



FEBRUARY 15, 2026

ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE

ESTHER

CHRIST CONNECTION

Even though Haman tried to hurt God's people, God was in control and had a plan to save the Jews. Sin hurts us and breaks our relationship with God, but God had a plan from the very beginning to save us through Jesus' death on the cross.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 25:9

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The book of Esther tells a fascinating story of courage and demonstrates how God works to protect His people to carry on His mission. Esther takes place during a time when some of the Jewish people were living under the rule of the Persians. During that time, God elevated a young Jewish woman named Esther to a place in the king's palace that would allow her the opportunity to save her people.

One of the interesting aspects of the book of Esther is that the name of God is not mentioned. Although His name is not mentioned in the book, God is present in every aspect of the story. Perhaps this is most clearly seen in Mordecai's words to Esther. In Esther 4:14, Mordecai, Esther's cousin, tells her that perhaps she has been elevated as queen in the king's palace exactly for this moment. The phrase "for such a time as this" describes how God works seemingly behind the scenes to accomplish His will, proving He rules over every aspect of our lives.

The main theme of the book of Esther is that God is sovereign over all of history. God will deliver His faithful remnant when they face threats from enemies. Even when circumstances seem hopeless, God is at work. God delivered His people in this story by thwarting the plans of Haman, an advisor to the king. Haman's plan was not just a political move but a spiritual attack on the very people of God. But God, in the sovereignty of His will, had placed Esther in the perfect place at the perfect time to defeat the enemies of His people.

The book of Esther points us to the day when Jesus would come at just the right time in just the right place to deliver us from our sins. Help kids see how Romans 5:6 tells us that at just the right time, Jesus came to die for us while we were helpless. Encourage kids to understand that in God's sovereignty, He determined the exact right place and time for Jesus to be born and to die for their sins.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Isaiah 25:9, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on February 22!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE

King Ahasuerus (uh haz yoo EHR uhs) was the king of Persia. Many years earlier, when Cyrus was king, he sent some of God's people back to Judah to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. So, some of God's people went to Judah, but some of them stayed in Persia. God's people were called Jews because they were from Judah.

Esther was one of God's people who had not gone to Jerusalem. Esther was very beautiful, and she was brought to King Ahasuerus because he was looking for a woman to be his queen. The king liked Esther very much, and she became queen. They had a great feast for her. But Esther didn't tell anyone she was a Jew.

An evil man named Haman was a leader in the kingdom, and King Ahasuerus honored Haman to a higher position. Everyone was supposed to bow down to Haman, but Mordecai, the person who had raised Esther, would not bow down. This made Haman extremely angry. When Haman found out that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman planned to have all the Jews put to death.

Mordecai sent word to Esther and asked her to go to the king and beg him to save her people. Esther said to him, "Everyone knows that you can't just go talk to the king. There is a law that if you go to him without him calling you, you will be put to death unless he chooses to raise his gold scepter."

Mordecai replied, "If you choose to keep silent, God will save his people another way. But who knows, maybe you were made queen for this reason!" Esther asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews together to pray and fast for her for three days.

On the third day, Esther approached the king, and he extended the gold scepter toward her. He said, "What is it, Queen Esther? I will give you anything you wish!" She invited the king and Haman to a banquet that day. The king accepted the invitation.

While they were dining, the king said again, "What do you want, Queen Esther? I'll give you anything, even up to half the kingdom!" Queen Esther said, "What I want is for you and Haman to come to another banquet tomorrow!" The king agreed.

At that second feast, the king asked Esther a third time: "Queen Esther, what can I do for you? I'll give you anything you desire." Queen Esther said, "My request, O king, is that you spare my life, and the lives of my people, for this evil Haman has sentenced us to death." The king was very angry with Haman and sentenced him to die. Once more, Esther went before the king on behalf of her people and asked him to sign a law protecting her people from their enemies. The king signed the law, and the Jews celebrated with joy.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Even though Haman tried to hurt God's people, God was in control and had a plan to save the Jews. Sin hurts us and breaks our relationship with God, but God had a plan from the very beginning to save us through Jesus' death on the cross.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

What you need: dowels, foam strips, yarn, stickers, markers/crayons, glue/tape, hole punch

Give each kid a dowel, a length of yarn, and 4-6 foam strips (depending on how many kids you have and how many foam strips are available). Put sticker sheets and markers/crayons at each table for kids to share.

Let kids draw on or decorate the foam strips as they like. Then, help kids punch holes at each end of their foam strips and have them put the dowel through the hole at one end of each of the strips. Then have them bend the strips and put the dowel through the holes in the strips at the other end, as the picture below shows.

Spread the foam strips out to create a sphere, then put tape or foam stickers at the top of the dowel to keep the foam in place. Wrap the dowel below the foam sphere in yarn, taping or gluing it in place. Kids can also add stickers to the foam strips to finish their craft if they like.

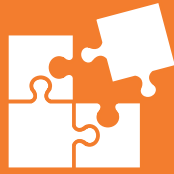
CONNECT THE DOTS



Today we learned how Esther was in a scary situation when she went to talk to the king. She wasn't invited, so if the king didn't extend his scepter to her, showing that he was willing to listen, then Esther would've been killed. Even though it was scary, Esther trusted God and went to the king uninvited. God used Esther's bravery to ultimately save the Israelites.



ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

BIBLE SKILLS

Option 1: Play the Old/New Testament game on your room's TV as one big group or in teams.

Option 2: Have kids form two teams and get into lines. The first person for each team will have a buzzer. The leader running the game will name a book of the Bible. The first kid to hit their buzzer will answer if that book is in the Old or New Testament. If they get it right, they win one point for their team! Both kids then go to the back of the line, and the next two kids come to the buzzer. Play as long as time allows. The team with the most points at the end of time wins!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. Why was it dangerous for Esther to go before the king?
2. Esther went to the king on behalf of her people. Who went before God on our behalf?
3. How can we trust God's plans even when we don't understand them?
4. When have you trusted God during a challenging time?
5. How do Esther's actions for her people point us to Jesus?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!