



3rd – 5th

October 10-11, 2015

DATE

Esther

LESSON TITLE

2 Kings 22; Micah 6:8

WHERE TO FIND IT

God has a plan and we get to be part of it.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (20 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 (10 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

You're going to be talking a lot about Micah 6:8 this week. Read it ahead of time and spend time asking God to talk to you about it. During Small Group, tell kids what you feel like God's saying to you, and how he's asking you to live it out in your own life.

check-in/out

Kids don't get to take home the big heart they made as a group. But encourage them to show it to the adult who picks them up!

large group heads up

Esther is a really cool story, but we can't cover all the details in one week. Read the book in the Bible (between Nehemiah and Job) this week so you can be prepared to talk about it with them—and encourage them to ask an adult to read it to them at home!



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.*

SECRET SARDINES

**Play this game as a whole group so you can use your entire room.*

- This game is like Sardines except kids will hide a piece of paper instead of themselves (since these rooms aren't conducive to hide and seek). Sardines is reverse hide-and-seek: one person hides and everybody spreads out to seek. As soon as somebody finds that person, they hide with them, which continues until there's only one person left looking. Here's how to play our "paper version":
 - Give each kid **a strip of white paper**
 - Choose one person to be the first "hider."
 - Everybody else gathers at one wall, faces it (so they can't see the room) and counts to 25.
 - While they count, the "hider" drops his/her piece of paper somewhere in the room. (Feel free to set up any parameters you deem appropriate.)
 - When the rest of the kids reach "0," they go look for the paper. When they find it, they should calmly and quietly place their piece of paper next to it and pretend to keep looking until everybody has located the hiding spot.
- Play as many rounds as you have time for, choosing new "hidiers" all the time.

***Then break into small groups and discuss:**

- How did it feel to find the hiding spot?
- What's the most exciting thing you were ever a part of?

Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) recognize that Esther got to be part of God's plan and (2) understand that we can be part of God's plan

Why? God wants to use kids right now, while they're young!

Tip: Ahead of time, collect one half-sheet of colored paper for each kid in your group. Tear them into thirds (each kid will get three pieces).

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What happened right when Esther became queen? (Haman got mad at Mordecai and made a law that God's family had to die)
2. Why might Esther have been afraid to tell the king about the law? (He had gotten rid of his other queen, so he could get rid of Esther too.)
3. How was Esther part of God's plan to rescue his family? (She saw that she was in a place where she could help, and she did. She did it by inviting the king to dinner twice. When she told him about Haman's law, he changed it!)
4. Why do you think God wants people to be part of his plan?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- **Consider: How does God want us to be part of his plan?** (By showing people love so that they know his love, justice, and mercy! Read Micah 6:8 from the **verse card**.)
- Place a **large, tear-off sheet of paper** in the middle of the group
- **Draw** three large hearts in the middle of the paper
- Give each kid **about one third** of a **piece of colored paper** (*tear your group's allotment ahead of time)
 - Have kids think of where they go (home, school, etc.) and **write/draw one way they can act JUSTLY** (you may need to remind them what that means; see definitions below or explain it in your own words).
 - Have them glue their pieces of construction paper onto the first heart.
- Give kids a second **1/3 piece of construction paper**
 - Have kids think of where they go (home, school, etc.) and **write/draw one way they can show MERCY** (you may need to remind them what that means; see definitions below or explain it in your own words).
 - Have them glue their pieces of construction paper onto the second heart.

(Continue on the following page)

- Give kids a third ***1/3 piece of colored paper***
 - Have kids think of where they go (home, school, etc.) and **write/draw one way they can WALK WITH GOD HUMBLY** (you may need to remind them what that means; see definitions below or explain it in your own words).
 - Have them glue their pieces of construction paper onto the third heart.
- **Stand back and look at how even though we're all in different places, we're all a part of God's big plan to show the world his love and rescue us!**

***Then pray together, thanking God that he uses us to be part of his plan!**

***Definitions with starter examples:**

Act with JUSTICE: treat others fairly (notice that somebody at your school looks lonely and invite them to sit with you and your friends; share your extra money with someone who needs it, etc.)

Love to show MERCY: treat people better than they deserve to be treated (be kind to a bully, forgive somebody who's not sorry, etc.)

Be HUMBLE as you live in God's sight: pay more attention to God than to yourself (obey him when you don't feel like it, spend time with him instead of doing something else, etc.)

If you still have extra time, have your group make up motions for Micah 6:8 to help remember it!

LARGE group



special notes

Micah 6:8 is a little tough for kids because it has words like “justice” and “mercy.” Ask God how he wants you to communicate it to kids.

presenter tips

If Large Group runs long, choose the song that will best fit your group, and just sing one song today.

script

WELCOME AND INTRO (3 min.)

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. We just got done playing a fun game. Who can tell me how you won the game? (Let kids explain.) That's right, you found the hiding spot! How did it feel to find the spot? (Let a kids respond.) Yes, it probably felt good to know you won and exciting that you knew where it was.

This was just a silly game, but all of us have been a part of something exciting. What's the most exciting thing you've ever been a part of? (Let 4-6 kids share.) Wow, pretty cool. Today, we're going to talk about a woman named Esther who got to be part of something REALLY exciting: God's rescue plan!

INTRO: ESTHER (2 min.)

(show picture of Persia) Esther was a girl growing up in a place called Persia, because they had been kicked out of their home in Israel. Esther grew up with her older cousin, named Mordecai. They were both Jews, which means they were part of God's family. Mordecai helped Esther realize how she could be part of God's plan.

When Esther's story starts, she was just a normal girl living 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!

