



# 3PK

September 21-22, 2013

DATE

Esther

LESSON TITLE

Esther

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Has A Plan for us

MAIN POINT

## schedule

### **SCHEDULE for all sites:**

First 10 minutes of the service hour:  
Relationship-building time (kids get to know each other and the volunteers)

Next 25 minutes: Large group teaching and worship

Last 30 minutes: Story review, snack and small groups, activities/crafts

If you finish early, have kids engage group games as parents arrive. Check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

## tips

Have activities ready for kids when they arrive. Place **coloring pages** and **crayons** on the table. Help kids engage in other activities like playing with a truck or baby doll. Use this time to get to know the kids individually. Ask them questions like: "Who brings you to church?", "What's your favorite...", etc.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why they made a crown.

## large group heads up

Today, we're talking about how God had a very special plan for Esther—and how he has a very special plan for us!



## instructions

**Goal:** to help kids review today's story and personalize God's love for them

**Why?** This story reminds us of how God has a plan for each of us. We want kids to start personalizing that at a young age!

**Tip:** Repetition is really important for kids. Keep reviewing the story while kids work on their crowns.

## small group

*\*Serve kids a snack as you review the story:*

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. Who was queen in today's story? (Esther)
2. Why was God's family in trouble? (a mean man made a law that they had to die)
3. What was God's special plan for Esther? (she saved God's family when they were in trouble)
4. How did Esther bravely follow God's plan? (she talked to the king, even though she could die; she asked the king to two dinners and told him about the mean man's law)
5. What did the king do when he heard about the law? (he changed it so that God's family could live)
6. Who else did God have a special plan for? (Spend some time on this question; have kids say "God has a special plan for \_\_\_\_\_ [their name].")

### ACTIVITY

We're going to make crowns to remind us of Queen Esther's story. But WE get to wear these crowns to remind us that God has a plan for US just like he had a plan for Queen Esther.

- Give each kid a **crown**
- Let them **color/decorate**
- Help them put it on

As kids work, keep reminding them that God had a plan for Queen Esther and God has a plan for *them*!

**\*Pray together and thank God that he has a plan for everyone.**

(Continue on the following page)

*Extra time? Practice following God's plans by playing Follow the Leader: Walk around the room in a variety of ways--on your heels, on your toes, forward, backward, quickly, slowly, left, right, standing tall, bent over, arms in front, arms behind, hands on head, hands on toes, with a partner, alone in a line, in a curved line, etc.! You can lead or choose kids to be leaders. And to mix things up, add music.*

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# LARGE group

## special notes

Each section has an interactive component. Feel free to add/adapt interactive elements to fit your group!

## presenter tips

Make sure you use lots of eye contact and muster as much energy as possible as you present. Kids love it when you act silly and over-the-top, so go for it. They'll love it and it will help the lesson to stick.

## script

**Presenter:** Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend HOPS. She's going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make today in Kids' Club.

**Video: HOPS 1 Have Fun!** (*about 1 minute*)

Wow, I can't wait to have some fun in Kids' Club today. Before we hear our story, can I see a big thumbs up from everybody who's ready to have some fun? (Let kids respond.) Great job! Now I think we're ready to hear God's story.

### REVIEW

**Presenter:** (Hold up the **Bible** for kids to see.) This is where we can read about God's story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. It's God's rescue plan.

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? The world was perfect! Give me a smile! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.) But THEN, something bad happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sadness and death came into the world... Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.) This was *really* sad.

But even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God... God loved them anyway! And he planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve—and you and me—can be close to God again.

### INTRO: ESTHER

Well, God started building a great big family for the Rescuer to be born into! But the problem was, his family got into some trouble. So God had to help his family get out of trouble. Today, we're going to hear the story of how God helped a girl named Esther save God's whole family! Can you guys say, "Esther?" (Let kids say: Esther.)



## script continued

**(Show picture of Persia.)** Esther was a girl growing up in a place called Persia. Look at this picture and just imagine what it would have felt like to grow up here. It probably got pretty hot (fan your face). It was dry and dusty. (Pretend to cough.) But it was Esther's home. And raise your hand if you're a girl (let girls raise their hands). Guess what? Esther was a girl like you!

Now, Esther's parents died when she was a kid, so she grew up with her cousin, a guy named Mordecai. Can you guys say, "Mordecai?" (Let kids say: Mordecai.) Good job! Mordecai and Esther were part of God's special family! And God had a very special plan for Esther, just like God has a very special plan for each of you—girls *and* boys!

### **ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN**

When Esther got a little bit older, the King of Persia needed a new wife. He decided he liked Esther the best out of *all* the other ladies in the land—so he married her! Now, what do we call a lady who's married to the king? (Let kids say: queen.) Yes! Esther became the queen! **(Put on the crown.)**

### **GOD'S FAMILY GETS IN TROUBLE**

Just about the time Esther became the queen though, God's family got into some trouble. See, a very mean man made a law that all of God's family had to *die*. Everybody make your meanest, scariest face. (Lead kids in scowling; maybe even add a "grrrr.")

Mordecai and Esther heard about the news and they felt sad! Mordecai got on his knees and cried. Now everybody, get on your knees and pretend to cry. (Lead the kids in some dramatic fake crying; **use a Kleenex.**) They didn't want God's family to die. And they didn't want to die either! OK, now you can sit back down.

### **GOD HAS A PLAN FOR ESTHER**

The good news is, God had a plan. And Esther got to be a part of it! Mordecai stopped crying and told Esther that, as the queen, she might be able to save God's family! He told her to talk to the king. But this was scary, because the king got angry a lot. Sometimes he even killed people. If Esther talked to him, he might hurt her...

But Esther decided that she could be *strong* and *courageous* because God had a plan for her. Everybody flex your muscles and say, "Be strong!" (Let kids flex and say: be strong.) Great job! Queen Esther went bravely in to visit the king. She probably held her breath (hold you breath), wondering if he would help her or hurt her.

### **GOD SAVES HIS FAMILY**

Well, guess what? The king helped! He said he would do whatever Esther wanted. She made him two nice dinners on two different nights. At the second one, she told him about the mean man who made a law to get rid of God's family. Esther asked the king to save God's family instead!

Give me a thumbs up if you think the king said, "Yes." (Let kids give thumbs up.) Yep, he said he would make a new law to **SAVE** God's family! Woohoo! That's some great news! Everybody say, "Hooray!" (Let kids say: Hooray!)



script continued

### **GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US TOO**

Esther was a part of God's family and God had a special plan for her. But we don't have to be kings and queens to do God's plans. (**Get out the mirror.**) God has a special plan for each and every one of YOU. (Start walking through the crowd.) Everybody say, "God has a plan for me!" and point to yourself. (Let kids say: God has a plan for me.)

Good job! Let's pray and thank God that he has a plan for us. (Pray together, breaking it into small, repeatable phrases.)

Pray: Hi God! Thanks that you had a plan for Esther. Thanks that you have a plan for me. I love you. Aaaaaa-MEN.

### **WORSHIP**

Now let's stand up! (Let kids stand.) Let's dance and sing to thank God for having a plan for us. Our first song will remind us to be strong and courageous, just like Esther.

**Song: Be Strong**

**Song: Trust in the Lord**

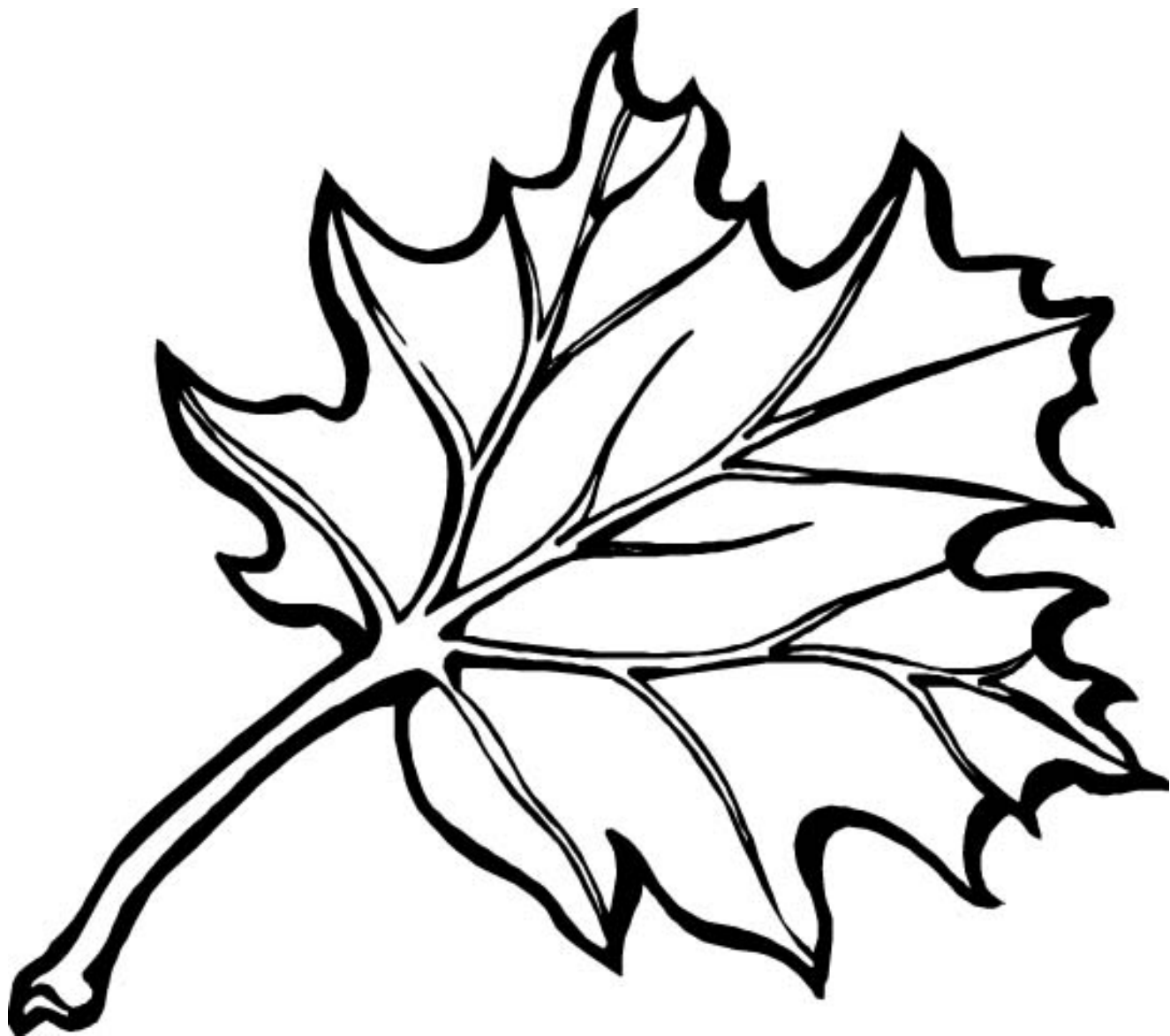
Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop to their groups.)



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## small group supplies

- Coloring pages: Leaf
- Markers / Crayons
- 1 crown per kid: OT:IN-57/6026
- an assortment of stickers (anything to decorate!)

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## large group supplies

- Bible
- Crown
- Kleenex
- Large mirror

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## a/v needs

1. Video: HOPS 1 Have Fun!
2. Image: Persia (jpeg in curriculum folder)
3. Song: Be Strong
4. Song: Trust in the Lord

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## special room set-up

None needed

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## connect questions

- Tell me about Esther.
- What was God's special plan for Esther?

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## parent page

Today, we learned about how God had a very special plan for Esther: to become queen and save God's family! The best part? God has a very special plan for each of us! Read Queen Esther's story in the Bible to learn all about what happened. She has her own book of the Bible, right between Nehemiah and Job.