

# Adventures with GOD!

## ESTHER, THE ACTIONS OF A TRUE HERO (C.3.FALL.11)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Biblical Reference     | Portions from the book of Esther  |
| Key Verse              | Psalm 40:8-9  |
| Key Concept            | A true hero cares about the well-being of others.   |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the significant events in Esther's life</li> <li>2. Explain the significance of the memory verse for their lives</li> <li>3. Describe how God was present in Esther's life, even when God is not mentioned in the book of Esther</li> </ol> |

### LIFE APPLICATION:

A person is considered a hero when they act just at the right time, sometimes in the face of danger, while other people may not react or simply standby watching. A true hero in God's kingdom doesn't necessarily have to physically save someone's life, but there are other ways that God uses us to help people in need. We are able to offer love, support, food to the hungry, and the good news of Jesus to those around us. In the story of Esther we see how she acts out of concern and care for others.

### Possible activities and class plan

| Activity          | Materials                      | Time       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| My GROW adventure | GROW Adventure w/God materials | 5 minutes  |
| Opening prayer    | Candle                         | 1 minute   |
| Bible Reading     | Bible                          | 5 minutes  |
| Group work        | Questions, paper, markers      | 10 minutes |
| Bible exploration | See instructions               | 20 minutes |
| Activity          |                                | 5 minutes  |
| Project           | See instructions               | 10 minutes |
| My GROW adventure | Review                         | 5 minutes  |
| Closing prayer    | Candle                         | 1 minute   |



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## Instructions

**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:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do so 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 biblical reference for the day (Esther 4:12-17) two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

**Group work:** Divide the class into groups and give each group a large sheet of paper and markers. They will use the information that you provide on the board to do this activity. Have each group share their answers and make a compilation of the answers, writing them on the board.

**Bible exploration:** The story of Esther is found in the book of Esther. For today's story the children will work in groups to tell the story together. Each group will be responsible for looking up the Bible reference and then acting out or telling what happened in their own words.

Group 1 – Esther is made queen (Esther 2: 7-17)

Group 2 – Esther decides to risk her life and save the Jews (Esther 4:1-17)

Group 3 – Esther saves the Jews from destruction (Esther 7:1-8, 8:5-8)



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After each group has presented their portion of the story, talk about the courage of Esther and how it is evident that God was with her. What do they think about what she did? Would they be willing to step up in defense of someone else? How do we show courage? What are times that God wants us to step up and act on behalf of someone else? Read Psalm 40:8-9 together and ask them what that verse means for their lives.

**Activity:** If there is time give each child a copy of the activity sheet, "The actions of a hero." If there is not time to do it in class, invite them to take it home.

**Project:** Finish up the projects, adding the story of Esther.

## **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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## GROUP ACTIVITY QUESTIONS

Have large pieces of paper and markers ready for each group. Have the following questions written on the board for everyone to see. In groups have them work together to answer the questions. At the end have each group share their answers with the rest of the children.

### **WHEN THEY ARE INTERVIEWED BY REPORTERS, WHAT DO “HEROES” SAY MANY TIMES AFTER HELPING SOMEONE OR SAVING SOMEONE?**

Possible answers: "I'm sure someone else would have done the same thing".  
"It just happened and I was in the right place at the right time".

### **HOW DO YOU DEFINE THE WORD “COURAGE”?**

Possible answers: bravery, no fear, strength

### **DO TRUE HEROES HAVE COURAGE? HOW DO WE SEE IT IN THEM?**

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## ACTIVITY SHEET ACTIONS OF A HERO

Reflecting on the story of Esther, answer the following questions:

What type of person was Esther?

What were her ambitions?

What were her strengths and weaknesses?