About the time Esther became queen, Mordecai made an awful man named Haman very angry. In fact, Haman convinced the king to make a law that God's whole family had to die, just to get back at Mordecai. But that meant queen Esther would have to die too!

ESTHER IS A PART OF GOD'S PLAN (5 min.)

The good news is, God had a plan to save his family, and Esther got to be part of that plan! We're going to watch a video about Esther and see what happened after Haman made a law



script continued

against God's family. As you watch, see if you can figure out how Esther got to be part of God's plan to rescue his family!

Video: God's Story / Esther

Wow, so Esther got to be a really special part of God's plan to save his family. How was she a part of it? (Let kids respond.) That's right, she asked the king to dinner with Haman. Then she asked them to dinner a *second* time. At that second dinner, she told the king about Haman's plan. The king was furious! He got rid of Haman and changed the law so that God's whole family would be safe.

WE CAN BE PART OF GOD'S PLAN (3 min.)

Just like Esther, God *wants* us to be part of his plan. When Esther was queen, God's plan was to rescue his family from a law that would kill them. Now, God's plan is for the whole world to know that God loves us and sent Jesus to rescue us!

But Esther didn't just randomly decide that she wanted to be a person who rescued God's family. Instead, she saw that God might be able to use her and she made herself open to be used by him, even if she had to give up her own life. In the Bible, this is what Mordecai told Esther:

SLIDE: Esther 4:14 "If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

That means that God sometimes wants us to be in situations—even tough situations—so that we can be part of his plan! Hm, let's think about that for a minute. **Think about one place you go every week. When you've got one, stand up!** (Let kids stand. If they need help, give them hints like, home, school, team, band, etc.) Let's hear some of them! (Let 10ish kids quickly state where they go.) Awesome – you guys go a lot of places!

Who's got an idea of ONE way we could be part of God's plan at one of those places? (Let kids respond. If they need help, help them. Ideas could be: if you see a kid looking lonely, invite them to sit with you; if somebody doesn't have money for lunch, share yours; if your teammate is rude to other players, show them how to be a good sport, etc.) Great ideas! Wherever we are, we can look for opportunities to be part of God's plan, and go for it.

FIND WHERE GOD IS WORKING AND BE PART OF IT (5 min.)

This reminds me a little of a scene from *The Incredibles*. There's a family of five and the dad gets in trouble. The mom decided to help and starts to come up with a plan. When the two oldest kids see she might be up to something, they desperately want to be part of it. Let's take a look! As you watch, even though we won't know what's going on, see if you can figure out how the kids feel just by the way they act.

Video: Incredibles Clip (about 2 min.)



script continued

Whoa, pretty crazy! How did the kids feel? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they wanted to be part of something big, they wanted to save their dad and they wanted to use their powers. And guess what? They snuck along on that plane. And when they did, they got to be a part of the rescue!

Important note: The good news for us is that God WANTS us to come along (unlike the mom in the clip). He *invites* us to join him in helping the whole world know about his love and Jesus' rescue. And we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, who gives us power to act like Jesus! We can be like those kids and go where he's leading.

WAYS TO BE A PART OF IT (4 min.)

In fact, throughout the Bible, God helps us understand who he is and how we can show his love to others. One verse that tells us exactly how to be part of it is in Micah 6:8:

SLIDE: Micah 6:8: The LORD has shown you what is good.

He has told you what he requires of you.

You must act with justice.

You must love to show mercy.

And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.

Can you read that with me? (Lead kids in repeating it.) Awesome! God's plan is to show everybody his JUSTICE, which means he wants everybody to be treated fairly. That's one way he shows love. So that means if you notice that somebody at your school looks lonely and you invite them to join you and your friends, you're part of God's plan.

God's plan is to show everybody his MERCY, which means you don't get punished even if you deserve it. That's another example of love! And if you forgive a bully or somebody who isn't even sorry, you're part of God's plan.

And God's plan is for all people to live HUMBLY in his sight, which means paying more attention to God than to ourselves. He wants us to know that he's our loving king. So every time you obey God instead of doing what you want, you're part of that plan.

Esther saw she was in a situation where she might be able to help people. And she did, even though it meant risking her life! God wants the same from us. He wants us to find where we can be part of his plan—and help show his love.

RESPOND (1 min.)

Let's take a minute and ask God where he's working and where he wants us to be part of sharing his love and Jesus' rescue with the world. Remember, we can talk to God *and* listen to him, so let's spend some time talking and listening now. If you want to ask God a question, you can! Or just say, "God, how can I be part of your plan?" And listen. We'll take a minute just sitting quietly. This is for you and God. (Then wrap up and model a conversation with God for kids.)

WORSHIP (6 min.)



script continued

Now let's tell God that we are his and that we want to be part of his plan!

Music Video: I'm Yours

Music Video: Tell the World

**Dismiss kids to small groups.*

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per Kid

strip of white paper (cut lengthwise)

small group supplies

Per kid

One sheet of construction or colored paper (will be torn into 3 pieces)

Verse card (Micah 6:8)- reused

Markers

1 Bible

Per group

Glue sticks

large group supplies

Bible

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
<https://vimeo.com/109452640>
4. Video: The Incredibles_Part of the Plan (Public>Kids Club Media_Videos Songs>Videos>Movie Clips>The Incredibles)
5. SLIDE: Micah 6:8: The LORD has shown you what is good.
He has told you what he requires of you.
You must act with justice.
You must love to show mercy.
And you must be humble as you live in the sight
6. Music Video: I'm Yours <https://vimeo.com/77168212>
7. Music Video: Tell the World (Music Videos: Hillsong (with lyrics and subtitles)

connect questions

Tell me about Esther.

How can we be part of God's plan?

parent page