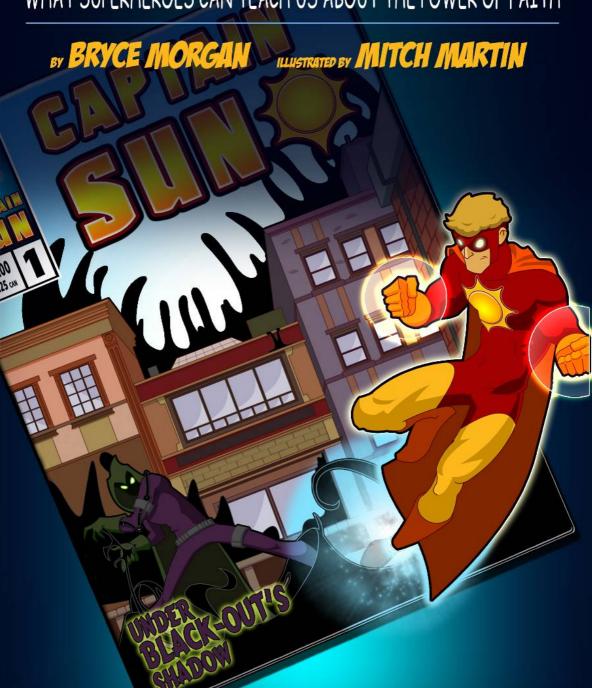
RESCUE MES

WHAT SUPERHEROES CAN TEACH US ABOUT THE POWER OF FAITH





WHAT SUPERHEROES CAN TEACH US ABOUT THE POWER OF FAITH

BY BRYCE MORGAN

ILLUSTRATED BY

MITCH MARTIN



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INTRODUCTION:

When I was a kid, I loved superheroes (in fact, I still do!). I loved their super powers. I loved how they swooped in to save the day, even when the situation looked hopeless. I loved the expressions on the bad guys' faces when the hero arrived. I loved the idea that good would always, eventually, overcome evil.

Even though that was just the stuff of comic books and cartoons, even though it wasn't real, it still excited my heart!

But do you know what I discovered? As I got older, I learned that a real hero does exist! There is a real hero with more power than any comic book character was ever described as having! There is a real hero who did 'swoop in' and save the day. There is a real hero who did defeat evil, and eventually, whose victory will change the universe!

And this hero is alive right now; just as real as you or me!

My hope and prayer for this book is that it will teach you, number one, to think about that real Hero whenever you see a superhero zooming to the rescue in a comic book, cartoon, or movie. But, number two, I also hope this book will reveal or remind you that all of us (including you) need to be rescued by the greatest Hero of all time.

So have fun with Captain Sun, but have faith in the Hero of heroes: Jesus.

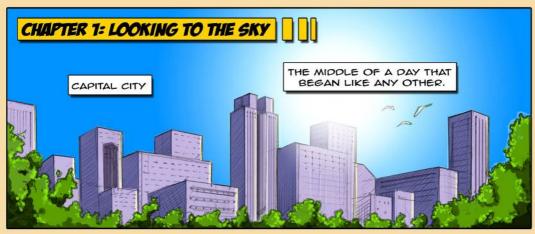
Bryce Morgan

PARENTS:

There are a number of ways to read this book with your child or children. For younger readers, you may want to do one chapter at a time, including the lesson page that follows that particular chapter. There is a simple introductory question on each lesson page, and there are more questions for discussion at the end of the book. Older children may enjoy talking about more than one chapter and more than one theme at a time.

I would love to hear your (or your kids') thoughts about the book. Visit us at www.itscaptainsun.com or at facebook.com/itscaptainsun and leave a comment. And thanks for recommending the book to others! A G

I pray God uses this resource to be a blessing to your family.









THOSE SWORN TO PROTECT THE CITY ARE HELPLESS IN THE FACE OF THIS GROWING MENACE.



IN DESPERATION, MOST ARE LOOKING TO THE SKY.











