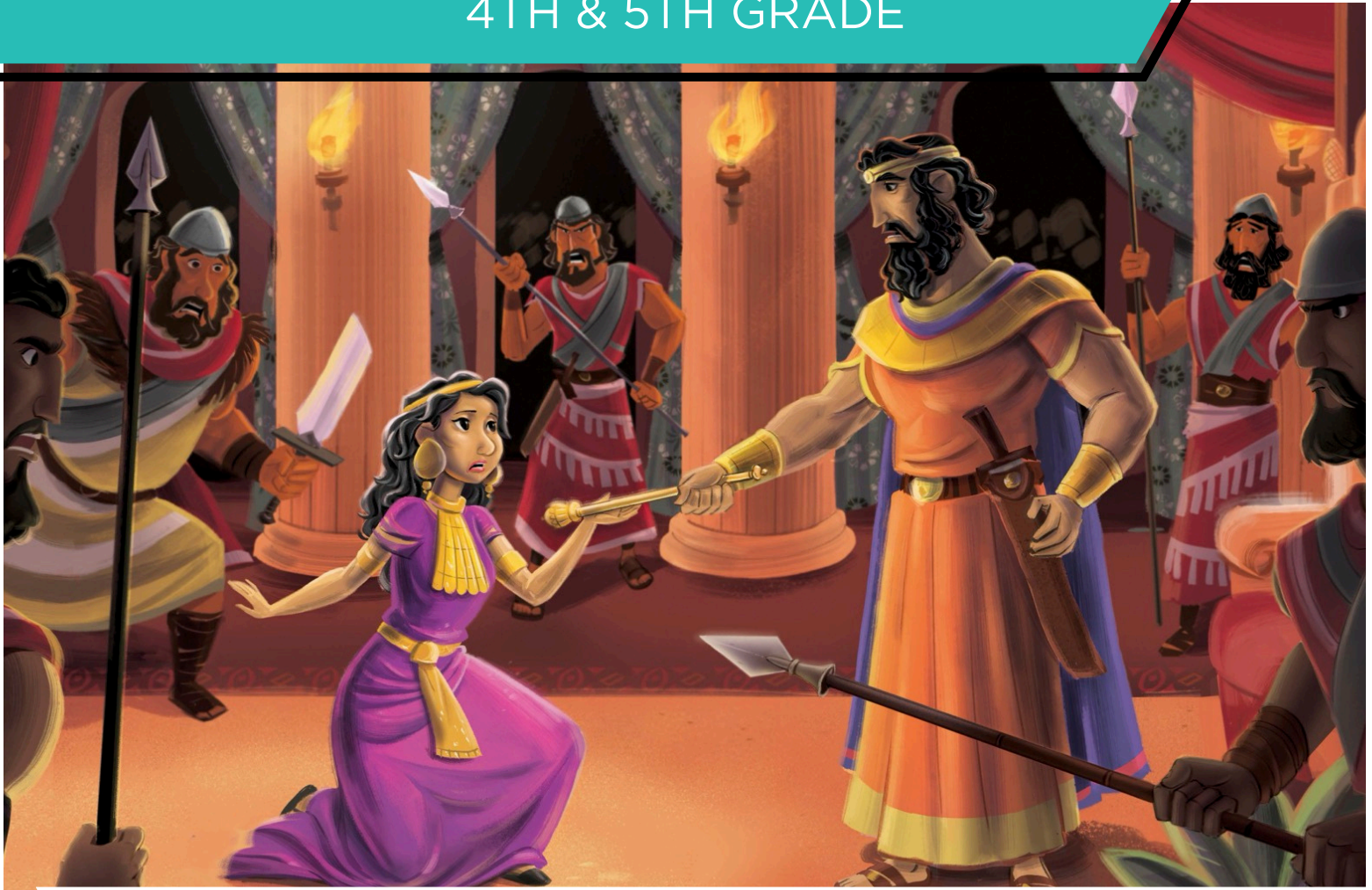


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.**

LEADER DEVO

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.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S 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



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

FEB 22

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, Isaiah 25:9 will look like:

I W B S O T D B T I O G W H W F H T H M S U T I T L W H W F H L U B G A R I H S

LESSON

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.

LESSON

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.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) During this time, the Jews were in exile because of their unfaithfulness to God. Why would God save the Jews from Haman's plan? (See 2 Timothy 2:13)

2) Why was it dangerous for Esther to go to the king? (See Esther 4:11)

3) Despite the danger, Esther went before the king. What was the king's response? (Esther 5:2-3)

Esther is a unique book because it is the only book in the Bible that does not explicitly mention God. And yet, we see God at work throughout the entire book.

4) What are some ways we see God at work in this story?

Esther becomes queen, Esther finds favor with the king, God's people are saved...

5) What does this tell us about God?

God is always at work - even when we don't realize or see it! (Romans 8:26-27)

6) Has there ever been a time in your life that God was working without you even realizing it?

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!