

Teacher's Lesson for children

Old Testament

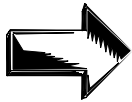
Esther saves her people Esther 4—8

Younger Verse

Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you. 1 Peter 5:7 NLT

Older Verse

Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you. 1 Peter 5:7 NLT



Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

What does it mean to be brave or courageous? Listen and try to see how Esther was brave and courageous in our story today.

Bible Story

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

Esther was a special young woman who became the queen. She obeyed her adopted father Mordecai (More-da-ki) and was very kind to everyone.

One of the king's men was named Haman. He was an evil man that wanted lots of attention. One day, the king promoted him to a higher position. Haman made all the king's officials bow down to him. But Mordecai would not bow down because he only bowed down to God.

Some of the officials told Haman about Mordecai's actions. He was very angry. He had heard about the Jews and how they only worshiped God. He decided to find a way to kill Mordecai AND all the Jews!

Haman went to the king telling him about the disobedience of the Jewish people to the king's laws. He told only a little of what actually was true. He asked the king to issue an order of all the Jews to be KILLED! He said that he would pay 375 tons of silver to the king's treasury if it were done.

Messages were sent all over the country, telling the Jews that they would all be killed on a single day. Mordecai heard the news and cried loudly.

Esther heard that Mordecai was very upset. She sent one of the king's men to talk to him and find out what was bothering Mordecai. Mordecai told him everything that was

Lesson Goals

**Understand how Jesus saves us, just like Esther saved her people
See how God's plan is always best—we must trust Him
Stand up for what is right and what is of God**

happening. He instructed Esther to go to the king to plead for mercy for her people.

Esther sent an urgent message back to Mordecai. She told Mordecai that she could die if she entered the king's presence without being invited. She knew the only way to avoid being killed was if the king held out his gold scepter (wand or staff) and let her stay. She also explained that she hadn't seen the king in 30 days.

Mordecai sent a message back telling her that she would also die because she was a Jew. He also told her that she may have been chosen queen for this very reason—to help her people.

Esther bravely told Mordecai that she would try to see the king. But first, she asked all the Jews to pray and not eat for 3 days! This was a way of constantly praying and asking God to help His people survive.

On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes. Then she took a deep breath and walked into the inner room where the king was seated. The king saw Esther and was very pleased. He held out his gold scepter and let her live! Then the king asked Esther what she wanted. He was ready to give her just about anything. Esther asked the king and Haman to come to a banquet.

That night the king curiously asked Esther what she wanted. Esther replied by asking the king and Haman to come the next day for a banquet.

Haman went home happy. He told his wife about the banquet. He also shared his hatred for Mordecai. She suggested that he build a big platform and have him hung on it. Haman liked that idea and had a platform built.

That same night, the king could not go to sleep. So he gave an order for the court record to be read to him. In it, he learned that Mordecai had helped save the king from being killed (remember this from last week). The king found out that nothing had been done to honor Mordecai for his brave act. The king asked for the nearest official. Guess what? It was Haman. The king asked Haman what he should do for a man that the king wanted to honor.

Haman selfishly thought the king was talking about him. So, he told the king to let the man wear a royal robe and be paraded around town announcing to everyone what he did for the king.

Haman couldn't believe his ears when the king told him to go and do this for MORDECAI! Haman ran home and told his wife the unbelievable news.

Just then, it was time to go to Esther's banquet.

As they were eating, the king asked Esther what she wanted.

Esther asked the king to let her live. She also asked to let her people live too. She explained that her people were going to be totally eliminated.

The king couldn't believe this. He wanted to know who planned this.

Esther spoke up and told him Haman planned this scheme.

One of the king's servants told the king about the platform Haman was making. The king ordered Haman to be hung on it immediately.

That same day Esther pleaded with the king about her people. The king gave a command that all the Jews could gather together and fight anyone who tried to kill them.

God was with his people. They were victorious. Afterwards, they had a special feast to honor God for saving his people. The king issued a command to celebrate this day every year to remind the people of how good God is.

