



Queen Esther Helps God's People

Lesson Aim: To know God makes us brave.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Builds His Kingdom

THE WORD

Bible Story: Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3

What He Has Done: God gave Queen Esther courage to help His people.

THE WAY

"Hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

Unit 9: The King Who Builds His Kingdom			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	King Solomon Asks to Be Wise, 1 Kings 3:5-14	God gave King Solomon wisdom.	To know God helps us make good choices.
44	King Josiah Obeys, 2 Kings 22:1-2, 18-19; 23:1-4, 25	God saw King Josiah obey.	To know we should obey God.
45	Ezra Teaches God's People, Ezra 7:6, 8-10	God helped Ezra teach His people.	To love learning about God.
46	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall, Nehemiah 1:3b; 2:3-5; 4:3, 6-9, 15-18; 6:15	God helped Nehemiah rebuild the city wall.	To know God wants us to work together.
47	Queen Esther Helps God's People, Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3	God gave Queen Esther courage to help His people.	To know God makes us brave.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Proverbs 31:8-9. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the courage You give us to speak up in defense of others and in defense of Your Word. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might boldly teach Your truth. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

"Be strong and courageous... for the one with us is greater than the one with him" (2 Chronicles 32:7). We can rely on God for the courage to share the truth of His love. Give the children opportunities to tell each other, "God loves you!" "We can trust Jesus!" "Be strong and brave!"



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a crown
		Coloring Center: Queen Esther Helps God's People	Coloring pages of Queen Esther and King Xerxes, crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: A King's Riches	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Activity Center: God Makes Us Brave	5 lunch bags, five items of different textures (such as a cotton ball, crumpled paper, a bouncy ball, a crayon, and a small cup)
	Game Center: Brave with God's Help	None	
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "This Is the Day"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Blessed Are Those" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks" "Guide Me" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey" "I Will Listen" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 47
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Esther 5:2 Visual: Picture of the Bible story
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Be Brave Mirror	Paper plate, sturdy yellow paper, tin foil, mylar, or reflective paper, craft stick, craft decorations*, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Bravery in the Mirror	"Be Brave Mirror" craft sample
		Game: Brave Scepter	Crown, scepter (xstick decorated with gold or silver paint, tin foil, and/or costume jewelry or craft jewels.)
	Snack: Sweet & Salty Scepters	Pretzel sticks, optional: white chocolate or frosting, colorful sprinkles	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 9, Lesson 47
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3	None
	Up to 10	Game: Hear and Obey	Beanbag
	Up to 10	Game: Listen and Do	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about being brave

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The King who builds His kingdom

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a crown. **Let this stamp (or sticker) help you remember to be strong and brave, just like Queen Esther.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: QUEEN ESTHER HELPS GOD'S PEOPLE

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Queen Esther and King Xerxes, crayons or markers

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Our story today is about Queen Esther and King Xerxes. Can you say Xerxes? (Zerk-sees.) The queen's name was Esther. Can you say Esther? (Esther.) God chose Queen Esther to help His people, the Israelites. If you were king or queen, what would you do? (Children respond.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: A KING'S RICHES

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Encourage the children to make the riches of a king with the play-dough while discussing today's Bible story

TALK ABOUT

Kings and queens wear beautiful robes, crowns covered in jewels, and entire kingdoms. King Xerxes loved Queen Esther very much. He told her he would give her anything up to half the kingdom. If you were in Queen Esther's place, what would you ask for? Encourage the children to make the object they've suggested or work together to make a treasure chest with jewels and other treasures.

ACTIVITY CENTER: GOD MAKES US BRAVE

SUPPLIES

5 lunch bags, five items of different textures (such as a cotton ball, crumpled paper, ball, crayon, and cup)

DO

Hide one item in each bag. Have the children take turns reaching in the bags without looking. Have them guess what is in each of the bags.

TALK ABOUT

Because Queen Esther obeyed God, He helped her be brave enough to speak with the king. Let's see if you can be brave enough to put your hand in these bags without seeing what is inside.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

GAME CENTER: BRAVE WITH GOD'S HELP

SUPPLIES

None

DO

Children imitate some of the things they may be afraid of and remember God can help them be brave.

TALK ABOUT

Queen Esther may have been afraid to go talk with the king but God helped her be brave. Have you ever been afraid? (Children respond.) **Who will help you be brave?** (God.) Children stand in a circle.

