



Queen Esther Helps God's People

Lesson Aim: To know God gives us courage.

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

Whisper Verse: "Be strong and brave."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed are those who 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 we should ask God for wisdom.
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 we should work hard 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 gives us courage.

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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a crown
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Be strong and brave."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Blessed Are Those" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Guide Me" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey" "I Will Listen" "It's Praise Time" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "God Is So Good" "This Is the Day" "Trust and Obey" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarмонт Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		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: Toy scepter or a picture of a scepter
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Be Brave Mirror	Paper plate, sturdy yellow paper, tin foil or reflective paper, craft stick, tape, crayons or markers, assorted craft supplies (beads, buttons, felt pieces, yarn, glitter, etc.)
		Game: Bravery in the Mirror	"Be Brave Mirror" crafts
		Game: Brave Scepter	Scepter
		Snack: Sweet & Salty Scepters	Pretzel sticks, optional: white chocolate or frosting, colorful sprinkles
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 47 Color This Story: "Queen Esther Talks to the King."	
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: Building the Verse	Sturdy paper, large toy blocks, tape
	Up to 10	Game: Listen and Obey	Bible marked with the passages in the list below
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about being brave

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Be strong and brave **THE 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 crown sticker help you remember to be strong and brave, just like Queen Esther. Today's Whisper Verse is "Be strong and brave."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Be strong and brave."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- "(Be) strong"** Create fists with both hands. Firmly pull both fists away from the chest in a manner to show that a person is strong.
- "(and) brave."** Both hands start with the finger tips resting on the front of the shoulder: left fingertips on left shoulder, right fingertips on right shoulder. Fingertips pull away from the shoulder and make a fist to indicate grabbing strength from the body and holding it forth in a gesture of bravery.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Be strong and brave," 2 Samuel 2:7. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The King who builds His kingdom

THE WORSHIP

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 "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—that means it's time to praise God together. He is the King who builds His kingdom. Let's thank Him for who He is and what He has done. This is a great day to do that! Sing: "This is the Day."

Today's Bible story is about a beautiful lady named Esther. As queen, Esther had to be strong and brave. That's our Whisper Verse for today: "Be strong and brave." Let's whisper that together. Review Whisper Verse together: "Be strong and brave." Include sign language.



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's people were thankful to God for Queen Esther. Queen Esther must have been thankful that God helped her be strong and brave. As we give our offering now, think about reasons why you are thankful. Let's sing a song about how good He is to us. Sing: "God Is So Good." Collect the offering.

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."

Who made Queen Esther strong and brave? (God.) Who makes you strong and brave like Queen Esther? (God.) Let's sing a song about that! Sing: "I Can Do Everything."



Esther goes to the king

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God helped Nehemiah rebuild the city wall. Today, we will hear how God helped Queen Esther be strong and brave so she could help save her people. Handle 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 points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a toy scepter or a picture of a scepter. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- 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."

Who was strong and brave when she went to see the king? (Queen Esther.) Our Whisper Verse tells us we can be like Queen Esther! Let's say it together: "Be strong and brave." Include sign language or hand motions.



What did the king do with his scepter to show Queen Esther had permission to talk with him? (He held it out for her to touch.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Esther 5:2 from the teacher's Bible.



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 or reflective paper, craft stick, tape, crayons or markers, assorted craft supplies (beads, buttons, felt pieces, yarn, glitter, etc.)

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: If the tin foil edges are sharp, tape the tin foil to the plate before class, covering the edges.

Optional: Instead of using tin foil, children may draw their faces on the plate or attach their photos.

Directions for children:

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.)
- **That sounds like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **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

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 sit in a circle.
2. **Let's look in the mirror to find out who God will make strong and brave like Queen Esther. If you are holding the mirror when we get to the end of the rhyme, stand up and say "Me!"**
3. Children pass the mirror around the circle as they say this 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 me!**
4. Child holding the mirror stands up and says and signs the Whisper Verse: **"Be strong and brave."**
5. After playing a few rounds, you may want to have children who have held the mirror at the end sit out so everyone has a chance to be the child holding the mirror.
6. Play several times or until each child has a turn holding the mirror and saying and signing the Whisper Verse.