BUT THE TRUTH WAS EVEN MORE AMAZING.

HE WAS SENT TO OUR WORLD TO HELP

THE OPPRESSED, DEFEND THE WEAK, AND UPHOLD JUSTICE WHEREVER HE WAS NEEDED.

CAPTAIN SUN WAS REALLY A VISITOR FROM ANOTHER WORLD.







Capital City Chronicle Printed in Capital City ONE DOLLAR

Vol. CL No. 51,897 January 4th THE ORIGIN STORY

Every story has a beginning, and every hero has a story. Superheroes usually have what's called an 'origin story'. That's a story that tells us where the hero came from and how they became a hero. Some heroes are born with super powers. Others

superhero? Do you know how that hero became a hero?

become heroes after a strange accident or a life-

changing experience. Did you know that all of us have an 'origin story'? Our beginning began when God created us. The Bible tells us that God made us "in his own image", in order that we might know and love Him. But it also tells us we have all turned away

from God and gone our own way. This means all of us were born, not with super powers, but with a desire to live for ourselves and not God. And yet, just like a superhero's story, God offers each of us a chance to be transformed, a chance to begin a new story. In Jesus, God wants to give us, not a cape or a mask, but a new heart. In Jesus, God wants to give us a new identity. Because of his great love, he wants to make us a part of the most exciting story in the universe.

> "From one man he made every nation of men... God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."

-Acts 17:26, 27

CAPTAIN SUN FOILS THIEVES... AGAIN!



Capital City, Westside -- The 'Bad Boy' bandits, who were just released from prison after serving a two-year sentence, were up to their old tricks at the Westside National Bank. But little did they suspect that Captain Sun would also show up, just as he did two years earlier, and stop the robbers dead in their tracks. Officials from the bank

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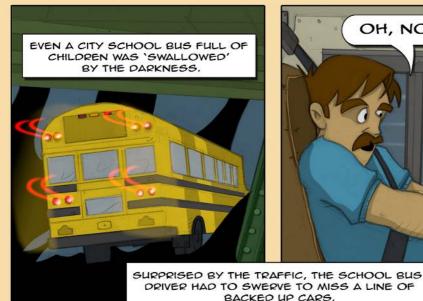


ON THE CITYSIDE BRIDGE WERE CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY THE MIDDAY 'BLACKOUT'.



HEADLIGHTS, BUT IT WAS NO USE.









BUT AS THE BUS SWERVED, THE DRIVER LOST CONTROL.



HURTLING TOWARD THE RIVER BELOW, ALL HOPED SEEMED LOST, BUT SUDDENLY...

IT WAS CAPTAIN SUN!

IN AN INSTANT, THE BUS WAS SURROUNDED, NOT BY WATER...BUT BY LIGHT.

THE BUS WAS NO LONGER FALLING. INSTEAD, IT WAS MIRACULOUSLY RISING!





WITH THE BUS NOW SAFE, IT WAS TIME FOR CAPTAIN SUN TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THIS DESTRUCTIVE DARKNESS.



Capital City Chronicle

THE GREATEST RESCUE

Superheroes are in the business of saving people. A hero might rescue just one person, maybe someone being threatened in a dark alley late at night. Or a hero might save the whole world from the deadly plan of a super villain or from an alien invasion. Whenever and wherever people are in trouble,

Can you think of a way your favorite superhero rescued someone in trouble?

heroes come to the rescue. While you

may not be caught in the evil plot of a super criminal, God has made it clear that all of us are in trouble and need to be rescued. We need a hero who can save us, not from a villain's sinister scheme, but from the power and consequences of sin. What is sin? Sin is our desire to live a 'me-centered' life in a 'God-centered' universe. Sin keeps us from God because we choose to go our

own way, which is always away from God. But we were made for God. Comic books, cartoons, and movies are full of heroes, but the only hero that can save us from this threat, from the power of sin, is Jesus Christ. Like most heroes, Jesus has a dual identity. He is both God and man. As a man, he is what we are supposed to be. As God, he did what we could not do: battle against sin and beat it! On the cross where Jesus died, the greatest hero of all time smashed the power of sin, and in doing so, accomplished a world-wide rescue that will be talked about forever.

