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### Children like to learn without feeling that they are being taught! Friends and Heroes makes learning Bible stories so easy

*"Kids prefer to learn without feeling that they're being taught. They want to be doing it for themselves. They want to at least feel that they're doing it on their own behalf,"* said David Buckingham, of the University of London's Institute of Education at a recent government-sponsored conference.

In his paper *'The other teachers' - how do children learn from TV and new media?*, David makes the point that TV is an excellent educator of children because they don't notice that they are actually learning!

*"Friends and Heroes was created to take advantage of this incidental learning,"* said David Dorricott, Executive Producer for the UK-produced series. *"By telling Bible stories on TV in such an exciting way, making their meaning and application clear, children easily learn and understand how much these stories have to offer them as they struggle to understand how our relationships and culture work."*

Hailed as The Best Youth/Children's Programme of 2007 by the Christian Broadcasting Council, Friends and Heroes Series 1 was broadcast on BBC2 last year as part of their Schools programming and all the episodes are now being released on DVD.

The Friends and Heroes Sunday School lessons are now used by hundreds of churches throughout the British Isles, and reports from those using the material reveal that the series is capturing children's imaginations and bringing enduring learning of this important Biblical content:

*"We are extremely pleased with the programme and in fact now find it indispensable. The children are keen to watch the DVD each week and it holds their attention. The animations are great and along with the lesson material enables us to raise questions and explore along with them. Love it! Thanks."* Terry Winrow, Parish Church of St George the Martyr

**Series 2 is completed with the release of DVD13 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008**

This special bonus DVD containing three brand-new episodes brings the adventure in Jerusalem to a thrilling climax!



The zealots decide to kidnap General Tiberius in Episode 24, Desperate Measures, and they want Macky to help them. Through the stories of Solomon's wisdom with a baby and Paul's Appeal to Caesar, our friends learn the importance of wisdom and finding a different way.

In Episode 25, Toadie on Trial, Toadie accuses Portia of being a rebel sympathiser but she tries to turn the tables on him. The stories of Paul's disappearance, and Moses and the Manna from Heaven show how important it is to be brave, and that God protects and provides.



Hope, Episode 26, begins with Macky still imprisoned and Tiberius launching the Romans' final assault on Jerusalem. Our friends recall the story of Noah and the Ark, and its message of hope, and hear of Paul speaking to Agrippa, reminding them to trust in God.

Each episode lasts twenty-five minutes and every DVD also includes fun extras such as quizzes and a gallery of stills from each story. DVD13 contains a brand-new music-video featuring the Friends and Heroes theme tune, "Looking for a Hero" sung by Lauren Waterworth, visualised with extracts from the Series 2 Bible story animations.

**Free lesson material with Series 2 DVD pack...**

Also released this month is the Friends and Heroes Series 2 Pack containing all 13 episodes. Created for both Schools and Sunday Schools, these packs include all six DVDs plus a special Public Display Licence voucher, which when completed and returned gives FREE access to all the specially created lesson plans based on the Biblical material in the programmes.

The Schools' Lessons are fully linked to all the UK's National Curriculum Guidelines for RE at the equivalent of England's Key Stage 2. There are 26 lessons for Series 2 - two for each episode - each one based on a Bible story in the related programme. Several hundred schools are already using the Series 1 lesson material and one teacher recently said that her children's first question at the beginning of the lesson is "Are we watching Friends and Heroes today, Miss?"

The lessons for Sunday Schools were created by experienced Sunday School teachers and each lesson includes craft activities and games; questions to help explore the theme more deeply; creative prayer materials and printable resources - enough content for lessons lasting around an hour. In addition there is an original fun activity with each lesson for children to take home too!

The lessons are completely FREE to those organisations who have a Friends and Heroes Public Display Licence making them very cost-effective teaching material with six months of material, including over six hours of video, for just £90!

Friends and Heroes individual DVDs, each costing £15, can be purchased from many Christian Bookshops or direct from [www.friendsandheroes.com](http://www.friendsandheroes.com)

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Background material:

[http://www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/documents/event\\_presentations/beyond\\_blackboard/da\\_vid\\_buckingham\\_transcript.pdf](http://www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/documents/event_presentations/beyond_blackboard/da_vid_buckingham_transcript.pdf)

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Additional information about Friends and Heroes can be found on the following websites:

[www.friendsandheroes.com](http://www.friendsandheroes.com)

[www.friendsandheroes.tv](http://www.friendsandheroes.tv)