



3rd - 5th

November 18-19, 2017

DATE

Esther

LESSON TITLE

Book of Esther

WHERE TO FIND IT

God gives us courage.

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 (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

We're talking about tough situations today. Be aware that this could mean that kids might share some personal situations that could represent significant challenges or deep hurt. Though we want kids to know that God can give them courage even in that situation, we don't want kids to feel like we're dismissing serious situations by simply telling them to trust God. Try to relate to kids with personal experiences and be sure not to minimize their situation.

check-in/out

Remind kids to tell their parents WHY they made special "Purim" rattles today!

large group heads up

We're watching a Pixar short during Large Group. It's a little long, but a good example of a character making the best of a tough situation.



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.*

IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS

- Break the room into small groups (or keep together if needed). Give each group **2 plastic cups**.
- Tell kids we're going to have a competition! Here are the rules:
 - Call up two kids at a time to compete against each other. If you're doing Connect Time as a large group, have several kids compete at the same time.
 - For 10 seconds straight, they have to spin around, toss a cup up in the air and catch it, and hop on one foot, all at the same.
 - If they can't do it all for 10 seconds straight, they lose.
 - The point is that no one will be able to do all of those things at the same time, so everyone will lose.
 - At the end of each 10 second turn, call up another pair of kids to compete.
- If you have time before heading to large group, sit down with kids and talk about what it was like to try and do all those things that were nearly impossible. Ask kids about the best and worst parts of their week.

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. 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.

special notes

Today we'll watch three different videos.

- Pixar's Boundin' (Part 1)
- God's Story / Esther
- Pixar's Boundin' (Part 2)

The first video is the first half of a movie clip that will set up the lesson. The second video is the Bible story for today. The third video is the second half of the movie clip kids watched earlier.

presenter tips

Here's a link to today's video:

God's Story / Esther

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw_Uw)

script

WELCOME AND INTRO

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

**Click to play intro music.*

- **Say:** Hey, everyone! Welcome to Kids' Club! What did you think of our game in Connect Time? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it was really, really HARD. Maybe even impossible to do! Today, we're talking about how we face things that seem impossible to get through.
- **Say:** We all end up in situations that are really hard or may even seem impossible. One time....*(Give a personal example of a seemingly impossible or difficult situation you faced. Later in the script, there will be a chance to describe how God helped you through the situation.)*
- **Ask:** Has anyone here ever faced something hard? Something that made you worried or afraid? Maybe it made you sad or angry? *(Let a few kids respond. If a lot of kids are raising their hands to share, tell to take 30 seconds to talk about it with a friend next to them. That way all kids get to talk about it, but it doesn't slow down Large Group.)*
- **Say:** Let's take a look at a video that tells the story of a sheep who ends up in a situation that seems hopeless. As you watch, pay attention to what the sheep loses, and how it makes him feel.
- **Video: Boundin' (0:00-1:44)**

WE ALL FACE TOUGH SITUATIONS

Main Goal: Kids see that we all face tough situations through a story from the presenter and video.

- **Ask:** So what did the sheep lose? (Let kids respond.) Yep, someone shaved him of all his beautiful wool! He thinks he's lost everything that made him important, and he's really upset and sad. He's being made fun of, and probably thinks nothing good will come of this situation!
- **Say:** Our story today is about a character from the Bible who ALSO ended up in a rough situation that seemed impossible to get through. Her name was Esther, and we're going to hear about something that happened in her life that could have made anyone want to quit, and feel hopeless.
- **Say:** Before we learn more, let's look at three pieces of information that would be good to know before we start.
 1. Esther was a Jew, which means she was part of God's special family.
 2. Esther was being raised in Persia, because God's family had been kicked out of their home in Israel.
 3. Esther was an orphan, because her parents had died. Her cousin, Mordecai, was raising her.
- **Say:** Now, Esther wasn't born into royalty, but she was chosen to be queen of Persia, by a guy named King Xerxes.
- **Say:** Esther needed to convince the king to change his mind about something REALLY IMPORTANT. Now that would be hard enough all by itself, right? Well, she also knew that it could make the king angry enough that she could be *killed*. It seemed like she was in a situation that was hopeless!

GOD GIVES ESTHER COURAGE

Main Goal: Understand that Esther was in a seemingly impossible situation, but God gave her courage.

- **Say:** Let's watch a video and see what happened next. As you watch, pay attention to how Esther trusted God to help her get through it.
- **Video: God's Story / Esther**
- **Ask:** So what impossible or hopeless thing did Esther face? (Let kids respond.) Yep, when she told the king about Haman's plan, she knew it might not work, or that she could be killed. But even though it seemed impossible and really hard to do, she knew she had to try. And God gave her the courage and ideas to make it possible!

GOD GIVES US COURAGE, TOO

Main Goal: Understand that God gives us courage too, by showing the resolution of the video from earlier, and sharing the resolution from a personal story.