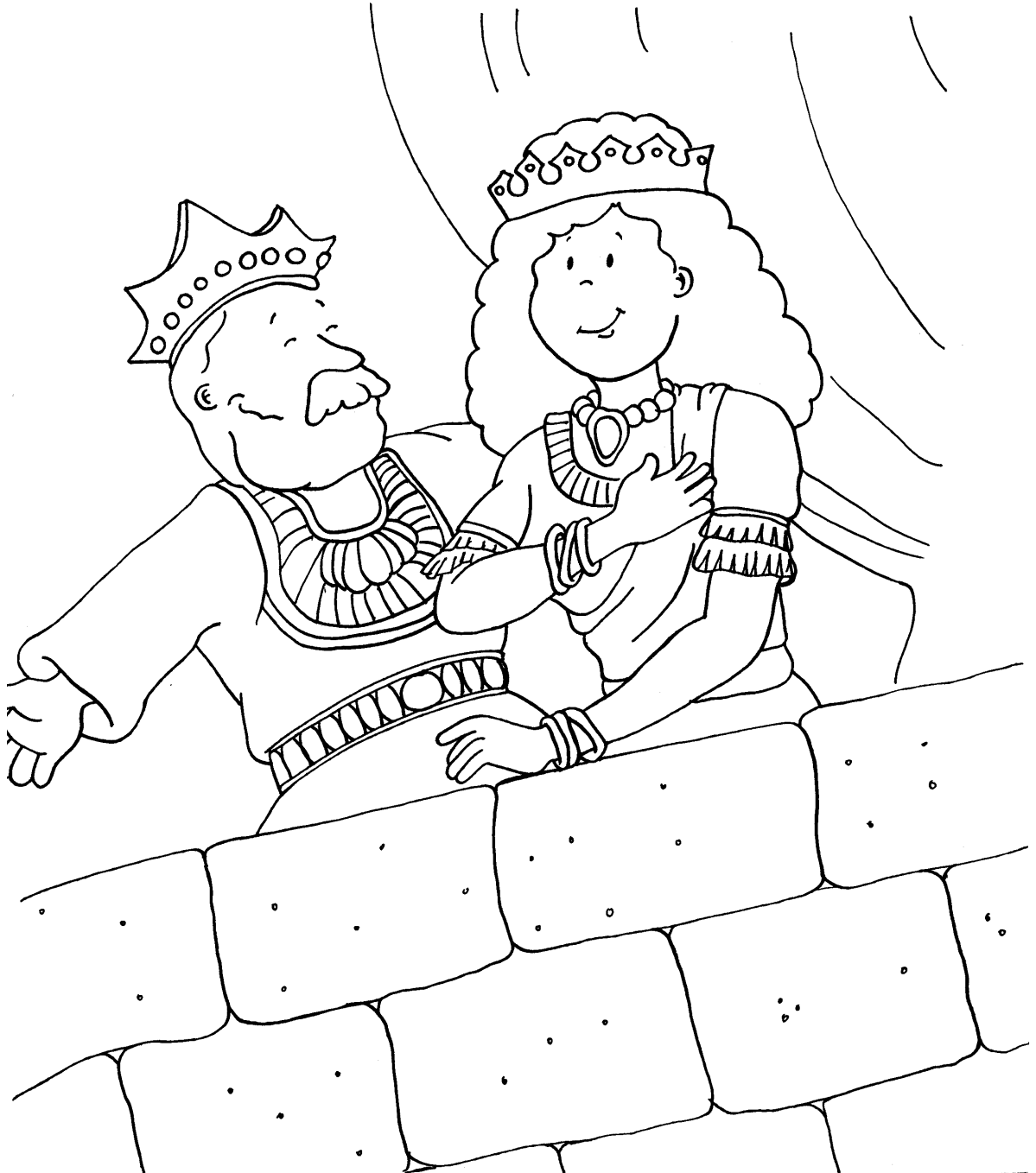
What crucial moment showed her true character?

What can you learn from her that can help you in those crucial moments when you need to be the person who steps up at just the right moment?



