

Old Testament

Mission Arlington ◦ Mission Metroplex Curriculum ◦ 2011

One Year Plan



GOD'S WORD

Created for use with young, unchurched learners Adaptable for all ages.

ESTHER



ESTHER 1-10

Memory Verse:

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.
Philippians 2:13

Lesson Goals

1. Understand that Mordecai bowed only to God.
2. Recognize that Esther was chosen as queen.
3. Learn that Esther risked her life for her people.
4. Understand that God saved His people from their enemies.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us from sin.
3. Ask God to help you follow Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to be delivered from sin.

GOD'S WORD

Read Esther 2:5-7. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus gave His life so that we can live. He knew that we cannot save ourselves from our sin. We need to believe that Jesus died on the cross for us and that He rose again three days later. He wants to have a relationship with us because He loves us. Have you given your life to Jesus?

Application

Esther was placed in a position where she was able to speak for God's people. God places each of us in different situations where we are able to speak for Him, too. Maybe it's at school, in our neighborhood, or with our family. God wants to use you to speak His message of love to people who need to be saved. Will you let Him use you like He used Esther? Pray for strength and courage.

Begin With Prayer

The Jewish people had been captured before the time of Nehemiah and taken to a foreign land where they worked and lived. Mordecai was one of those Jews. Mordecai was a man who served King Xerxes, who ruled over Persia. Mordecai raised his cousin Esther because her parents had died. She grew up to be a very pretty young lady. One day, the king issued an order to everyone in the whole land. A search was to be made for the most beautiful woman in the land to be the next queen.

Esther was chosen as one of the women who might be the next queen. Esther did not tell anyone that she was a Jew because Mordecai told her not to. Finally, it was Esther's turn to go to the king. The king loved Esther! He crowned her queen! He had a great banquet and also pronounced a holiday for everyone.

One day, Mordecai overheard two people trying to find a way to kill the king. He told Esther the news, and Esther told the king. Sure enough, Mordecai was right. His name was written down in the special book of things that happened to the king.

One of the king's men was named Haman. He was an evil man. Haman made all of 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 worshipped God. He decided to find a way to kill Mordecai AND all the Jews!

Haman asked the king to issue an order for all the Jews to be KILLED! 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. He instructed Esther to go to the king to plead for mercy for her people. But Esther 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 and let her stay. Mordecai told her that she would also die because she was a Jew. He told her that she may have been chosen queen for this very reason—to help her people during such a time as this.

Esther told Mordecai that she would go to the king. But first, she asked all the Jews to pray and not eat for three 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 let her live! Then the king asked Esther what she wanted. Esther asked the king and Haman to come to a dinner. That night the king asked Esther what she wanted. Esther replied by asking the king and Haman to come the next day for another dinner.