- **Say:** Remember the sheep from the beginning of the story? He went through something really hard, and he thought there was no way he could ever get through it. Well, there's more to this story! Let's watch the second part of the video, and see how the sheep's life ends up changing for the better, even when faced with an impossible situation, just like Esther was facing.
- **Video: Boundin' Part 2 (1:40-4:26)**
- **Ask:** So, how was the sheep able to change the impossible, hopeless situation he was in? (Let kids respond.) Yep, the Jackalope came along and ended up helping him out. He helped the sheep find the courage to keep going and be alright with himself, even without wool.
- **Say:** God is our helper too, and he can give us courage and bravery to face really hard things. We have to trust Him, though. Sometimes, that means we don't know exactly how things will turn out, but we DO know God will take care of us.
- **Say:** Let's look at a verse that tells us this exact thing. It's from the book of Psalms, which is a part of the Bible filled with only songs and poems!
- **Slide: Psalm 56:3 But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.**

RESPONSE TIME

Main Goal: Give kids a chance to actively respond to what they heard.

****Use this space to jot down some notes about the resolution of your personal story.***

- **Say:** Remember the situation I mentioned earlier? *(Give a quick recap of the situation you described earlier in the script).* That was a tough situation, but God gave me courage, and he turned it into something good. *(Tell kids about the resolution to the seemingly impossible situation.)*
- **Say:** Everybody close your eyes again and think about a seemingly impossible—or really tough situation—you have faced, or are facing right now. 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 30 seconds of silence.)*
- **Say:** We can completely and totally trust that God will take care of us, and will give us courage to get through impossible things, just like he did for Esther.

WRAP UP AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Close the lesson with prayer and worship.

- **Say:** And you want to know something cool about Esther? Jewish people celebrate her today with a holiday called Purim! THAT'S how amazing this story is, people are still celebrating it thousands of years later! Now, let's take a minute to thank God right now, and THANK him for that....before he's even helped us!
- **Say:** *(Pray and model how you would offer God thanks even before your prayer is answered; then give kids some silence at the end of the prayer to thank God on their own.)*
- **Say:** Let's watch a music video now, and hear about we can trust in God, because he sent us a rescuer that laid down his life for us, so that we could be free. You can stay seated for this.
- **Music Video: This is Amazing Grace**

Dismiss kids to small group.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) identify tough situations Esther face, (2) recognize hard situations in their own lives, and (3) recognize that God will help them like he helped Esther.

Why? We all face challenging situations in life. This story reminds us that even in the most difficult situations, God will give us the courage to keep moving forward.

Tip: Some kids may not be able to identify an “impossible” situation. If they struggle with that, focus more on opportunities they might have to show courage.

small group

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What do you think Esther was like? How would you describe her?
2. What impossible situations did Esther face? (List all you can think of)
3. How did Esther face those situations? (Share different ways)
4. Think about the sheep from the movie clip. Have you ever been in a situation like that, where you felt like things wouldn't get better? What happened?
5. Have you had to make a big decision, and you didn't know what to do? What happened? How could you rely on God to help you through it?

ACTIVITY #1 / PURIM NOISE MAKERS

- Today, Jewish people celebrate a holiday called “Purim” to celebrate Esther, and how she saved God's special family.
- When people celebrate Purim, it's like a party! They throw parades, dress in costumes and publically celebrate with music and dancing. Kids will often create noise makers as part of the celebration, and that's what we're going to make today!
- Give every kid **2 plastic spoons**, **1 plastic egg**, and **5 pony beads**. Set out **crayons** and **masking tape**.
- Here's how to make the noise-maker:
 - Put the beads in the egg and close it.
 - Tape the plastic spoons around the egg (shown on the next page). Kids should need no more than 2-3 pieces of tape (long enough to wrap around the whole egg).
 - Tape the ends of the spoons together.
 - Color and decorate the taped portion with crayons.

(See next page for activity images.)



ACTIVITY #2 / Pictionary (OPTIONAL)

- 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
 - You could also do characters from the movie clip! (groundhogs, jackalope, sheep, etc)

Extra time? Keep playing Pictionary with clues made up in your group.

LESSON needs

3rd-5th

November 18/19, 2017



connect questions

Tell me about Esther.
How did she show bravery?

lesson supplies

Connect Time			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Markers	1 set per group, reused		site
Plastic cup	2 per small group, reused	Sam's Club, Item #756216	KC National

Large Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Adventure Bible	1 per large group, reused	Biblesbythe Case.com	site

Small Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Crayons	1 set per group, reused	*Note that crayons are not typically stored in these rooms.	site
Plastic egg	1 per kid	Oriental Trading, Item #IN-5/912	KC National
Plastic spoon	2 per kid	Sam's Club, Item #988514	KC National
Pony beads	5 per kid	Oriental Trading, Item #IN-57/3	KC National
Tan Masking tape	1 roll per small group	(do not use painters tape)	site

A/V needs

3rd-5th



1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Boundin' Part 1 (0:13-1:44; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkWE19QoUBc>)
3. Video: God's Story / Esther (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw_Uw)
4. Video: Boundin' Part 2 (1:45-4:26; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkWE19QoUBc>)
5. Slide: Psalm 56:3 But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.
6. Music Video: This is Amazing Grace (KC/SM media videos songs>vidoes>music videos)