

# Adventures with GOD!

## ESTHER (B.2.FALL.10)

Biblical Reference	Esther 2:5-11, 2:15-23
Key Verse	Jeremiah 29:11
Key Concept	God keeps His plans for my life by using people including those who do not believe in Him.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Say key memory verse.</li> <li>2. Describe the feelings of Esther.</li> <li>3. Recognize that God sometimes asks us to do difficult things.</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Esther's story is fascinating because it shows us that sometimes we need to understand the whole plan of God. Even when we do not understand God's purpose, we have to trust and obey in order to serve. God put Esther in the court of a pagan king named Ahasuerus, so that she could become the instrument of salvation of the Jews. Children can think of times when they do not understand what's going on, but they have to rely on their parents or other adults. Help them remember that we have to trust God in the same way.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Individual sheets, crayons, pastes, stones, tape or glue	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Copies of drama paper, markers	20 minutes
Craft	Parchment paper, strips of yarn, pencils or crayons, straws or wood dowels	15 minutes
Activity	Slips of paper with Jeremiah 29:11	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Introduction:** Have ready on a table, the illustration of the crown (is attached), make a copy for each child. They can color, paste "stones" Precious (pasta in different shapes, old jewelry, sequins, pasta of different sizes, small pieces of glossy paper, etc.), then cut it and close it with tape to the size of their heads and wear the crown during the storytelling.

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading: Esther 2:5-11, 2:15-23** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond prior to entering into Bible Exploration.

**Bible Exploration:** The important ideas in this story are:

1. God chooses people to accomplish his purposes.
2. All of us should seek to listen, trust and obey God.
3. Sometimes God asks us to do difficult things.
4. God often speaks through a wise counselor as Mordecai was in Esther's life.

Begin by acting out the drama found in following pages. It must have been difficult for Esther when her parents died because she was just a young girl.

Ask: I wonder how she felt about her uncle Mordecai? What do you think Mordecai was like?

Ask: I wonder what it was like for Esther to become queen? What do you think it would be like to live in a palace? Invite children to design a palace using paper & markers – as you continue.

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Ask: I wonder why Mordecai told Esther not to tell anyone that she was Jewish? (Her family had been killed and she had been taken captive. Perhaps the king and others would reject her if they found out she was not from Persia).

Ask: I wonder why Esther went to the king with the news from Mordecai even though she might have been rejected as Queen? Have you ever had to do something difficult or something you were afraid?

Ask: I wonder why God chose Esther to be queen

Ask: I wonder what kind of person Esther is? What do you think we can learn from Esther?

Invite children to share their palace pictures.

**Craft:** Make a scroll like Mordecai sent to Esther. Use the instructions in the following pages. Children can make a roll with today's verse written inside.

**Activity:** Divide the class into two teams and give each team an envelope with the words of Jeremiah. Invite them to put the words in the correct order. The first team to achieve it wins. Another option is to write the verse (twice) on a sheet and then cut it like a puzzle. See how fast they can put the puzzles together and recite the verse.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

**G: God's Word:** What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

**R: Relationships:** Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O: Outward Action:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

**W: Worship:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

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**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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## **Drama – The Scene**

Mordecai: Good morning, my dear Esther.

Esther: Hello, Uncle. Why are you calling me Esther?

Mordecai: The day the Babylonians came and attacked us and killed your parents, you stayed orphan. That day I saw you as beautiful as a star, very small and innocent, with eyes that shine like the brightest of stars. Since that day you have been my star.

Esther: It's amazing that almost 15 years have passed since my parents died.

Mordecai: Yes, it is true that time has flown and now you're a lady more beautiful than ever!

Esther: Uncle, listen! There is a lot of noise. What's going on?

Haman: The King sends a message announcing that in each province there will be pageants. Each lady who wins the contest will be taken to the palace for a year of preparation and then appear before the King. The King is looking for a queen, and one will be chosen from these ladies.

Mordecai: How exciting! My beautiful Esther, you win because you are the most beautiful of all the girls.

Esther: Uncle, you are so funny! I am just a girl – who could be a queen. I cannot imagine!

Mordecai: It may be that God has chosen you to occupy the throne.

## **The second scene:**

It is time for Esther to stand before the King.

Mordecai: You are beautiful!

Esther: Oh Uncle, I'm so nervous. After a year of preparation the time has come. The King chooses his queen today.

Mordecai: Remember that you won the contest here in this province and you can win again. Everyone thinks you're going to be chosen to be the queen.

Esther: I prayed for God to do his will. If God wants to use me in this position, I am ready to serve God.

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Haman: Miss Esther, it's time to stand before the King.

(All out) Exit  
(Between King Ahasuerus and Haman)

King Ahasuerus: There are so many beautiful ladies Haman. It will be very difficult to choose a queen.

Haman: The next lady is Miss Mariana.

King Ahasuerus: No, no! I think not.

Haman: Miss Esther ...

King Ahasuerus: What a beauty! So simple, but so beautiful. Esther will be my new queen.  
Haman, Ruth will be the Queen's personal assistant.

## **The third scene:**

Narrator: Mordecai, Esther's uncle, had a job with the government. He was sitting at the king's gate and heard many things.

(Mordecai enters – he overhears two officers talking about the King)

Officer 1: How infuriating! I've never been so insulted. The King makes me so angry – he should not be king!

Officer 2: What ... what happened? Why are you so angry?

Official 1: The King rejected my plan. I worked on that plan a long time. I can't stand it. I'll kill him!

Official 2: Let's make a plan in secret. Before the night passes the King will be dead!

Officer 1: Well said! Come, we will begin to plan our revenge.  
(Officers Exit)

Mordecai: They're going to kill the King. I must tell Esther about their plan to kill the king.

