



HERO Proxe Script

1. **Gain their attention.** Hi, have you voted on our Hero campaign?

2. **Introduce yourself, State your purpose and ask permission.**

I'm _____. What's your name? We are InterVarsity, and we are having conversations about heroes and faith. We're seeing whether heroes or villains wear hoodies? **Do you have a few minutes to vote on who you think this is a hero or a villain?**

3. **Introduce to Panel 1**

[Use the picture of a boy with a hoodie to vote whether you feel they are a hero.]

1. Is this person a Hero or Villain?
2. (Why?) How have you seen this person labeled as either a hero or a villain?

SHARE:As we consider black culture, there is historical conflict between the black community and the justice system.) More broadly, **black people have historically been categorized as both hero and villain.**

TRANSITION: What are the words you've heard that have impacted your identity? Or your perception of black culture?

4. **Introduce Panel 2**

ASK: The words of others often influence how we view ourselves. Who do others say you are?

[Invite the student to write a positive and negative word or phrase they have heard from others on a post-it note and place each on the most appropriate side: Hero or Villain.]

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

1. How have those words impacted your identity? (How does that make you feel?)
2. [Share your story] "I have heard words like _____ and _____. **This has truly shaped how I thought of myself.**"
3. Optional active response: If they write affirming words, invite them to write or text a "thank you note" to someone who affirmed their identity.
4. Who do you say/think you are? Do you see yourself as a hero or villain? (Refer to first panel)
5. **How does that compare with what others have said about you?**

TRANSITION: In InterVarsity, (identity is a big deal for us) we have been discussing identity. Have you considered what God says about your identity? (What do you think God says about black folks?) **What words do you think God would use to describe our people?**

*Depending on your context, change to: us/black people/your people[us or black people] or your people's identity.

5. **Introduce Panel 3**

INTERACT:

These are the words God uses to describe the identity of His people. One of Jesus' closest friends, Peter, wrote a letter to a group of Christians to affirm their identity during a time when it was dangerous to be a Christian. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.

*"9 But you are a **chosen race**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a people for his **own possession**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*

ASK:

1. Which of those words do you like the most?
2. The thing that stands out to me is... *[share what stands out to you and why]*
[Ex. "I like the words in bold. (read out bold words). see "Chosen race" because it is such a contrast to this year... I think God sees us this way]

[SHARE Your story about what from the passage speaks to you (the Christian who is leading the proxe) and how does that combat a lie that was spoken over you?]

Closing Question: How would your life change if you embraced God's identity for you?

TRANSITION: Do you want to hear how God gives this royal identity to people?

If no: "Can I pray with you about this right now? (Prayer. Take 2 seconds to listen to God to see if He gives you a specific word for the student.)

If yes: **move to panel 4** and share the gospel.

Circle 1:

God made all people in His image. **This means we were created as His special people, as a reflection of God, our King.**-He created and delighted in every culture and people and we were meant to be together in all of our differences and similarities...

*Alt. You and your cultural people were created, on purpose, by God and He delights in his design. If talking with nonblack student, use alternative script from Beyond Color Blind)

Circle 2:

However, we are divided and black people have been mislabeled as villains, as thugs, criminals, sexual objects, poor, needy, lazy, etc. This is not what God sees. **He sees sin, especially the sin of racism and how it has villainized(demonized?) black people.** We may also fall victim to reinforcing these lies as we struggle to deal with our own self-hate. **Out of pain, have you ever hurt someone?** (things that they mentioned from panel 2). What are lies that have been said to you around race, culture or ethnicity? **[let them respond]**

That isn't God.(choose a statement below to say).

*If an unarmed black person is shot and killed by police, the media created the narrative that the person deserved it with negative images.

*White Colonization has justified massive genocide by labeling the black natives all over the world as "savages" or "uncivilized" or "nobody" (1 Peter 2:10). Villain. This is broken.

**Have people remember their label(given earlier)

Circle 4:

God doesn't stop there! He invites us further. Those whom God has brought out of darkness are invited by Jesus to reach out to others that have been affected by brokenness. "Now you must tell all the wonderful things he has done." (1 Peter 2:9b). This movement of restoration gains momentum as we share what we have experienced from God. As you stand in the confidence of your identity, you have the ability to connect with the diversity of this world and to stand for justice. You can bring your gifts to this vision and mission so that we all can be a beloved community.

[Choose question that fits where they are:]

*Would you like to bring all of who you are to this mission? Do you want to follow Jesus?

*Would you like to embrace your royalty in God's family. You do that by giving up your old names and accepting Jesus' names for you...

*Would you want to follow Jesus and help those who are still in the darkness see the light?

(If Yes)

Where is Jesus inviting you to share your story?

Circle 3:

We are all victims of this darkness. Maybe you have been labeled as a "nobody" from others or some of your own internal dialogue. Maybe you have felt neglected and forgotten because of the negativity expressed from the world. Jesus relates to this. The world did not know His value. They persecuted and lynched him on a tree. Jesus- being the very nature of God- willingly embraced this murder so that he can relate to you. But not only does He stand in solidarity with you as He suffered, He overcame this suffering through His resurrection. God entered the midst of this messed up world to give you hope in a decaying world. He treats you with kindness though the world is against you. You are royalty. You are chosen.

*Would you like to see Jesus restore your identity and Join his movement of justice?

*If we trust Jesus with our whole lives....