



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



2. ESTHER'S STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Esther Story Figures" and "Esther's Story Parent Note" Activity Pages; cardstock; scissors; jumbo craft sticks; glue sticks; and crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Esther Story Figures" on cardstock and cut apart, one set per child. Copy "Esther's Story Parent Note" on cardstock and cut apart, one note per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have children color their story figures. Assist the children in gluing Esther, the king, Haman, and Esther's family to craft sticks. Use the completed stick figures and the text below to retell Esther's story together. Send an "Esther's Story Parent Note" home with each child, along with their stick figures.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how strong Esther was to talk to the king and ask him to save her family.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. I want us to talk about Esther's exciting story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, Esther did something that you have to be very strong to do. And I'm not talking about this kind of strong (*do a muscle pose with your arms*). I'm talking about the kind of strong that is brave, wise, and courageous, all at the same time! The kind of strong that makes someone a hero!

"Who remembers what Esther did? (*Pause*.) That's right! She went to the king and asked him to save her family, even though the king had not invited her to see him. You had to be very strong to do that!

"I'll help you make stick figures to take home so you can tell your friends and family Esther's exciting story. (*Assist the children in making stick figures for Esther, the king, Haman, and Esther's family. Once everyone has their four stick figures, continue reviewing the Bible story together.*)

(*Hold up the king.*) "Once there was a king who was looking for a queen.

(*Hold up Esther.*) "The king's people looked and looked and finally found a queen. Her name was Esther.

(*Hold the king and Esther beside each other.*) "The king was happy, so he married Esther.

BIBLE STORY

God is with me
so I can be strong.

ESTHER
ESTHER 2:2-8:17

MEMORY VERSE

"We have the Lord
our God to help us."

2 CHRONICLES 32:8, NLT

KEY QUESTION

Who is always with you?

BOTTOM LINE

God is always with me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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(Hold up Haman.) "There was a man named Haman who worked for the king. He did not love God.

(Hold up Esther's family.) Haman had a plan to hurt Esther's family. *(Make Haman "talk" to the king.)* "Haman went to the king and talked him into getting rid of all of God's people.

(Hold up Esther's family.) "Oh, no! God's people were Esther's family! *(Hold up Esther.)* This made Esther so sad. She knew she had to do something, but she could get into a lot of trouble if she went to the king. Esther knew God was with her and He would make her strong. So she went to talk to the king.

(Make Esther "talk" to the king.) "The king listened to Esther when she asked him to save her family. And the king said, 'YES!' Esther's family was saved! *(Make Esther and Esther's family dance around.)* "Yay! Esther's family was saved!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "God is always with us, just like He was with Esther, so we can be strong like she was. When I ask, '**Who is always with you?**', you say '**God is always with me.**' **Who is always with you? God is always with me!** He sure is! And you can use your stick figures to tell Esther's story to your friends and family so they will know that God is always with them, too."



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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at 2 Chronicles 32:8, journal, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or a handstamp

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time!

Today, we'll walk and wave like kings and queens on our way to our small group spot. Put your pretend crown on like this (*demonstrate*) and follow me. (*Pretend to walk and wave like a king or queen as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

"That was fun! Now we can sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) Our Bible story, today, was about how Esther was strong enough to go ask the king to save her family!

"A long time ago, a person would get in BIG trouble for trying to talk to the king if he didn't ask them to talk to him first. But Esther had to be strong, go talk to the king, and try and save her family. And she did it! She talked to the king and saved her family!

"God is always with us so we can be strong, too. That's why when I ask, '**Who is always with you?**', we say '**God is always with me!**' **Who is always with you?**'"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**God is always with me.**"

SGL: "One last time. **Who is always with you?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**God is always with me.**"

SGL: "And the Bible verse we learned this month will help us remember that God is with us and wants to help us. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"'We have the Lord our God to help us,' 2 Chronicles 32:8. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Stand up with me, and let's say that Bible verse together one time with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'We have (*bend wrists and tap fingertips to chest*) the Lord our God (*point up*) to help us,' (*right thumbs-up on top of left palm*) 2 Chronicles 32:8." (*Open hands like a book.*)

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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

SGL: "Yes, we do! You can sit down, and anyone who wants to say it can try. I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready! (Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)

"You did it, [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! (Repeat with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.)

