



3rd – 5th

November 15-16, 2014

DATE

Esther

LESSON TITLE

Esther; Philippians 4:6
Adventure Bible (pp. 561, 1306)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God gives us courage for any situation.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Connect Time has an activity with instructions. Watch the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEKsyulKrBI to see the instructions in action. And practice before kids arrive!

It's a pretty important activity, so if you need to take extra time on the front end of the hour, that's OK!

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to tell their parents not only what they made but also why they made it!

large group heads up

Today's story is all about Esther. It's a great picture of how God gave Esther the courage she needed to face a seemingly impossible situation. And he will equip us to face anything in our lives, too!



connect time

Goal: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

MAKE AN "IMPOSSIBLE BLANCER"

You may want to practice this before the kids arrive (also, each group has a **sample-but don't give it away. Other services will need them).*

- Give kids a **popsicle stick** and ask them to try to balance it on their finger (length-wise, so that it stands tall on their finger; this should be impossible).
- Then give them a **pipe cleaner** and **two washers**. Tell them we're going to make this impossible balancing act...possible! Here's how (also see video on pg. 1 in "Tips" section):

- **Step 1:** Lay the popsicle stick flat on the table, lengthwise, and put the pipe cleaner over it, perpendicular to one end



- **Step 2:** Wrap the left side once around the popsicle stick until it sticks back out to the left; do the same thing to the right side



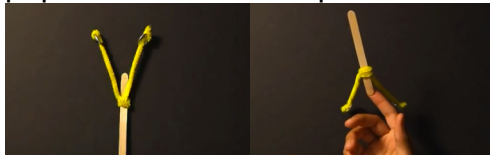
- **Step 3:** Pull up the two sides; twist them together three times, then flatten them out so they lay perpendicular to the popsicle stick again



- **Step 4:** Loop a washer to one end of the pipe cleaner; loop the other washer to the other end of the pipe cleaner (see below)



- **Step 5:** Raise both sides so that they make a thin "v" at the top of the popsicle stick. Then flip it over and balance!



- While kids balance, let them share the best and worst parts of their week.

***HAVE KIDS LEAVE IMPOSSIBLE BALANCERS IN THE SMALL GROUP AREA**

Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) recall the ways Esther faced hard situations, (2) recognize that God helped Esther face them and (3) understand that God will equip them to face anything, too.

Why: God actually allowed Esther to be queen because he wanted to use her to save his family. Sometimes, we face really tough things but God wants to use us in the midst of them, too!

Tip: Some kids may be facing really hard stuff. Let them talk if they want (and if it's appropriate) but don't push them to share.

small group

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER:

***Pass around a beanbag to the person who's speaking. Each group member should be prepared to hold the beanbag and answer questions.**

1. What impossible situations did Esther face? (List all you can think of)
2. How did Esther face those situations? (Share different ways)
3. How can we face impossible situations?
4. How do you think God might want to use you in a tough situation, like he used Esther?
5. Read **Philippians 4:6** in the Bible (p. 1306 in the Adventure Bible). Say it out loud a couple times.

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

- Each kid should have his/her "impossible balancer" back.
- Have kids think of ONE word to describe a situation they are facing right now that feels impossible (*If they don't have one, that's OK. Tell them they can think of something hard they've had to do in the past. Or they can even just use the word "impossible."*)
- In **marker**, write that one word on the popsicle stick.
- They can take this home to remember that when something is impossible, God will give us what we need to face it!

***Pray, asking God to help each kid with tough situations this week.**

PICTIONARY REVIEW!

If you have more time, play Pictionary with the **white board** and **dry erase marker!** (use paper if your room doesn't have white boards).

- Split your group into two teams

- Team 1 chooses an artist; Team 2 tells the artist what to draw. It should be a *character* or *scene* from today's story. Make sure Team 1 can't hear what is said.
- Team 1's artist draws while the rest of Team 1 guesses. They have 60 seconds to guess correctly (you can use the **stopwatch**)
- Keep playing until kids are picked up!
- Here are some ideas for characters/scenes:
 - Esther
 - Mordecai
 - Haman
 - The King
 - Esther at the banquet
 - God's family safe!
 - Mordecai crying when he finds out about the law
 - Esther and Mordecai talking about what to do
 - Etc.!

special notes

Make sure you watch today's video (God's Story: Esther) so that you're familiar with the story and can help kids respond to it. You can find it on CrossroadsKidsClub.net/weekend.

presenter tips

You have the opportunity to be really open and authentic with kids today. Pray about how the Holy Spirit may want to use part of your story to transform kids' lives.

script

*Click to play intro music

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm so happy to see you here today. You guys did something pretty cool during Connect Time. First, it looked like you all tried to balance a popsicle stick on your finger...did anybody do it? (Let kids respond.) OK, so it pretty much seemed impossible, right?

But then your leader gave you a pipe cleaner and two washers...and what happened? (Let a kids explain.) That's right, they gave you what you needed to make it possible to balance a popsicle stick on the tip of your finger! I can't really explain how it worked exactly, but how many of you could balance the popsicle stick on one end *after* you added the pipe cleaner and washers? (Let kids respond.) Wow, a lot more of you!

