

Adventures with GOD!

ESTHER (B.2.FALL.11)

Biblical Reference	Esther 3:1-6, 3:8-11, 3:13, 4:11, 4:15
Key Verse	Isaiah 41:10
Key Concept	If I put all my trust in God, I can overcome my fear.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge situations that cause fear. 2. Explain that being a brave follower of God doesn't mean we will never be afraid. 3. Recall how Esther felt when she was called by God to risk her life.

Life Application

Esther knew that God had put her in the king's court to save God's people. It would mean risking her life. Sometimes God puts us in situations where it is difficult to obey because we are afraid of what might happen to us. Today's lesson will remind children that God has promised to be careful when we put our trust in God and obey.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Copies of Word search	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Drama handout, situations that produce fear	20 minutes
Craft	Mordecai Sad Face, crayons, markers, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Activity	Sheets of Isaiah 41:10	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: When the children arrive have them work on the word search.

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 3:1-6, 3:8-11, 3:13, 4:11, 4:15 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.

Bible Exploration: Have the children perform the drama.

Ask: I wonder what kind of person Haman was? If Mordecai and Esther were listening (hand to ear, Trusting (hands over heart) and Obeying (Marching). Why do you think there were faced with dying?

Note: May need to explain that we may be brave followers of God but others are not and that can sometimes out us in dangerous situations.

Examine the handout "Situations that produce fear. Have children reflect on this sheet and then color it as you continue.

Ask: When have you been afraid?

Adventures with GOD!

Explain: Being a brave follower of God doesn't mean we will never be afraid. It's okay to admit we will never be afraid. It's okay to admit being afraid. Mordecai showed his fears and sadness to everyone. Most especially it's important to let God and those we love know what we are afraid of. Let's offer some of those things to God right now. Pray.

Important concepts of this lesson are:

1. God is with us even in difficult situations and will also take care.
2. Mordecai felt no shame in showing his sadness. We can also show what we are feeling without feeling humiliated.
3. God had a plan for the salvation of his people, but depended on the will of Esther and her obedience.

Craft: Hand each child the illustration "Portrait of Mordecai", you will find instructions needed to color Mordecai's face and then cut, and paste it on a paper plate.

Activity: Give students a copy of the key verse Isaiah 41:10. Invite children to act out situations that cause us to be afraid. Have the others try to guess what it is. After each one recite today's memory verse Isaiah 41:10.

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?

Adventures with GOD!

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

Adventures with GOD!

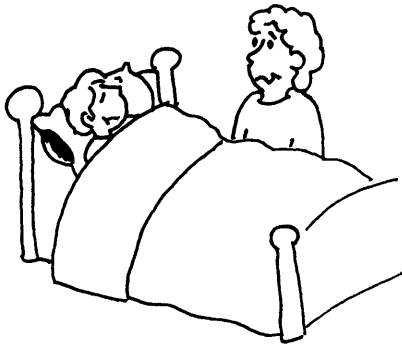
Isaiah 41:10

So do not be afraid.
I am with you. Do not
be afraid. I am your
God. I will make you
strong and help you. My
powerful right hand will
take good care of you.
I always do what is
right.

Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION

Situations that I produce fear



Adventures with GOD!