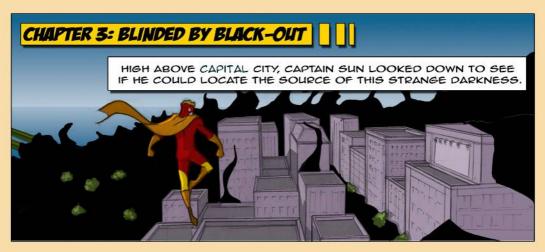
You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

-Romans 5:6, 8

KITTEN AND PUPPY SAVED BY CAPT. SUN



kitten and a Black Lab puppy were discovered to be stuck in a tall tree around 7:15 am this past Monday morning in the park district, just we of Watson Road. But before a ladder truck could respond to the helpless animals, Captain Sun flew to the rethe duickly snatched the two lost respond to the two lost respond to







THE DARKNESS SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THE TOP OF THAT BUILDING.













HA! MY DARKNESS NOT ONLY HIDES ME, IT ALSO HIDES MY VOICE.







Capital City Chronicle Direct in Capital City ONE DOLLAR

THE BAD GUYS

It's usually easy to spot the villain in a superhero story. They're normally the character with the scary laugh, scary name, and scary plan to destroy as much as they can. When lots of people are screaming and running in one direction, there is a good chance you'll find the bad guy coming from the

How many super villains can you name? Which one is the most dangerous? opposite direction. Bad guys come in all

shapes and sizes. Some are super villains with super powers. Others are evil geniuses or criminal masterminds who simply have a devious scheme to get what they want. But while the Bible contains its share of famous 'bad guys', God also reveals that, in fact, all of us are 'bad guys' because of sin. No, you probably don't have an evil plan to take over the world, but all of us still work to get our own way.

You see, sin is not only failing to do what God wants, but first, it's failing to honor God as God. Sin is about me being in charge and not God. Sin is about me having my way, not doing God's will. Yes, Jesus' battle at the cross was against sin, but it was our sin he defeated. Remarkably, through Jesus, God wants to change the bad guys into good guys. When we accept defeat, when we surrender through faith, we can share in the hero's victory. Now that's not usually what happens to the 'bad guy' in the end, is it? That strange, but wonderful, ending is what the Bible calls grace.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him... as it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one..."

-Romans 1:21a; 3:10

CAPTAIN SUN STOPS RAMPAGING ROBOT



Capital City, Financial District—
Markets opened on Thursday morning to news of a rampaging robot...right outside their doors! A sixteen foot metallic monster was causing trough on Adams Avenue, apparently as present the property of the capital city.



PAGES 18-20 NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PREVIEW EDITION











AS HE SOARED THROUGH THE BLINDING CLOUD, CAPTAIN SUN KNEW TIME WAS RUNNING OUT. THE GROUND BELOW WAS QUICKLY APPROACHING.

AS HE EMERGED FROM THE CLOUD, HE SUDDENLY FOUND HIMSELF ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH A PASSENGER JET. THE PERSON NAMED IN PARTITION OF THE PARTIT



FINALLY SLOWING DOWN, CAPTAIN SUN TURNED TO SEE THE PLANE VEERING OFF COURSE AS SMOKE



AND SEALED THE HOLE USING HIS SOLAR FIRE.

PAGES 23-24 NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PREVIEW EDITION

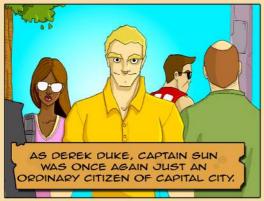
















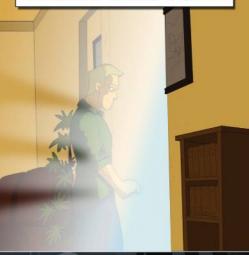




AS THE WEARY HERO FINALLY RETURNED TO HIS APARTMENT, HE GAINED STRENGTH FROM THE SIMPLE FACT THAT BLACK-OUT HAD BEEN DEFEATED.