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ILLUSTRATION  
ESTHER AND XERXES



The Evangelical Covenant Church

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ILLUSTRATION  
ESTHER AND MORDECAI



# Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION  
MORDECAI AND HAMAN

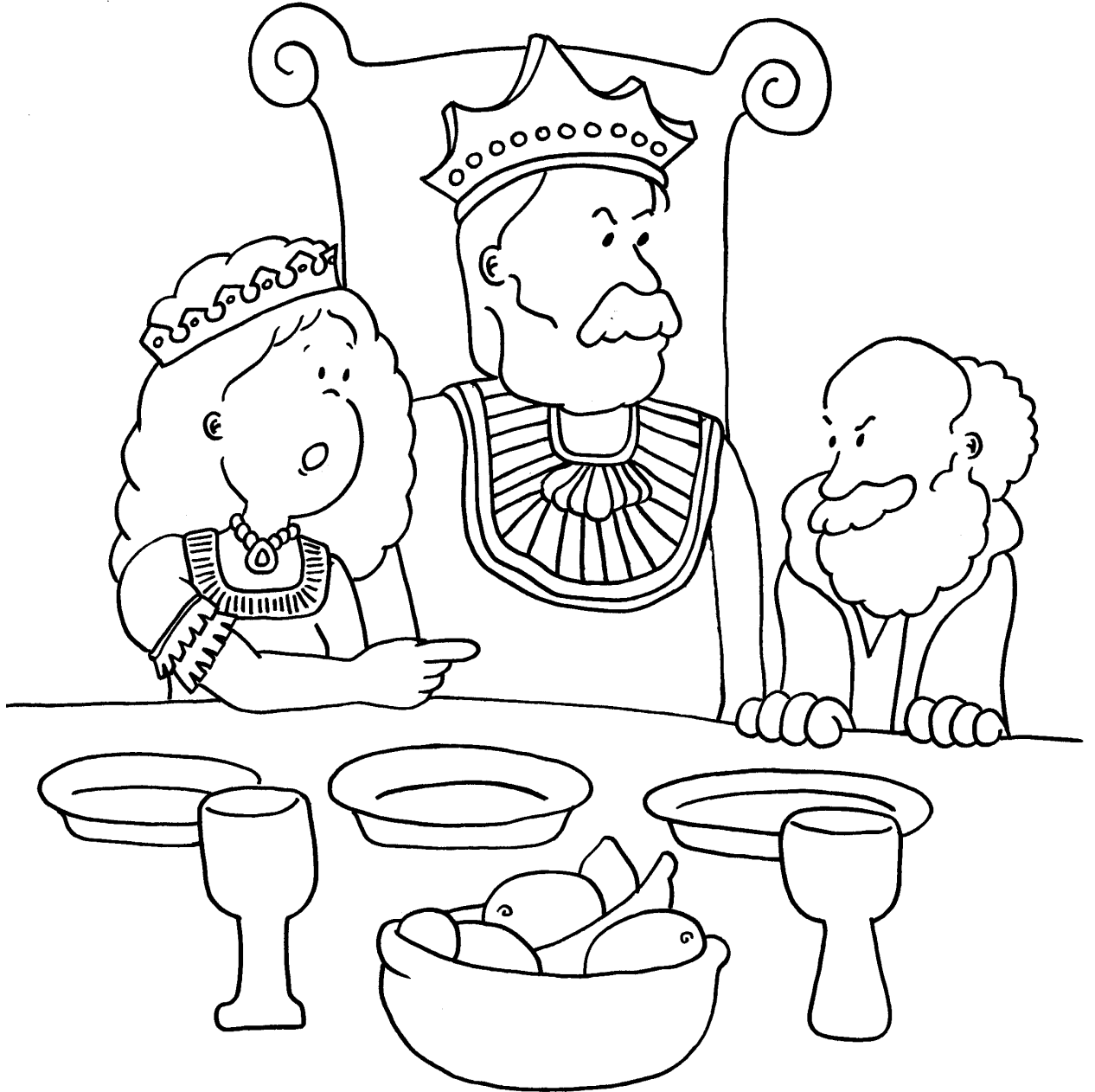




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ILLUSTRATION

QUEEN ESTHER ACCUSING HAMAN



The Evangelical Covenant Church