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

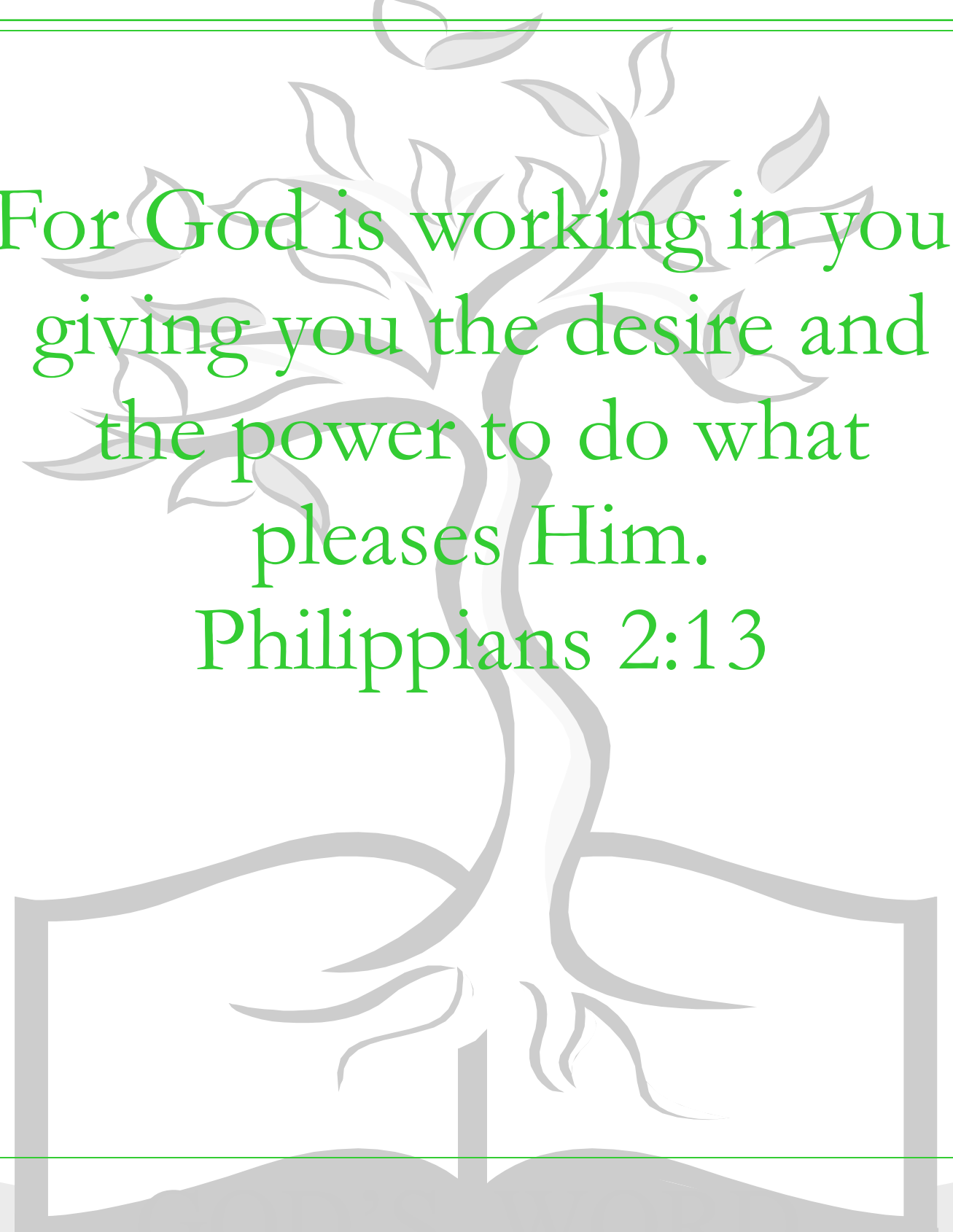
Haman thought the king was talking about him. So, he told the king to let the man wear a royal robe and be paraded around town announcing to everyone what he did for the king. Haman couldn't believe his ears when the king told him to go and do this for MORDECAI! Just then, it was time to go to Esther's 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 she was a Jew and 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.

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. They were victorious because God was with them. Later, 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.

Planning for the next week:

Daniel Does Right—Daniel 1

Memory Verse



For God is working in you,
giving you the desire and
the power to do what
pleases Him.

Philippians 2:13

Preschool Lesson

Read Esther 2:5-7 (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Teacher: Make a scepter. Let the children pretend to be Esther and the king. Let the king hold out the scepter to Esther. Let Esther touch the scepter.

Begin With Prayer

Esther was a beautiful young woman. She was also one of God's chosen people. She lived with Mordecai, her cousin who had adopted her. They were living in a foreign land. The king of the land, King Xerxes, wanted a new queen. They looked high and low throughout the kingdom (Make hand motions like you are looking around.), and Esther was one of the ladies chosen to try out to be the queen. And eventually, the king did choose Esther to be the queen!

There was a bad man who worked for the king. His name was Haman. Haman didn't like Mordecai because he wouldn't bow down to Haman. Haman wanted to have Mordecai and all of his people killed. So Haman asked the king to make an order that all of the Jews, God's chosen people, would be killed on a certain day. When Mordecai heard this, he was so sad! He sent a message to Esther, saying that she had to ask the king to stop this order!

Esther was very afraid, because she wasn't supposed to go to the king without being invited. In fact, she could be killed! But Mordecai told her that God had put her in that position to help His people. Esther told Mordecai that she would go to the king. But first, she asked all the Jews to pray for three 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 let her live! Then the king asked Esther what she wanted. Esther asked the king and Haman to come to a dinner.

