

Adventures with GOD!

ESTHER (B.2.FALL.12)

Biblical Reference	Esther 5:1-3, 7:3-6
Key Verse	Isaiah 41:10
Key Concept	If I trust God, I know that in every situation he will be my protection.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of Esther. 2. Say the names of brave followers of God studied in the quarter. 3. Reciting the 3 parts of being a brave follower of God.

Life Application

This is the final session on Esther when she faces the King – uncertain whether she will be able to help her people or be killed. In our Christian life, we will deal with situations involving risks (give a few examples). When we decided to do what pleases God, He will give us courage, defend us and help us to live as brave followers.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Copy of worksheets	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	individual sheets, crayons	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Drama papers, markers	20 minutes
Craft – Scepter	Wood sticks, small cups, construction paper, markers	10 minutes
Activity 1 & 2	copies of Individual sheets	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: Today could start working on the worksheet “Esther and King Ahasuerus”. First you must find the wrong things and then color the illustrations. You can ask each child what they remember from previous weeks. Note: If you decide to go through the entire drama as a review, you will need the scripts from sessions 10 & 11 as well as those for this session.

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 5:1-3, 7:3-6 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: Begin with the final segment of the drama. If time allows you might want to go through the whole drama using the scripts from 10 & 11.

Ask: I wonder how Esther felt as she stood before the King – not knowing if he would hold out the golden scepter or have her killed?

I wonder why the King was surprised when Esther told him that she and her people were to be killed?

Can you name times when Esther listened to God (hands to ear), Trusted God (and to heart) and Obeyed God (Marching)?

Draw a picture of how you will listen to God this week. Draw a picture of how you will obey God this week.

In advance, do one or more scenes from the story using figures. Have them tell the story in their own words or read the story from a Children’s Bible.

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As we are finishing this quarter, it would be interesting to discuss the three key words: hearing (ears), trust (heart) and obey (feet) use motions.

Craft: Make a scepter using a stick and a plastic cup. Put your imagination to use and share the idea with the children so that they do. It would be good to use when they finish their crowns (last week) and scepters to simulate that children are brave followers in God's Kingdom. Write the words Listen, Trust and Obey on the cup.

Activity 1: Invite the children to cut the puzzle apart and put the secret message in the right order.

Activity 2: While lifting up their scripts, have the children say Isaiah 41:10 together. Followed by Listen! Trust! Obey!

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?

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 seventh scene:

Narrator: For three days, the Jews fasted and prayed. Esther put on her dress but her heart was beating fast. She went to the courtyard and knocked in front of the King's door. When the King opened the door, he was surprised.

(In the King Ahasuerus) (In Esther and the King accepts her visits)

King Ahasuerus: What is it Queen Esther? What is your request?

Esther: Thanks for accepting me: my King, my husband. I came to invite you to a special feast I have planned for tomorrow at noon. I want you to come and bring Haman with you

King: Thank you! I accept and will notify Haman too.

(Out Ester)

King Ahasuerus: Why has Esther risked her life to invite me to a banquet? There must be something she wants to tell me. Anyway, I'll get ready for the banquet.

Narrator: It is the next day and the time has come for this grand feast.

(Enter the King, Haman and Esther)

Haman: Lots of Food! It must be something very important.

Esther: Thank you for accepting my invitation.

King Ahasuerus: Queen Esther, I can hardly wait to eat and I think there is something you to tell me.

Esther: There's something I want to ask you. Can you come to a banquet tomorrow?

King Ahasuerus: But why so many banquets? All I want to know is what's bothering you?

Esther: Oh King, please come tomorrow to the banquet that I have planned and I promise to tell you what I have to say.

(Leave the King and Esther)

Haman: What joy! I'm so important that the Queen invited me to the King's banquet. Surely someday I'll be the king of this country.

Haman: I guess I'll try to enjoy myself at this banquet tomorrow and have some fun with the King and Queen. I will not be happy until I see Mordecai gone.

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(Out Haman)

The eight scene:

Narrator: God was watching over Mordecai. King Ahasuerus has trouble sleeping tonight.

King Ahasuerus: Servant! Bring the memoir and read it to me. I'm having trouble sleeping.

Servant: Yes your Majesty, I will look for it.

King Ahasuerus: I do not know what's going on but I can't sleep well.

(Servant enters and begins to read)

Servant: In the seventh month, two officers were angry with His Majesty and they had a plot to kill him. An officer called Mordecai told us about the plot and before they carried out their plan. The King ordered to have the two officers arrested.

King Ahasuerus: What has been done to honor Mordecai for this act?

Servant: Nothing

King Ahasuerus: What big mistake! Anyone who tries to protect my life should be honored. Who is out in the courtyard?

Servant: Haman, your Majesty.

King Ahasuerus: Tell him to come and see me.

(In Haman)

King Ahasuerus: Haman, what will be done for the man who saved the King's life?

Narrator: Haman thought to himself: "Who is he talking about?"

Haman: This person should ride the horse of the King. The King crowns him and we can walk around the city shouting: This is the man whom the King honors!

King Ahasuerus: Excellent idea! Go and get Mordecai.

