

DAY THREE



Theme: God wants us to be selfless

Lesson: Esther before the King *Esther 4-5*

Memory Verse: “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” - *Philippians 2:4*.

Bible Point: Putting others first pleases God

Classroom

Decorate your room as Esther’s living quarters in the palace. Make use of the columns from day two’s lesson (page 93) to give the feeling of being in a place of royalty. Cover the walls with purple linens and fabric and bring in plants and other items that give the room a rich feeling.

(5 Minutes)

Introduction

[Meet the children just outside of the classroom.]

Teacher:
Meet the children just outside of the classroom. You will be going over the memory verse at the end of the class.

Teacher: Hello. We have a very special surprise for you Today. You have been extended an invitation to visit a queen! Can anyone tell me where you might be able to find a Queen? Where does a queen live?

Children: Queens live in palaces or castles.

Teacher: Most queens live in palaces. Today Queen Esther has invited all of you to visit with her in her palace. It is a great honor to be invited to the palace by a queen.

Allow children time to give several answers.

Introduction continued

Teacher: Before we go in, you should know that there are special instructions for how to behave around a queen. Queen Esther didn't have to invite you to see her today, but she did, so we want to honor her by using palace manners. Palace manners require you to be very quite and respectful. When you come into the presence of a queen you should never speak unless she invites you to speak. And we should never be talking when the Queen is talking. Are we all ready? Okay let's use our palace manners. Let's go.

[As you enter the class room, Queen Esther is at the front of the room sitting down.]

(15 Minutes)

Esther & Mordecai:

This is a lot to remember! It's not important that you memorize everything here.

This script was written as a guide. Memorize the key points and use your own words.

Remember: you are Esther & Mordecai! It's important to be real and believable.

LESSON

Esther: Hello! Welcome to the palace! I am so glad that you could all be here today. My name is Queen Esther. Please come in and have a seat.

[Pause until all the children are seated.]

Esther: You may not know this, but I wasn't always a queen. In fact, I was not even raised in a royal family.

(Relate the story of Esther mentioning the following high points)

- I am a Jew and I had no father or mother to raise me.
- I was raised by my cousin, Mordecai.
- I was sent with other women from all over to go before the king.
- After many months, I was ready to go before the king.
- The king loved me more than all of the others.
- He made me his queen and invited me to live here in the palace.

Esther: I know that I owe everything to God. Nothing I did brought me here. It is only by the grace of God that I sit here in front of you as Queen.

[There is a knock at the door.]

Esther: I wonder who that could be. I need one volunteer to go to the door to see who is there. If you would like to volunteer please raise your hand.

[Pick a volunteer who you know will behave and send them to answer the door. Just outside is Mordecai.]

Mordecai: **(Speak loud enough for the whole class to hear.)** I have urgent news for Queen Esther! My name is Mordecai, Esther's cousin. You must inform the Queen that I have discovered a plot to kill our people, the Jews. Haman, who is a high official of the king, became angry with me for not bowing down to him. He knows I serve God alone, and will not bow to anyone. He has persuaded the king to make a proclamation to kill the Jews! Tell Esther she must convince the king to change his mind!

Lesson Continued

[Have your messenger to come back and stand with you at the front of the room.]

Esther: Who was at the door?

Child: Mordecai.

Esther: And what message did my cousin have for me?

[It may take some prompting from the rest of the class and from the class teacher to relay the message.]

Esther: Oh, NO! What shall I do? Everyone knows that those who go into the king without an invitation will be put to death! Not even the king's own Queen is allowed to see him uninvited!

[Addressing the Messenger]

Esther: I need you to go and tell Mordecai that I have not seen the king in 30 days. Ask him what I should do.

[After the question has been delivered to Mordecai, he will hand a piece of paper to the messenger to read to Esther.]

Child: *(May need teacher's assistance)* This is what Mordecai says, "Do not think that because you are in the king's house, you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows, but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14)

Esther: Of course, he is right! Who am I to think that I would be safe? I must obey God, and if I perish, I perish. Will you all pray for me? I must go and prepare to meet the king.

[Esther exits]

Make sure there is enough room for all of the children to watch. Also impress upon them the need to be quiet to hear what is being said.

Actor's Note:
Be sure to speak loudly and clearly.

(5 - 10 Minutes)

Application

Teacher:
Personalize your lesson by adding your own points and questions to the application.

If you need to fill additional time, sing songs with the children.

Mordecai: Esther had a really hard decision to make, didn't she? I'm so proud of her, because she made the right decision. Esther went to the king and exposed Haman's plot to destroy the Jews even though it could have cost her, her life. Esther found favor in the king's sight, and he took pity on her and her people. Because of Esther and her selfless behavior, not only did she save herself, but she also saved her people. I'm going to go and congratulate her on her selflessness.

[Mordecai exits]

Teacher: In today's puppet script, was there anyone who committed a selfless act?

Songs to sing:

“Love is something if you give it away.”

“Make me a servant.”

Application Continued

Children: Nell.

Teacher: What did she do?

Children: She drank Dr. Butler’s Zoo Juice formula so that Mr. Bart wouldn’t drink it.

Teacher: To be a super Christian, what superpower do we need to learn from Esther and Nell?

Children: That we need to act selflessly. That we need to put others needs ahead of our own.

Teacher: Great answer! Let’s learn today’s memory verse together. Now, open your Bibles to Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

[Take a few minutes to go over the memory verse with them.]

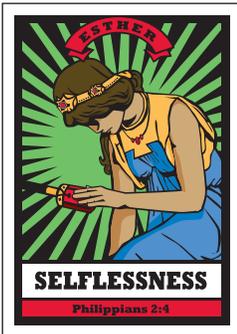
Teacher: The lesson that Paul wants us to learn is the same lesson that we just learned from Esther. Esther was afraid of what would happen to her, but she was more concerned with what would happen to her people. So, despite the risk to herself, she went ahead and pleaded on behalf of the Jews.

How can we act selflessly toward others?

Children: By sharing, letting them first in line, letting someone else choose first.

Teacher: Great answers! It pleases God when we put the interests of others above our own. If we look out for each other and take care of each other, God will take care of us.

(End class with a prayer. Pray that God will help us to be selfless by putting others first.)



To order, see page 130.

Have Esther come back and pass out her Bible trading cards!

To order your trading cards use the order form located on your “Christian Academy” CD.

Teacher:

The posted time for each section is only a suggestion based on a 25-30 minute class. You will want to adjust these times to accommodate your class period. Allow yourself 5-10 minutes to get to know the kids, learn names, and interact with them.