



3PK

Nov. 1-2, 2014

DATE

Esther

LESSON TITLE

Esther

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Hears Our Prayers

MAIN POINT

schedule

First 10 minutes of the service hour:

Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

Next 5 minutes: Connect Time

Next 25 minutes: Large Group

Last 25 minutes: Snack and Small Group

Finish early? Repeat the activity! Kids this age learn through repetition. Or, 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!



connect time

GOAL: *Connect time is all about engaging kids in a short, interactive game to prepare them for Large Group.*

- **Clean up! (10 minutes after the service start time, when you get the 5-minute warning from the presenter)**
- Line Up
- While in line, tell kids we have a lot of characters to remember. Let's practice:
 - Queen Esther (touch your head, as if there's a crown on it)
 - Uncle Mordecai (smile and give a thumbs up; he's a nice guy)
 - Haman (make an angry face; he's a mean man)
 - The King (pump your muscles; he's in charge)
 - Repeat as many times as you can before you head to Large Group!

Remind kids to stay quiet for Large Group and tip-toe in together to find out what happens to Esther!



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

****Every time you talk about a character, do the motions the kids learned in Connect Time and Large Group.***

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Who was the 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 did Esther do to try to save God's family? (She talked to the king, even though she could die; she asked the king to two dinners and told him about Haman's law.)
4. What did the king do when he heard about the law? (He changed it so that God's family could live.)
5. Who else does God have a special plan for? (Point at each kid; have kids say "God has a special plan for me.")

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 and decorate with up to **10 stickers** and **markers**
- Help them put the crown on with **tape**

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)

****Give kids a coloring page** and have them color until their parents arrive.

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.

special notes

Use the hand motions from Connect Time to help kids remember characters:

1. Queen Esther (touch your head, as if there's a crown on it)
2. Uncle Mordecai (smile and give a thumbs up; he's a nice guy)
3. Haman (make an angry face; he's a mean man)
4. The King (pump your muscles; he's in charge)

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

***click to play intro music**

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 3 Put On Your Listening Ears (*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. It happened over and over again. But every time God's family got into trouble...God helped them. Today, we're going to hear the story of how God



script continued

used a girl named Esther to save his family! Can you guys say, “Esther?” (Let kids say: Esther.)

First, let me tell you about Esther. **(Show picture of Persia.)** She wasn’t a queen at first (put your hand on your head like a crown)! 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; have kids follow). It was dry and dusty. (Pretend to cough; have kids follow.) 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!

Esther’s parents died when she was a kid, so she grew up with her cousin, a good guy named Mordecai (smile and put your thumbs up). Can you guys say, “Mordecai?” (Let kids say: Mordecai.) Good job! Mordecai and Esther were part of God’s special family!

But there is a really strong King (pump your muscles) in this story, and he’s not a part of God’s family. Neither is a really mean dude named Haman (make an angry face). The good news is, God had a very special plan for Esther to save his family, just like God has a very special plan for each of you guys!

THE STORY OF ESTHER

We’re going to watch a video of the special plan God had for Esther. As you watch, see if you can figure out how God used Esther to save his family. If you want to do the hand motions for each character, follow along with me!

Video: God’s Story / Esther

**sit to the side but model doing motions for each character*

Wow, what an amazing story! So Esther got chosen to be queen—as a little girl, she never could have imagined that. And even though she could have died, she asked the king to save God’s family. And he did! God had a plan for Esther to save his family.