(Out Mordecai)

(In Ester)

Esther: What a beautiful life I have here in the palace. The King really loves me. I'm so happy!

(In Ruth)

Ruth: Esther! Esther! Mordecai has sent a scroll with the news that some officers are angry with

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the King and plan to kill him.

Esther: What!! I need to tell my husband the King right away! But I can't go to him. He must call me first. What am I going to do?

## **The fourth scene:**

Ruth: You must go. Even if the king gets angry and rejects you as queen, his life depends on it.

(In King Ahasuerus and Esther enters)

Esther: my dear husband, I know I should not come here if you have not you sent for me, but I have fear for your life.

King Ahasuerus: You are nervous, my Esther. What's wrong?

Esther: Mordecai, my uncle, overheard two officers talking about you. They are very angry with you because you did not accept their plan and now they want to kill you!

King Ahasuerus: If this is true, then these two officers will die before the sun sets. Haman!  
Haman!

(In Haman)

Haman: You called, your majesty?

King Ahasuerus: Go immediately to the soldiers to investigate whether it is true that there is a plot against my life.

(Out Haman and Esther)

(King stays and paces back and forth, he is very nervous)

(In Haman)

Haman: King, I researched and it is true there is a plot against his life. They are planning to kill you tonight. The two officers that are angry with you because you rejected their plan.

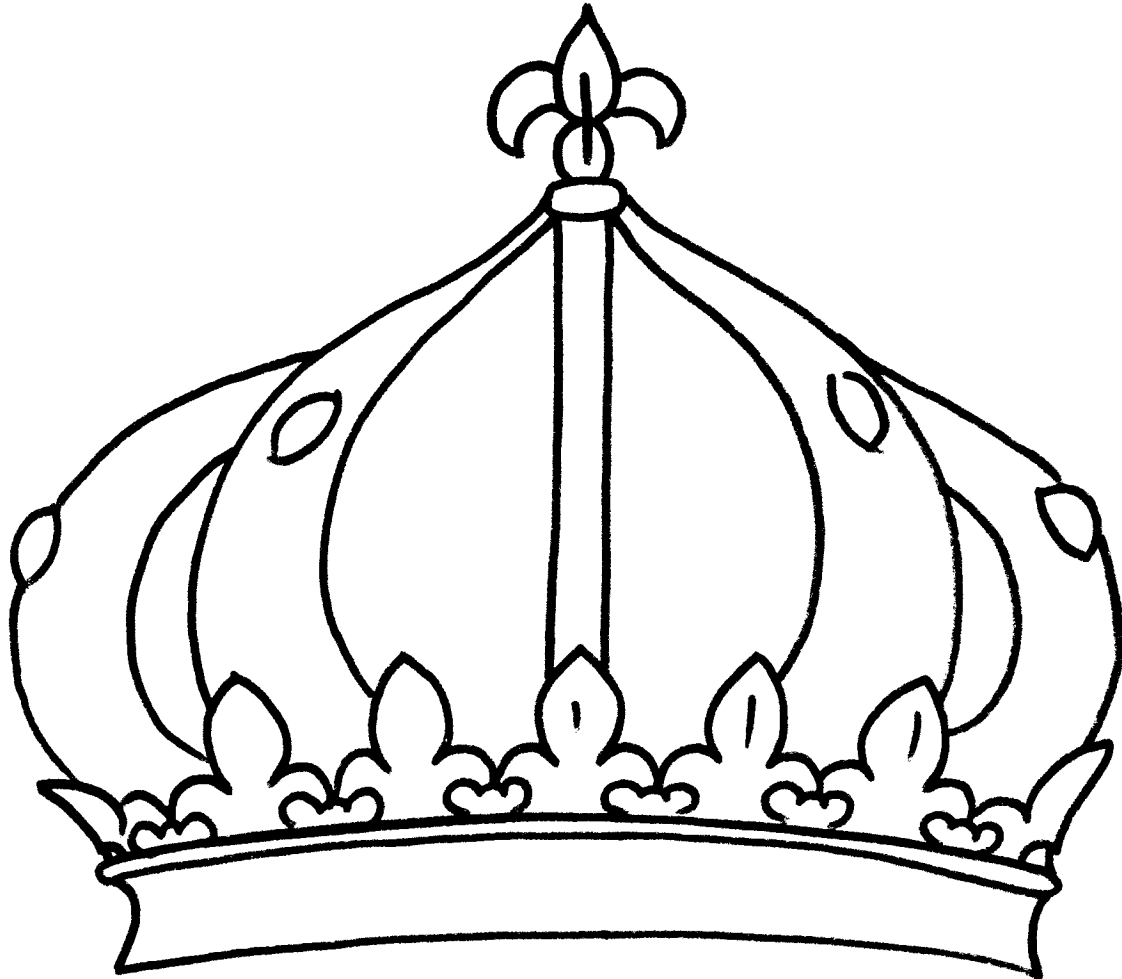
King Ahasuerus: Why is it that they want to kill me when I've been so fair to them?

Haman: They said you did not want to accept the plan they had presented.

King Ahasuerus: I can never trust them! Arrest them! Then have the scribes write in the official books, that a man named Mordecai saved my life because he warned me about this attack.

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VERSE - Color and then memorize the verse.



**"And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw" (Esther 2:15)**



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## CRAFT - ROLL

Materials: white paper (or parchment), markers, straws, glue, yarn

### Preparation:

1. Use this model to make the scroll.
2. Cut a sheet of paper in half.
3. Write the words: MORDECAI saved the life of the King!
4. Paste the ends of paper to the straws.
5. Tie yarn around the scroll after it is rolled up.