- **If you are afraid of a big, barking dog** (children bark) **and don't know what to do, ask God and He will help you** (children make muscles).
- **If you are afraid of loud storms with thunder and lightning** (children clap) **and don't know what to do, ask God and He will help you** (children make muscles).
- **If you are afraid of the dark** (children cover their eyes) **and don't know what to do, ask God and He will help you** (children make muscles).
- **If you are afraid of going to a new place** (children look frightened) **and don't know what to do, ask God and He will help you** (children make muscles).
- **If you are afraid of monsters** (children growl) **and don't know what to do, ask God and He will help you** (children make muscles).
- Ask the children what else they are afraid of and repeat the rhyme. **If you are afraid of insert fear and don't know what to do, ask God and He will help you** (children make muscles).
- **Let's pray to ask God to help us be brave.** Children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, please help us be strong and brave, just like you helped Queen Esther. Amen.**

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Hear the Word of God and obey it."	Hold hand to ear. The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other. The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. (obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.
Luke 11:28	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The King who builds His kingdom

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



Are you ready for Praise Time? Today, we're going to talk about being brave. Someone who is brave does something even they are scared. We can be brave because we know God is always with us. Let's pray. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for helping us to be brave and strong. Help us when we are afraid to remember You are always with us. Amen.**



God is the King who builds His kingdom. He created the world and everything in it. Let's sing and be glad! Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."

God is so good to us. Giving our offering is one way we can thank God for all the good things He gives us. Sing: "Give Thanks." Collect the offering.



Today's Bible story is about a beautiful lady named Esther. She had to be strong and brave. I wonder if our friends Delbert and Lello know about Queen Esther. Let's call them both to come out for a visit. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 47.



God blesses us when we listen and obey His words in the Bible. That reminds me of our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together with the motions. Practice the verse together a few times.

"Hear the Word

Hold hand to ear.

of God

The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other.

and obey it."

The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

(obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.

Luke 11:28

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



God blessed Queen Esther when He made her brave and beautiful. He blesses all of us when we listen and obey His Word in the Bible. Sing: "Blessed Are Those."



Esther goes to the king

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Esther 5:2, picture of the Bible story

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

I need a helper who is very brave. You need to be brave enough to close your eyes and follow my directions. Have the child cover their eyes with their hands. Walk a few steps away from the child and then ask him or her to walk toward your voice. When they are close enough to touch you, have them open their eyes. **Child's name was very brave.** Ask the child: **Was it scary to walk when you couldn't see?** (Child responds.) **Did you trust me to not let you get hurt or fall?** (Child responds.)

Everyone is afraid sometimes but we can trust God to help us be brave. In our story today, Queen Esther needed God's help to be brave. Let's find out what she needed to do. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Esther 5:2.



WATCH THE WORD: ESTHER 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **There once was a girl named Esther.**
- **She was beautiful, they say.**
- **She married the King of Persia.**
- **She became Queen Esther that day.**

- **God's people were in danger.**
- **She knew the king could help.**
- **But she needed permission to see him,**
- **So she prayed and went all by herself.**

- **The king held out his scepter.**
- **Esther had to be strong and brave.**
- **She touched his scepter and said to him,**
- **"My people you must save."**

What did Queen Esther do before she went to see the king. (Prayed.) **Who was strong and brave when she went to see the king?** (Queen Esther.)



You can be strong and brave

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: BE BRAVE MIRROR

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Queen Esther saving God's people.

Supplies: Paper plate, sturdy yellow paper, tin foil, mylar, or reflective paper, craft stick, craft decorations*, tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: From sturdy yellow paper, cut a crown large enough to fit at the top of the plate. From tin foil, cut a circle the size of the center of the paper plate. On the rim of the plate, print:

Queen Esther Helps God's People
Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3

Teacher's Tip: The edges of tin foil can be sharp. Tape the tin foil to the plate before class, covering the edges.

Optional: If tin foil, mylar, or reflective paper are not available, children may draw their faces on the plate or attach a photo from home.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. When considering craft decorations for this age, it is best to avoid anything that could be a choking hazard. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

Directions:

1. Tape the tin foil to the center of the plate.
2. Tape the stick as a handle onto the back of your paper plate mirror.
3. Color the crown and decorate it with assorted craft supplies.
4. Look in your "Be Brave Mirror." Tape the crown over where you see your head in the mirror.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who did the king choose to be the queen?** (Esther.)
- **Queen Esther had to ask the king for something important.**
- **Everyone was afraid to go to the king without an invitation. Queen Esther was afraid, too. Was Queen Esther strong and brave to go see the king?** (Yes.)
- **Look in your mirror. God can help you be strong and brave to speak the truth as Queen Esther did.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: BRAVERY IN THE MIRROR

Purpose: Children will learn they can be brave like Queen Esther.