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

So the king and Haman went to Esther's second dinner. Finally, Esther told the king the reason she had invited them. She explained Haman's plan to have all the Jews killed, and that she was a Jew! When the king heard this, he was furious! He reversed the order to have the Jews killed, and instead he ordered for Haman to be killed!

God used Esther to save His people. Later, 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.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus.

Preschool Memory Verse



For God is
working in you.
Philippians 2:13

Learning Activities

•**Test your memory** — Bring jewelry items and clothes a queen might wear. Also bring clothes for a costume and jewelry the king might wear. Allow the children to dress up. Ask them to retell the story.

Taste activity — Esther prepared a banquet for the king and Haman. Have a banquet. Bring food and let the children decorate. Use special plates, napkins, and cups.

Think about it — Mordecai could have been killed by Haman for refusing to bow down before him. Mordecai remained faithful to God. Talk about being faithful to God.

Esther risked her life for her people. Talk about how Jesus gave His life for us.

Touch activity — Make a scepter. Let the children pretend to be Esther and the king. Have the king hold out the scepter to Esther. Let Esther touch the scepter.

Have a special prayer time. Read one of the Psalms as a prayer.

Bring balloons. Let the children use markers to draw faces of the characters in the story. Let the children act out the story using the balloons.

Run and play — Play relay races. Prepare questions about the story. Have the children stand in two groups on opposite ends. Have one group of children ask the questions. Everyone can take a turn and ask a question. Have the other group answer the questions. Everyone will take a turn answering the questions. When the group has an answer one team member must run to the other team and give the answer.

Have a time of worship. Bring or make instruments.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to worship Him.

•**Sing** — Sing “Majesty,” “Praise Him, Praise Him,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out**—During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Rooted and Grounded



Pray

Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.
Pray that we will have courage to do what God wants us to do.
Pray for those who need to know that God can save them.

Read the Bible Daily

This week, read the book of Esther. It only has ten chapters. Also, read a chapter out of Psalms and Proverbs each day.

Think About It

Esther was in a unique situation as queen. She and her people were captives in a foreign land, yet she had the opportunity to influence the king and save them from being killed. Esther had to overcome her fear and trust God. Sometimes you may be afraid to talk to someone about God. Let God help you. You can trust Him!

Do It

Is there something you know God wants you to do but you have been afraid to do it? Let the story of Esther remind you that God can give you the strength you need to do His will.

Tell About It

Share the Bible story with a friend. Talk about how Esther risked her life to save her people. Jesus gave His life to save us!

Word Art

Trace the letters.

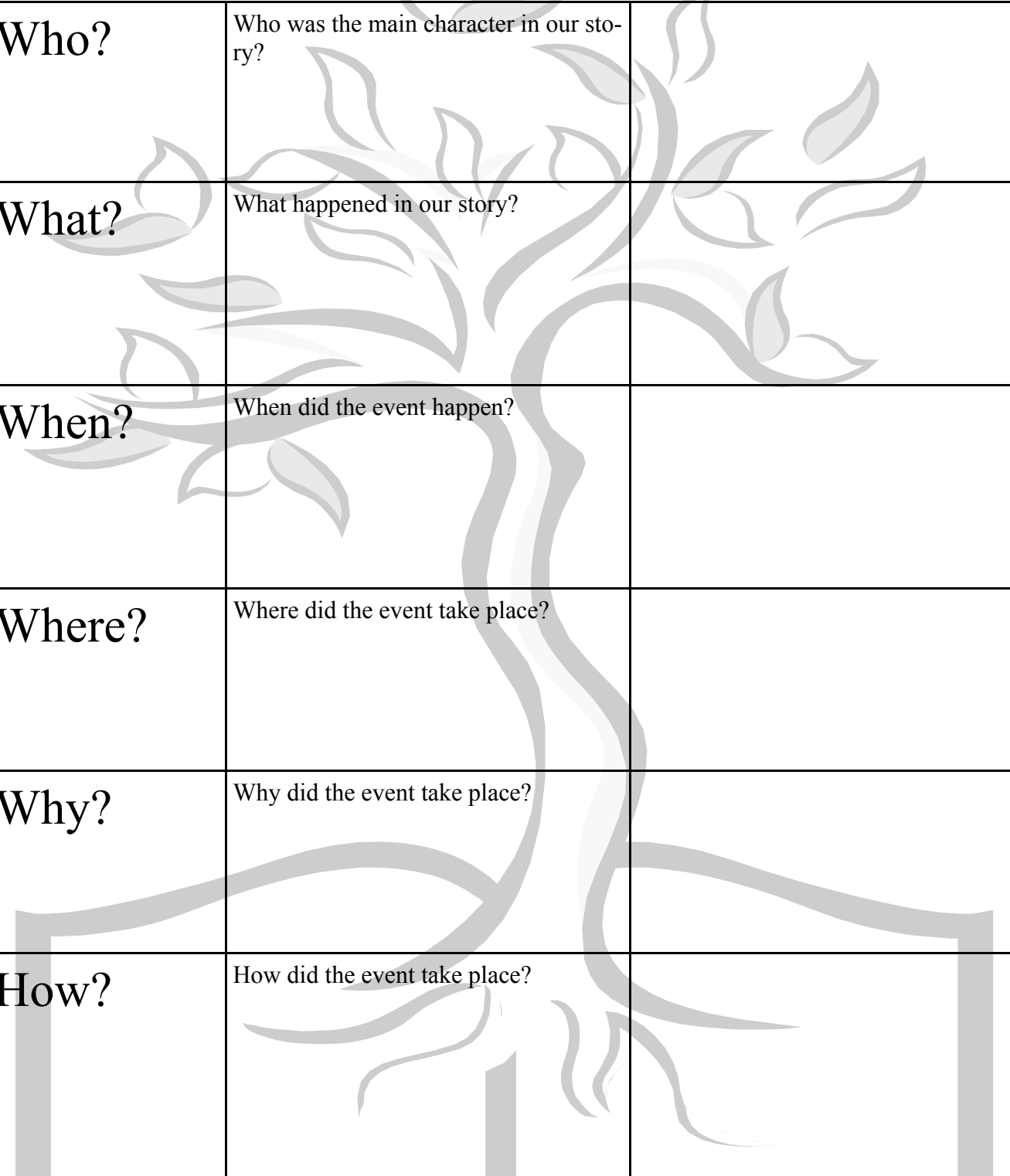
Esther

risked

her life

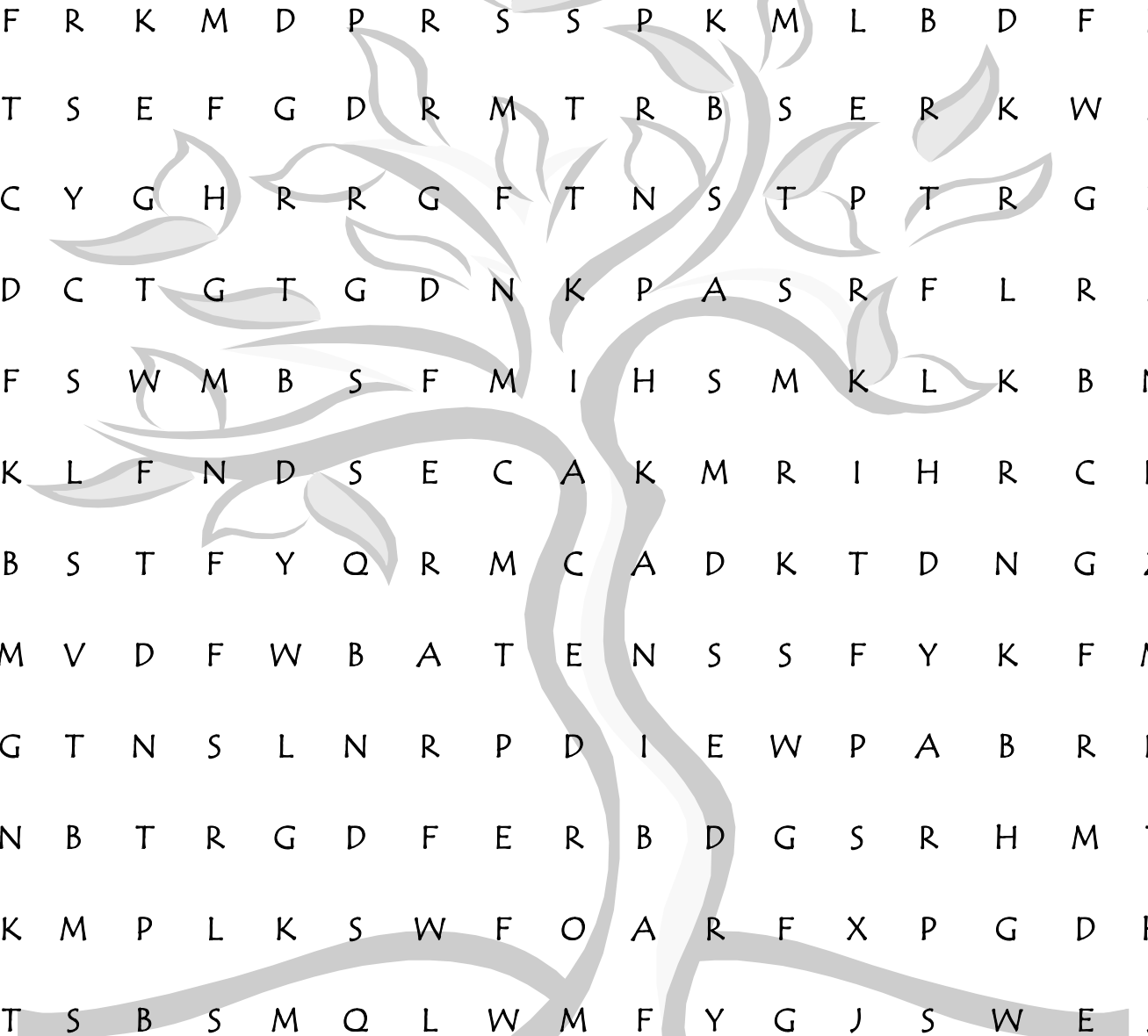
GOD'S WORD

Learning the Facts



Who?	Who was the main character in our story?	
What?	What happened in our story?	
When?	When did the event happen?	
Where?	Where did the event take place?	
Why?	Why did the event take place?	
How?	How did the event take place?	

Word Search



F R K M D P R S S P K M L B D F B
T S E F G D R M T R B S E R K W S
C Y G H R R G F T N S T P T R G B
D C T G T G D N K P A S R F L R S
F S W M B S F M I H S M K L K B N
K L F N D S E C A K M R I H R C D
B S T F Y Q R M C A D K T D N G Z
M V D F W B A T E N S S F Y K F M
G T N S L N R P D I E W P A B R K
N B T R G D F E R B D G S R H M T
K M P L K S W F O A R F X P G D H
T S B S M Q L W M F Y G J S W E J