WHILE HIS APARTMENT SEEMED NORMAL, THE FLIP OF A SECRET SWITCH REVEALED IT WAS ANYTHING BUT.



TURNED INTO CONCERN.

FLASHED, HIS SATISFACTION

AS HE SAT DOWN IN FRONT OF HIS EMERGENCY ALERT COMPUTER, DEREK DUKE GOT RIGHT TO WORK.

HE QUICKLY SIFTED THROUGH BILLIONS OF BITS OF INFORMATION THAT WERE COMING IN FROM AROUND THE WORLD,



AS THE POLICE ALERT CAME THROUGH, CAPTAIN SUN'S WORST FEARS WERE REALIZED.



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Vol. CL No. 51,897 November 9th

YOUR SECRET IDENTITY

Almost every super hero has a secret identity. A secret identity is the person a hero is before he or she puts on their costume. A secret identity is important to a superhero because it allows him or her to have what most people would consider a normal life. Can you imagine a superhero shopping for groceries while

> Can you name the secret identities of your favorite superheroes?

wearing their cape and mask? But a secret identity is

also important because it helps protect the identity of a hero's friends and family. Those are the very people a super villain might threaten as a way of attacking the hero himself. But what about you? Do you have a secret identity? Did you know Jesus talked about a secret life all of us should have? He was talking about having a secret life with God. But the kind of

secrecy Jesus described doesn't try to hide our love for God because we're afraid of what others might think. No, Jesus encouraged his kind of secrecy precisely because, so many times, we're too concerned about what others might think. For example, when we pray and help others, we should not do so in order to look good to those around us. If we have a secret life with God, we will be living to please God first. And like a superhero's secret identity, our kind of secret life is good for both us and the people we know. So when no one else is looking, are you living for God through the power of Jesus?

> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

-Matthew 6:3, 4

MENACING METEOR DIVERTED BY HERO



Capital City—After several scientist frantically alerted the citizens of Car City to a fast approaching meteor, public fears were calmed when Car Sun intercepted the meteor and pu it back into space. The meteor was visible high above the city, and ev began to eclipse the midday sun. could be heard throughout the