GAME: BRAVE SCEPTER

Purpose: Children will learn God can help them be brave when they are afraid.

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

Queen Esther had to be very brave to go to the king without an invitation. She knew she was safe when the king held out his scepter for her to touch.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. **What is something that makes you afraid?**
3. Choose a child to answer the question.
4. Hand the scepter to the child and have him or her stand in the middle of the circle.
5. Lead the children in saying and signing the Whisper Verse to that child: **"Be strong and brave."**
6. Child with the scepter chooses another child to answer the question by handing them the scepter. That child stands in the middle of the circle while you repeat saying and signing the Whisper Verse.
7. Continue playing until each child has a turn.
8. **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.**

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SWEET & SALTY SCEPTERS

Purpose: Children enjoy a snack to remind them of the king's scepter that Queen Esther touched.

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.)

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.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Be strong and brave."
 - **When have you been brave?** (Children respond.)
 - **God helped Queen Esther be strong and brave. She went to see the king. She asked him to save her people.** (Children respond.)
 - **When you are afraid, who can help you be brave?** (God.) **You can pray and ask God to help you be brave.**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Be Brave Mirror." Tell someone how God made Queen Esther brave so she could talk to the king.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God will help you be brave.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Queen Esther Talks to the King." Discuss Bible story and play Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Blessed Are Those" as children color.



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 as 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.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **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

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

GAME: BUILDING THE VERSE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, 13 large toy blocks, tape

Prepare: Print each word of the Bible Memory Verse and reference on an individual strip of paper. Tape a strip each on a toy block.

Teacher Tip: For groups of less than 13 children, give some children more than one block. For groups of more than 13 children, have children take turns or create additional sets of words and blocks to play the game simultaneously.

Directions:

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each word for children to repeat.
2. Give a block to each child and help the children stand in the order of the Bible Memory Verse.
3. Ask the child holding the "Blessed" block to place it on the ground.
4. Have the children say, "Blessed."
5. Repeat with each part of the verse in order until all the blocks are set on the floor in order.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: LISTEN AND OBEY

Purpose: Children practice obeying God's Word as instructed in the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible marked with the passages in the list below

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." That is our Bible Memory Verse. We find God's words in the Bible. What should we do when we hear God's Word? (Listen and obey.) I am going to read God's Word and then I will ask you about different choices some children made. If the child obeyed God's Word, clap and stand up tall. If the child did not obey God's Word, sit down.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle as the teacher reads from a Bible in the center of the circle.
2. Read the Bible Verses and examples, allowing the children to respond after each example:

The Bible says, "We will share." Numbers 10:32

Patti shared her crayons with her friend. Did Patti obey God's Word?

Sarah didn't let her friend use her crayons. Did Sarah obey God's Word?

The Bible says, "Show love." Hosea 1:7

Bobby hit his sister. Did Bobby obey God's Word?

Sammy hugged his mommy. Did Sammy obey God's Word?

The Bible says, "Do not steal." Leviticus 19:11a

Billy took Tommy's toy car. Tommy was sad. Did Billy obey God's Word?

Molly asked to hold Sally's doll. She waited patiently for her turn to hold the doll.

Did Molly obey God's Word?



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! Read Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3 with your family. Queen Esther could only talk to the king if he invited her. He had not invited her, but she needed to ask him to save God's people. What brave thing did Esther do? What is the bravest thing someone in your family has ever done?

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

PLAY! Bravery in the Mirror! Each family member takes a turn holding the "Be Brave Mirror" or any mirror from home and sharing something he or she may be afraid of or worried about. Teach your family the words and motions to the Whisper Verse: "Be strong and brave." Pray together and ask God to help everyone in your family be strong and brave.

Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse: Luke 11:28

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."