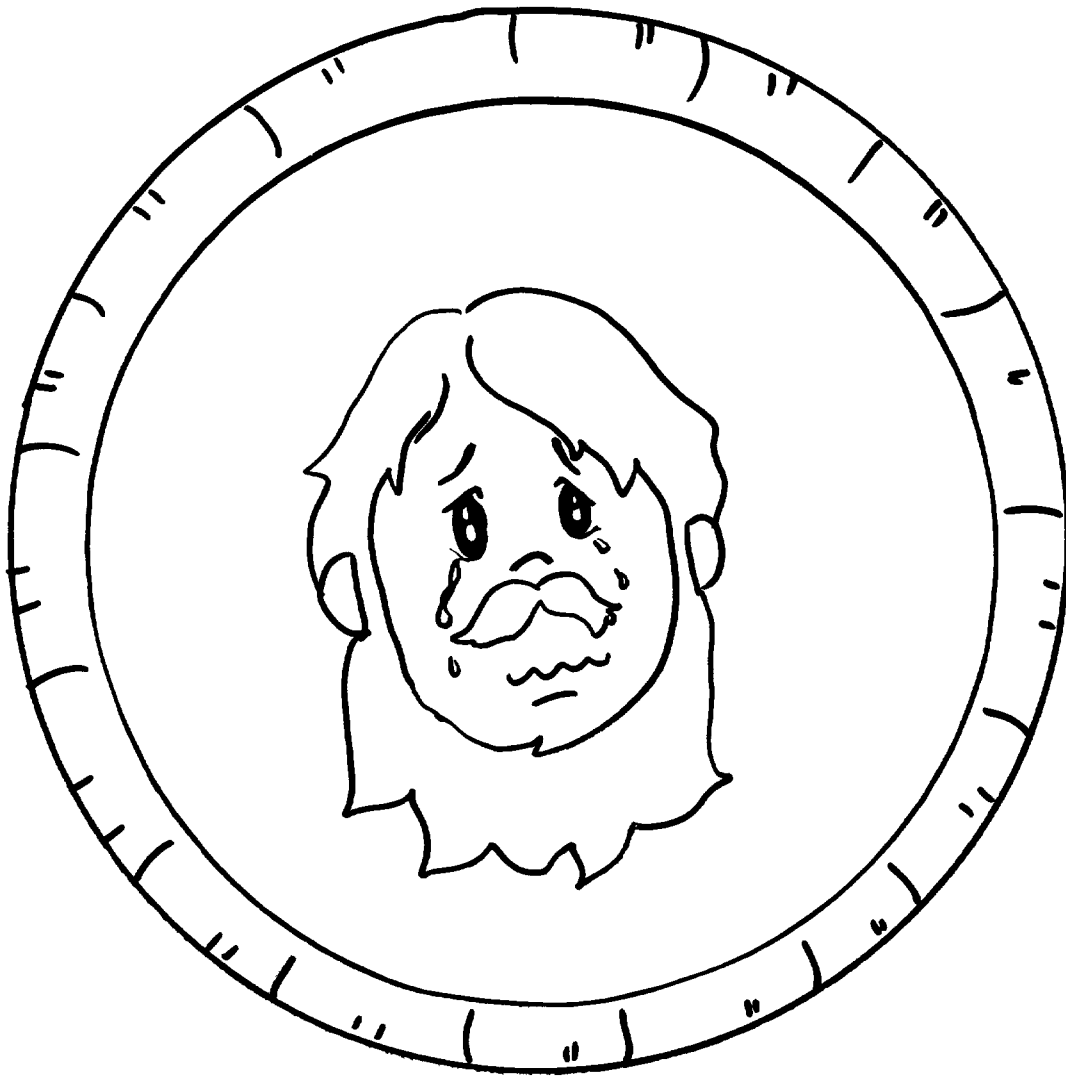
CRAFT

PORTRAIT OF MORDECAI

Materials: paper plate, markers, crayons, glue, scissors

Preparation:

1. Color Mordecai's sad face.
2. Cut and paste in center of paper plate.
3. Explain why Mordecai felt sad.



Adventures with GOD!

Worksheet - Word Search

Find the words.

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

AHASUERUS
JEWS
MORDECAI

ESTHER
KING
QUEEN

GOD
LOVE
UNCLE

Adventures with GOD!

WORKSHEET

ANSWERS: Word Search

+	+	+	+	I	A	C	E	D	R	O	M	K	G	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I	O	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	D	+
U	N	C	L	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	G	+	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Q	+	+	+	+	L	+
S	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	U	+	+	O	+	+
+	W	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	V	+	+	+
+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	E	+	+	+
+	+	+	J	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	R	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	H	+
A	H	A	S	U	E	R	U	S	+	+	+	+	T	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	S	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Adventures with GOD!