God helped His people from being killed. This was a long time ago, even before Jesus was born. Do you know something even better than this? God found a way to save all His people permanently. God knew that the only way to help His people was to send a substitute to take our place—to die in our place for us. That person had to be perfect and do exactly what God wanted.

Was there a volunteer? Yes!! Jesus chose to die in our place. He took our place and died on a cross. But the best is yet to come—Jesus came back to life 3 days later!! Because He is alive, we can be in Heaven with God if we trust Jesus and ask Him into our lives. Wow, can you believe God loves us that much? He really does. Would you like to know more about it? Talk to me today.

Learning Activities

Choose activities that will help your kids learn—some may learn by doing, so make a scepter with playdough; some may learn by seeing, so let them read the story in the Bible and work on activity pages; some may learn by hearing, so ask them to tell you the story again or even tell it into a tape recorder that they can hear again!

Memory Verse Activities

Play the telephone game where you whisper part of the verse to the person next to you. They, in turn, whisper it to the person beside them. This goes around the room. Continue whispering the verse a little at a time until the whole verse is said. Ask the class to repeat the verse to you.

Prayer Time

Pray for each child by name today. If you have a hard time remembering their names, make name tags and let each child decorate their own. It makes them feel important, and you can see their names! Also pray for absent people. If time permits, make a card from the class and mail it or deliver it to the children.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks together and make sure they each clean up their messes. Assign helpers to assist you.

Planning for Dec. 5th
Daniel Does Right
Daniel 1:1-21

Preschool Lesson
For
Esther saves her people

(Teachers: this is a very long lesson. Since the kids' attention span is short, we are sharing part of the lesson. If you feel that your students will listen longer, try sharing more.)

Last week we learned about queen Esther and how God helped her to become queen. She was a beautiful woman who loved God very much. Her adopted father was named Mordecai. He cared for her and made sure she was also safe.

One day, Mordecai was very upset. Esther sent someone to find out what was wrong. Mordecai told her some sad news. The king had made a bad law that all of their people should be killed. He knew that a mean man had tricked the king into making this law.

Mordecai asked Esther to help. He told her that God had put her there as queen to help God's people.

Esther was afraid and scared. She knew that she could only go to the king if he invited her. If she went uninvited, the king had to hold out his gold wand to give her permission to enter. She asked her people to pray to God for her. They prayed for 3 days.

On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes. Then she took a deep breath and walked into the inner room where the king was seated. The king saw Esther and was very pleased. He held out his gold scepter and invited her into his room! Then the king asked Esther what she wanted. Instead of telling him the news, she invited him and the mean man Haman to come to dinner with her.

That night the king curiously asked Esther what she wanted. Esther replied by asking the king and Haman to come the next day for a banquet.

The next day as they were eating, the king asked Esther what she wanted.

Esther asked the king to let her live. She also asked to let her people live too. She explained that her people were going to be totally eliminated.

The king couldn't believe this. He wanted to know who planned this.

Esther spoke up and told him Haman planned this scheme. She pleaded with the king about her people. The king made a command that all the Jews could gather together and fight anyone who tried to kill them.

God was with his people. They were victorious. Afterwards, they had a special feast to honor God for saving his people. The king issued a command to celebrate this day every year to remind the people of how good God is.

Thank God for caring for us and loving us!

Hands-On Activities
For
Esther saves her people

Make foil scepters to remember how God helped Esther when she bravely went to the king. Scrunch up foil to make a royal scepter. You may have to explain what a scepter is.

Watch the Veggie Tales movie about Esther. Talk about the differences in the video as compared to the Bible (talent show to choose the queen, pizza for dinner etc.).

Purim is the holiday that God's people celebrated when Esther helped save the people. Make a noisemaker and cookies to remember the special day. When you retell the story, every time Haman's name is mentioned, shake the noisemakers so that you cannot hear his name. The cookies are called Hamantaschen. If you prefer, make sugar cookies in triangle shapes. They are shaped like this to remember either Haman's hat or Haman's ear.

Decorate the room like a palace and act out the story. You can drape fabric over a chair to look like a throne.