"Okay, when I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me their [sticker/handstamp]. One, two, three! (Pause to look.) Woo hoo! (Give fist bumps to the children.)

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.) God was with Esther when she had to go to the king. Today, we'll make a list of places we have to go. When we pray, we can thank God for always being with us, no matter where we go.

"When I say your name, tell me one place you have to go, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"Thank you for making this list with me. We can use it when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, There is no one else like You. Only You can always be with us wherever we go. We can go to (read the list the children made), and You will still be with us. You being with us makes us strong and brave, wise and courageous! You are amazing, and we love You very much. In Jesus' name, amen."



Esther



Esther



Esther



Esther



Esther



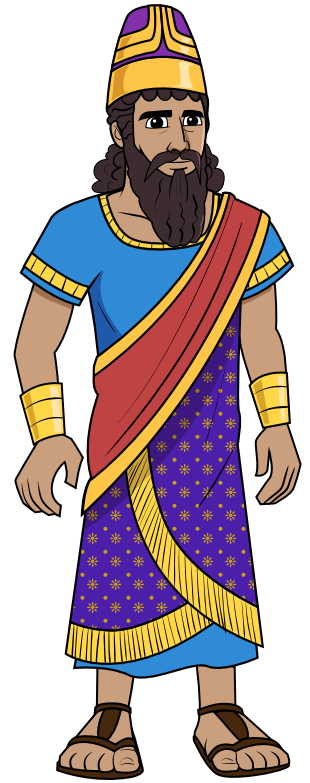
Esther



King



King



King



King



King



King



Haman



Haman



Haman



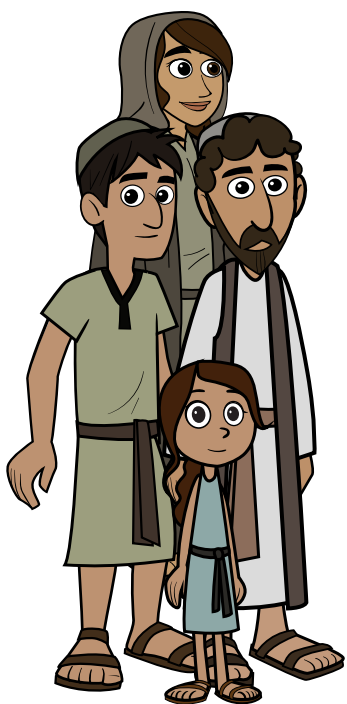
Haman



Haman



Haman



Esther's Family



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Esther's Family



Esther's Family

Esther's Story

Esther 2:2-8:17

Use the stick puppets your child made today along with the text below to retell the story of Esther.

(Hold up King.) **Once there was a king who was looking for a queen.**

(Hold up Esther.) **The king's people looked and looked and finally found a queen. Her name was Esther.**

(Hold the King and Esther beside each other.) **The king was happy so he married Esther.**

(Hold up Haman.) **There was a man named Haman who worked for the king. He did not love God.**

(Hold up Esther's Family.) **Haman had a plan to hurt Esther's family.**

(Make Haman "talk" to The King.) **Haman went to the king and talked him into getting rid of all of God's people.**

(Hold up Esther's Family.) **Oh no! God's people were Esther's family!**

(Hold up Esther.) **This made Esther so sad. She knew she had to do something, but she could get into a lot of trouble if she went to talk to the king.**

Esther knew God was with her and He would make her strong. So she went to talk to the king.

(Make Esther "talk" to The King.) **The king listened to Esther when she asked him to save her family. And the king said YES! Esther's family was saved!**

(Make Esther and Esther's Family dance around.) **Yay! Esther's family was saved!**

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