Supplies: "Be Brave Mirror" craft sample

Queen Esther was very brave. Everyone was afraid to go to the king without an invitation, but she trusted God was with her when she asked the king to save her people.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Choose one child to stand in the middle. Give that child the "Be Brave Mirror" craft sample.
3. Children in the circle hold hands and walk around the circle as they say this rhyme. Teacher's Note: For younger children, you may want to say just the last four lines of the rhyme.

God was with Esther; God is with you.

He made her brave; You'll be brave, too.

Who is strong and brave? Just wait and see.

Who is strong and brave? It must be insert the name of a child in the middle.

4. Child holding the mirror says: **"God makes me strong and brave!"**
5. Play until each child has a turn standing in the middle and holding the mirror.

GAME: BRAVE SCEPTER

Purpose: Children will remember the story of Queen Esther speaking with the king.

Supplies: Crown, scepter (Walking cane or stick decorated with gold or silver paint, tin foil, and/or costume jewelry or craft jewels.)

Before Queen Esther could speak to the king, she had to touch the scepter he held out to her. A scepter is a long stick the king holds which tells people he is important. Let's play a game where we make our way to see the king, like Queen Esther did.

Directions:

1. Children stand at one end of the play area.
2. Teacher or helper wears crown, holds scepter, and stands at the other end of the play area.
3. **When I hold up my scepter (demonstrate), you may walk toward me. When I lower the scepter (demonstrate), you must freeze where you are. The first person to touch the scepter becomes the new king.**
4. If the children continue to walk after you have lowered the scepter, have them take two steps back.
5. If a child who reaches the scepter first has already been king, you may want to have them choose another child to be king.
6. Play as often as time allows or until each child has a turn as king.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SWEET & SALTY SCEPTERS

Purpose: Children discuss today's story while enjoying a snack.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzel sticks, optional: white chocolate or frosting, colorful sprinkles (Create edible scepters by rolling the ends of pretzel sticks in white chocolate or frosting. Before it dries, roll the chocolate or frosting in colorful sprinkles as jewels.)

Our snack today are pretzel sticks. They remind me of the long scepter, or stick, the king held out to Queen Esther.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **God helped Queen Esther be strong and brave. She went to see the king to ask him to save her people.** (Children respond.)
 - **When have you been afraid? What were you afraid of? What did you do?**
 - **When you are afraid, who can help you be brave? (God.) You can pray and ask God to help you be brave.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Hear the Word of God and obey it."	Hold hand to ear. The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other. The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. (obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.
Luke 11:28	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ESTHER 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **There once was a girl named Esther.** (Raise index finger.)
- **She was beautiful they say.** (Clasp hands at heart.)
- **She married the King of Persia.** (Hold out ring finger.)
- **She became Queen Esther that day.** (Place hands on head for a crown.)

- **God's people were in danger.** (Palms on cheeks to show fear.)
- **She knew the king could help.** (Point to brain.)
- **But she needed permission to see him,** (Hold palms together, as if begging.)
- **So she prayed and went all by herself.** (Fold hands in prayer.)

- **The king held out his scepter.** (Hold out imaginary scepter.)
- **Esther had to be strong and brave.** (Flex your arm muscles.)
- **She touched his scepter and said to him,** (Pretend to touch an imaginary scepter.)
- **"My people you must save."** (Kneel and clasp palms, as if begging.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

GAME: HEAR AND OBEY

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Beanbag

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Toss the beanbag to one of the children in the circle as you say, "Child's name can..."
3. Lead the children in saying "**...hear the Word of God and obey it!**"
4. Child tosses the beanbag back to you.
5. Repeat until each child has a chance to say the verse.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: LISTEN AND DO

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Our Bible Memory Verse tells us to “Hear the Word of God and obey it.” Let’s practice our listening skills with this game. Listen carefully and do what I tell you to do.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Give an instruction such as sit down, spin in a circle, clap, touch your nose, shake a friend’s hand, wave your hand, jump, stand up, stomp your feet, shout “Praise God!” Help the children follow your instruction. **Great job! You are hearing what I am saying and obeying it.**
3. Repeat with other instructions. You may choose to let the children take turns giving instructions.
4. Play as long as you like.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about being brave.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 9, Lesson 47: Queen Esther Helps God’s People

PONDER! God gave Queen Esther courage to help His people (Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3). What brave thing did Esther do? (Went to see the king.) What is something brave you have done?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: “Lord, sometimes we are afraid. Please help us be brave like Queen Esther. Amen.”

PLAY! Each family member takes a turn holding the “Be Brave Mirror” craft or any mirror from home and sharing something he or she may be afraid of or worried about. Together say, “Be strong and brave.” Pray together and ask God to help everyone in your family be strong and brave.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“Hear	Hold hand to ear.
the Word	The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other.
of God	The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
and obey it.”	(obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.
Luke 11:28	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.