be sensitive to the issues of allergies and special diets which may affect children at your party. You don't want anyone to feel left out – quite the opposite!

Before the giving away of treats, however, each child will need to make their own collection bag.

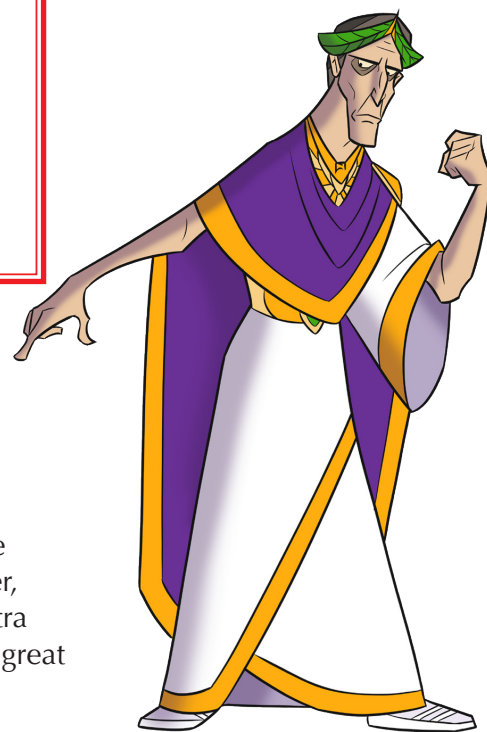
Table decoration – If you are providing food at your party

Materials

- Place mats (see Printable Resources)
- Battery-operated push lights
- Cardboard tubes and/or plastic bottles
- Thick black paper or card
- Scissors and sticky tape
- Coloring pens or pencils

If you have sit-down party food at your event, here are some suggestions for table decorations. You could prepare these yourself beforehand, or if you have time during the event the children could participate in their preparation while any food is being heated up.

There are a number of Place mat designs in the Printable Resources section, featuring scenes from this Friends and Heroes episode. There are full color ones, which can simply be printed out onto standard size paper, and there are black and white coloring sheets, which can become an extra activity itself during the event (especially for younger children), or make great party favors at the end.





Meet Sollie A Bright Spark!

See him in
Friends and Heroes
followed by fun, games
and loads more!



Where
Where

When
Time

Ticket Price

Contact

Other Details



A Friends and Heroes Party



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