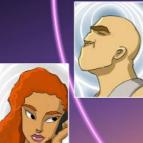




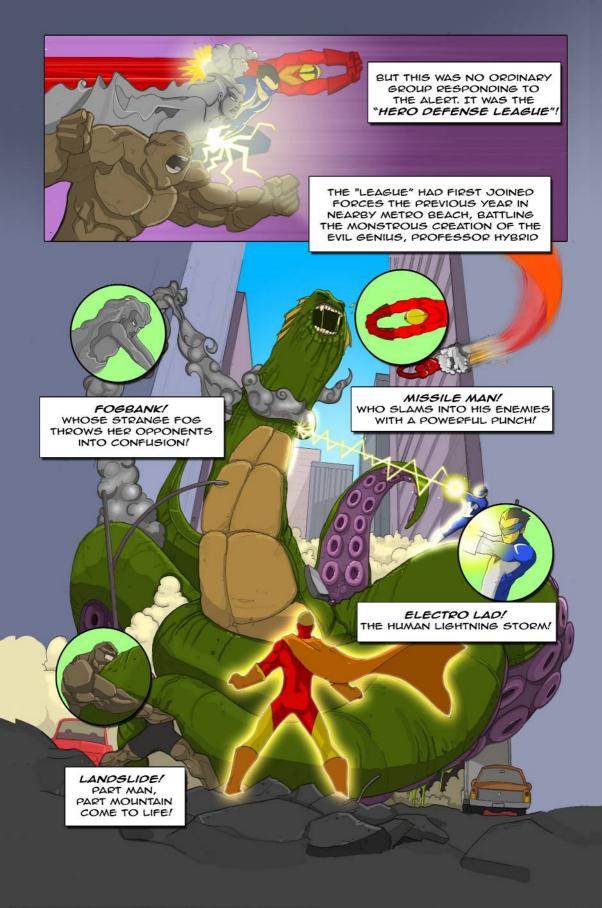


AS A SECRET SIGNAL WENT OUT TO CITIES NEARBY, FOUR AVERAGE CITIZENS (OR SO IT SEEMED) RESPONDED TO CAPTAIN SUN'S ALERT.









FINAL PAGES NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PREVIEW EDITION

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT!

- Chapter One: What did the story reveal about where Captain Sun came from? Why did he come to our world?
- Chapter One, Lesson Page: What does the Bible reveal about where we came from? Why were we created?
- 3. Chapter Two: Why was Captain Sun the only one who could rescue the children on the school bus?
- 4. **Chapter Two, Lesson Page:** According to the Bible, why do we need to be rescued? Who is the only one who can rescue us? Why is the Hero we need so unique?
- Chapter Three: What does the reader learn in this chapter about Black-Out's plan? How would you describe Black-Out's heart?
- 6. **Chapter Three, Lesson Page:** According to what God reveals in the Bible about sin, are we born as 'good guys' or 'bad guys'? What is *sin*?
- 7. Chapter Four: How did Captain Sun finally stop Black-Out?
- 8. Chapter Four, Lesson Page: According to the Bible, what is the most important kind of power we can possess? How do we get this kind of power?
- Chapter Five: Why is it amazing that Captain Sun goes to such great lengths to save Black-Out?
- 10. Chapter Five, Lesson Page: What "great responsibility" comes with the incredible power to love and obey God?
- 11. **Chapter Six:** What is Captain Sun's secret identity? Why is his secret identity so important? Why must he keep it a secret?
- 12. **Chapter Six, Lesson Page:** What kind of secrecy does Jesus want us to practice if we are His followers?
- 13. **Chapter Seven:** When Captain Sun is in trouble, who does he call for help? Why is it important for superheroes to have 'super friends'?
- 14. **Chapter Seven, Lesson Page:** What kind of 'super team' can we belong to as Christians? Why is this 'team' so important?
- 15. **Chapter Eight:** How did Black-Out get stronger in this chapter? How is the villain finally defeated?
- 16. Chapter Eight, Lesson Page: How can you and I be real heroes according to God's word?



This premium edition (available at Lulu.com) includes:

- * Full comic book size on glossy paper! * Exp
- * "The Artist's Sketchbook" pages!
- * "Start to Finish" production pages!
- * Expanded Fan Art pages!
- * Original book highlights!
- * Bonus Poster!



ALL OF US NEED TO BE RESCUED!

DISCOVER HOW SUPERHEROES
CAN POINT US, NOT ONLY
TO FUN, BUT ALSO FAITH!

GOOD VERSUS EVIL. SUPER POWERS.
BAD GUYS. SUPERHERO TEAMS. ALL
OF THESE CLASSIC COMIC BOOK
ELEMENTS CAN DO MORE THAN
THRILL. THEY CAN REMIND KIDS
OF THOSE SPIRITUAL TRUTHS
THAT SHOULD INSPIRE ALL
OF US TO LOOK TO THE
SKY, AND TO THE GREATEST HERO OF ALL TIME!

PART COMIC BOOK,
PART KIDS' DEVOTIONAL,
PESCUE ME! WEAVES
TOGETHER THE AMAZING
MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE AND
THE EXCITING ADVENTURES OF
CAPTAIN SUN. KIDS OF ALL AGES
WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT IT DOWN!



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Bryce is a part-time cartoonist and the pastor of Way of Grace Church in Buckeye, Arizona. (www.wayofgracechurch.com)



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