MORDECAI

HATE

PRAY

HAMAN

KILL

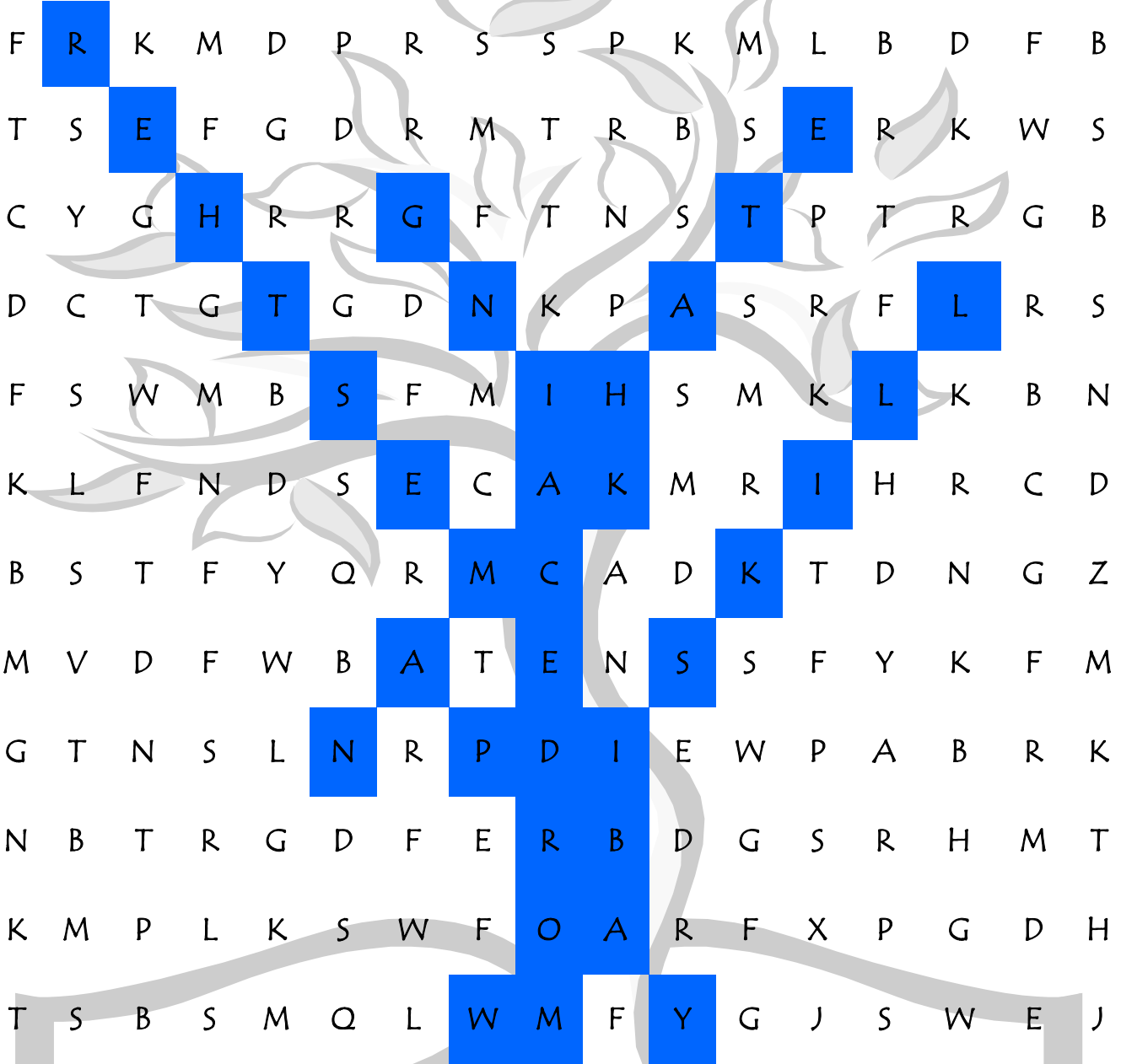
RISK

BOW

ESTHER

KING

Word Search Solution



MORDECAI

HATE

PRAY

HAMAN

KILL

RISK

BOW

ESTHER

KING

Preschool Word Search

K F B G L R W H D F L J
N E H E M K I N G G T Y
B F V M T G S B P R D N
R I S K R S H F K M D P
T P J W B D F I N I S H
J C S W O P R A Y F D M
S B R M K J D R K B N P
E S T H E R B T D G R S
R S H V T R V G S F R B
W A L Q V R B N B O W F
S G F M J R T F B G L D
M O R D E C A I E K V D

MORDECAI

BOW

ESTHER

PRAY

RISK

KING

Preschool Word Search Solution

K	F	B	G	L	R	W	H	D	F	L	J
N	E	H	E	M	K	I	N	G	G	T	Y
B	F	V	M	T	G	S	B	P	R	D	N
R	I	S	K	R	S	H	F	K	M	D	P
T	P	J	W	B	D	F	I	N	I	S	H
J	C	S	W	O	P	R	A	Y	F	D	M
S	B	R	M	K	J	D	R	K	B	N	P
E	S	T	H	E	R	B	T	D	G	R	S
R	S	H	V	T	R	V	G	S	F	R	B
W	A	L	Q	V	R	B	N	B	O	W	F
S	G	F	M	J	R	T	F	B	G	L	D
M	O	R	D	E	C	A	I	E	K	V	D

MORDECAI

BOW

ESTHER

PRAY

RISK

KING

Anagram

HREEST

RDCAIEOM

MAHNA

NEQEV

TEFLABUU

EEXSRX

CPETRSE

AOGUCRE

AECBELTRE

GOD'S WORD

Anagram Solution

ESTHER

MORDECAI

HAMAN

QUEEN

BEAUTIFUL

XERXES

SCEPTER

COURAGE

CELEBRATE

GOD'S WORD