Drama

The fifth scene:

Narrator: Haman was the second in the kingdom. He was the favorite of the King. Everyone had to bow down to him whenever he passed. All did but the Jew Mordecai, Esther's cousin. Mordecai loved God and bowed to God alone. Haman was very proud man. He liked that everyone bowed down to him. When he saw that Mordecai did not bow, Haman was angry.

(Enter Haman and Mordecai. Haman and Mordecai come forward and Mordecai does not bow)

Haman: You know you have to bow before me when I walk by but you stand there like a blind fool.

Mordecai: I only give honor to the living God and I bow to no man.

Haman: Wait! I want you to see what happens to those who do not bow down before me.

(Out Mordecai)

Haman: I have a great plan to get rid of Mordecai and his people.

(Out Haman, after the King and Haman come)

Haman: Good King, there are people living all over the kingdom. Some of these people have different laws, and do not obey the laws of our country. Let us destroy them. I will offer to pay you 25 million to destroy them.

Ahasuerus: Very well, I accept your offer of 25 million dollars. Do with the Jews whatever you please. When you have a written plan and bring it to me. I will use my ring to seal it. No one ... not even myself ... will be able to change this law.

Haman: (laughing a lot) Finally, I will not have to walk past Mordecai without seeing him bow before me. Now Mordecai and his people cannot escape death. (Laughing again) Now this fool will understand that I have the power!

(Haman comes out again with the law in his hand - reading it. At this point Ruth enters and listens)

Haman: I'm here to announce the new law of the King. This law says to destroy and kill all Jews, both young and old, little children and women. The King has sealed it with his ring and no one can change it.

Ruth: (crying) My poor Queen Esther. She is Jewish. How will you escape death?

Adventures with GOD!

The sixth scene:

Narrator: When the Jews heard of the news of law, there was great sadness. Many threw their clothes in a fire as a sign of sorrow. Mordecai went to the door of the King. But this time he could not get in because it was against the law to enter the palace. Esther's servants saw him, and told him to put on new rich clothes to take off the clothes he had on but he refused. Esther asked what was happening because she did not know of the new law. Nobody had warned Esther.

(Between Ruth and Esther)

Ruth: Esther, Esther! Mordecai will not wear the clothes you sent him. Haman paid money to the King to have all the Jews killed. Here is a copy of the law that says that they will kill all the Jews ... women, children and men.

Esther: What! You mean they are going to kill me, too. And the King signed the law with his ring, so there is no way to changing it.

Ruth Mordecai commanded to tell you that the only way that Jews can be saved is if you go before the king to ask for mercy.

Esther: But that's impossible! I need to speak with the King. But If I go to the King without being called, he will not accept and I will die. The King has not called me in thirty days.

Ruth: I'll call a servant, they can explain this to Mordecai.

(Leave Ruth and Esther) (Enter Ruth and Mordecai)

Ruth: Mordecai, I have an urgent message from Esther. She said that King has not called her for 30 days and if she goes to see without being called and the King does not accept - she will die.

Mordecai: Tell Esther she cannot escape from this tragedy as she is Queen. If she is silent, the Jews will die. Perhaps, God has put Esther in the court to save her people. Tell her to go to the King, and to trust in the Lord.

(Out Mordecai and Ruth) (Enter Ruth and Esther)

Ruth: Esther, Mordecai sends a message – you will have to risk your life and God will help you.

Esther realizes there seems to be no other solution but than to go to the King. And if he kills her, it is the will of God. Mordecai commanded all the Jews to gather together for prayer and fasting. They will all fast and pray too. And after three days, I will come before the King. And if he kills me, it is God's will.

Adventures with GOD!

(Out Ruth)

Esther prays: O Lord, you know that I trust you and if you want to use me to save my Jewish people, I'm ready. I am your servant.

(Out Ester)