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.



script continued

Song: Be Strong

Song: Trust in the Lord

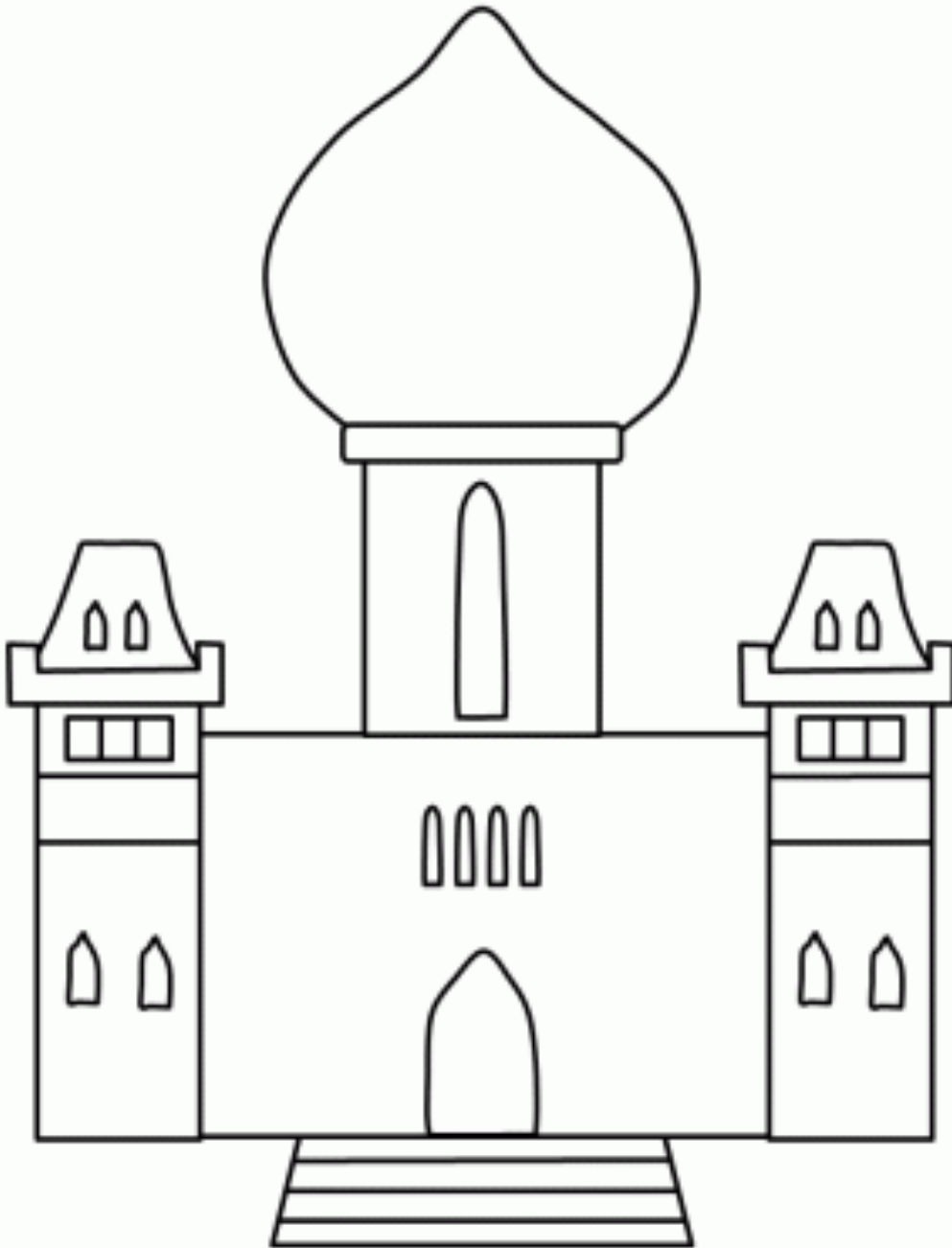
Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop to their groups.)



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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Remember the characters game – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid:

Coloring pages: Persia

1 crown per kid: OT:IN-57/6026

10 small stickers (anything to decorate!)

Per group:

Markers

Tape

large group supplies

Bible

Large mirror

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. Video: HOPS 3 Put On Your Listening Ears (<http://vimeo.com/99633582>)
3. Image: Persia (jpeg in curriculum folder)
4. Video: God's Story / Esther (Mae or Dave will have file)
5. Song: Be Strong
6. Song: Trust in the Lord

connect questions

Tell me about Esther.

What was God's special plan for Esther?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts (separate doc)