Now, nobody in here is probably ever going to be in a situation that requires us to balance a popsicle stick on a finger. But all of us face situations that seem impossible sometimes. For example, *(Insert a personal example of situation you've faced that has felt impossible; don't give them the solution, just state the problem but in a kid-friendly way! Ideas: a huge expense you didn't think you had enough money for, losing someone you care about and feeling really sad about it, etc.)*

Close your eyes for a second and think about what obstacles you face. Think about where you live, the school you attend (even if it's homeschool) and the teachers you have, the people you see every day or every week. (Pause.) Try to imagine one situation that seems impossible. Go ahead and open your eyes. You need something to face that situation, don't you?

INTRO: ESTHER

Now I'm going to tell you about a girl named Esther. She was born into God's family. Great, huh? She lived in a place called Persia (**show picture of Persia**), which today is called Iran, a



script continued

country in the Middle East. When Esther was a little girl, her parents died. So Esther's older cousin, named Mordecai, took care of her. They lived a regular life in Persia.

One day, the king of Persia got really, really angry at his wife, Queen Vashti. In fact, he got so mad that he had her killed. He needed a new queen and he ended up choosing Esther. That might seem pretty good, but remember how scary the king could be. If Esther upset him at all, he could have her killed.

About that same time, Mordecai made an awful man named Haman angry. So Haman convinced the king to make a law that God's whole family...had to die. That meant Esther and Mordecai. And remember, the king wasn't the kind of guy you could just ask to change his mind.

ESTHER SAVES GOD'S FAMILY

So we're going to watch a video about Esther and what happened after Haman got the king to make a law that God's family would have to die. As you watch, see if you can figure out what impossible situations Esther faced...and what she did about them.

God's Story: Esther (video in progress; script in folder on server)

Wow, so what impossible situations did Esther face? Everybody think of one in your head. When you've got one, hold up one finger (let kids respond). Great! **Now, stand up, find someone you don't know and tell them one impossible situation Esther faced.** Then sit back down (let kids follow instructions). So what kind of situations did Esther face? (Let kids share.)

That's right. And how did Esther face this impossible situation? *(Let kids respond. They may say a variety of things because the video does not explicitly say that Esther had courage or asked God what to do. Summarize their answers.)* That's right, she just did her best with courage. And remember, Esther faced something pretty tough: changing the king's mind and saving God's entire family!

But even though it seemed impossible, she knew she had to try. And God gave her the courage and ideas to make it possible! In fact, when Esther wasn't sure if she should talk to the king, Mordecai said this to Esther:

SLIDE: Esther 4:14 What if you don't say anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this."

Mordecai told Esther that God *could* use somebody else to save his family. After all, God wanted to save his family and nothing can stop his plans! But God *wanted* to use Esther. He allowed her to become queen just so she could be in this impossible situation...and with God's help and courage, make it better!



script continued

HOW DOES GOD WANT TO USE US?

Just like Esther, God may want us to step up and have courage in a situation that seems impossible. Maybe we have to deal with a bully or a really tough teacher at school. Maybe somebody we care about is really sick. Or maybe we feel lonely and wish we could make a new friend. And just like Esther, we can trust that God will give us what we need for the situation. Remember our verse from Philippians 4:6:

SLIDE: Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.

RESPOND

Everybody close your eyes again and think about that seemingly impossible—or really tough situation—you thought about earlier. Take a few seconds and in your head, tell God about it. I'm going to tell God about (*refer to the situation you shared and say what you tell God in order to model it for kids; then give them some silence*).

Now, let's ask God to help us. I'm going to ask God (*refer to the situation share what you want to ask God in order to model it for kids; then give them some silence again*).

We can totally trust God. Before he even helps us, let's thank him that he gives us courage, and that he is totally powerful and can help us in any situation. I'm going to thank God (*model how you would offer God thanks even before your prayer is answered; then give them some silence again*).

WORSHIP

Let's stand up now and thank God together by praising him. Our first song is a brand new one that talks about how all we need is God. Let's sing it to him to remember that no matter what situation we're facing, he's with us and he's all we need!

Music Video: All That You Need (dance moves on screen)

Song: You Come In A Hurry (hand motions on screen)

PRAY

Ask somebody to come and thank God that he can help us in any situation.



script continued

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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per room:

One sample “impossible balancer”—see Connect
Time for thorough instructions

Per kid:

1 pipe cleaner
1 popsicle stick
2 3/8” metal washers (like this:
<http://www.fastenal.com/web/products/details/78017>)

small group supplies

Per group

Beanbag
Adventure Bible- Philippians 4:6 (p. 1306)
Markers
1 stop watch
1 dry erase board (or large sheet of white paper)
2 dry erase markers (or markers for paper)

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 561, 1306)

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Image: Persia
3. Video: God’s Story / Esther
4. SLIDE: Esther 4:14 What if you don’t say anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Who knows? It’s possible that you became queen for a time just like this.”
5. SLIDE: Philippians 4:6 Don’t worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.
6. Music Video: All That You Need
7. Song: You Come in A Hurry (with hand motions) (<http://vimeo.com/49927835>)

connect questions

Tell me about Esther.
What does this story show us about God?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc