

## 11. Heroes



Our students are seduced by the life of the Marylyn Munroes of our era. The lives of Hollywood stars fascinate, as do those of pop stars and sporting heroes. Their faces endorse all manner of products and services -and all are saying in a concerted signal that: self promotion, adulation and wealth, are the best that life on planet earth offers. In the face of such a deluge of well-prepared and cunningly transmitted signals on cell phones, across the net and TV, *stands you*. Heaven's resources are at hand to bless your efforts to make Esther's life of glamour and danger engaging, to show how Paul managed through shipwrecks, mobs, assassins and palace intrigues and other unforgettable exploits. The bible has great models of exciting lives and heroes we can promote. The daring acts of Mother Teresa won't sell cosmetics, but you can set up someone who is powerfully indwelt by God's Spirit, to show how tawdry the idols that compete for attention really are. If you are captivated by Wilberforce, Bonhoeffer, and Romero, then you can fill the imaginations of your students with inspiring alternatives. The actions of these people when they were teenagers and young are particularly potent. Even the villains like Absalom and Jezebel can inform our high school students, for sometimes the understanding of their misuse of talents and power can be instructive. To create a generation of heroes, we need to share the narratives of heroes who have gone before us, and not vacate the field for our opponents to fill. You are surrounded by a cloud of heroes, and witnesses as you orient your students to the true champions of the history of planet earth,

Hebrews 12: 1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*