(Out King)

Haman: What! How I can endure this shame? Now, more than ever I want see Mordecai gone!

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Narrator: Haman had fallen into his own trap. He had to obey the King. Haman had to carry Mordecai on the horse of the King, while wearing the clothes and crown of the King. And shouting "This is the man whom the King honors". He went home sad.

The ninth scene:

Narrator: At the banquet the King asked Esther for the third time "What did she want to ask him?"

King Ahasuerus: What is your question, Queen Esther? And I will grant it.

Esther: Oh King, if you love me, I ask for my life and the lives of my people because we are to be killed or be slaves.

King Ahasuerus: I do not understand. Who has done this?

Narrator: Haman was terribly frightened. The King stood up angrily and left the banquet into the garden.

(Out Haman and Esther enters the King)

King Ahasuerus: How can I trust in Haman? My beautiful Queen is among the doomed Jews and its Haman's fault.

(Esther and Haman come again)

Esther: My King, Haman is planning to hurt Mordecai.

King Ahasuerus: Then Haman will suffer.

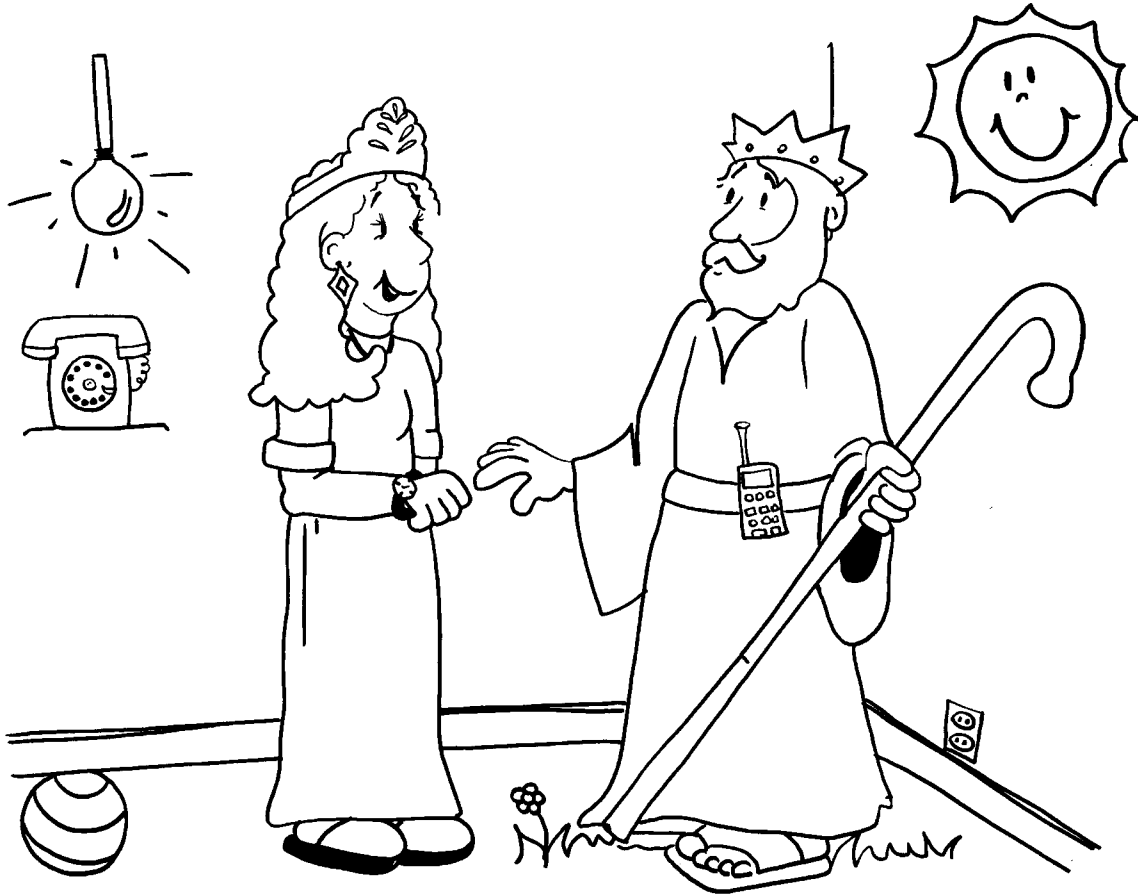
Narrator: Esther told the king that was her Uncle Mordecai, was the man who raised her. They wanted to change the law, but could not because the law was sealed with the King's ring and could not be changed. But the King gave the ring to Haman, and he made the new law, by sealing it with the ring. The King did not give permission. A new message from the kingdom was urgently sent everywhere. When it became known that the Jew Mordecai had become great and the beautiful Queen and Mordecai were related. Haman was paid for his mistake and the Jews were happy. And that terrible day turned into a great day of victory.

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Worksheet

Esther and King Ahasuerus

How many wrong things can you find?



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PUZZLE

Make a copy for each child and have them cut the puzzle. Use heavy paper or cardboard if possible (you laminate for future use). This puzzle has a secret message.

