

Lesson 114

Esther Trusts God

God used Esther to protect his people.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

All of God's words in the Bible are what? True!
What word means God will always keep his promises? Faithful.
When can we trust God? All the time.
Is forgiveness of sins a gift from God? Yes. We are saved by grace.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Have the electric fan plugged in and ready to use.
Turn on the fan. I brought a fan with me today. A fan moves the air around. What do we call it when we feel the air moving outside? The wind.

How can you tell which way the wind is blowing? Move fan in different directions. Does the wind ever cause bad things to happen? Point fan toward a stack of papers or someone's hair to mess it up. The wind can do good things, too, like cool us off on a hot day. Blow fan gently toward students. Turn off fan when finished with discussion.

Some people say luck is like the wind; you don't know when or where it will come or go, but you hope it will be good and not bad. They think good luck makes good things happen and bad luck makes bad things happen.

But think about this: was anyone controlling the fan that made the wind blow? Yes, the teacher.

What do you think controls everything that happens to us: luck or God? God.

Just like I controlled the fan, God is in control of everything that happens. There's no such thing as luck. In today's lesson, we'll see how God controlled all that happened to save his people from an evil enemy.

Refer to Lesson 113 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, God caused King Cyrus to let the Jews go back to Judah. Zerubbabel led a group of people and helped them build the altar and the foundation of the temple. When some other people scared the Jews, they stopped building for a long time. But

God was still at work. He helped the people finish the temple 21 years later, and everyone celebrated.

Esther Becomes Queen

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Remember, not all the Jews left for home at the same time. Some of them were still far away in Persia, and they faced a scary problem, too.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We will be reading from the book of Esther today. It begins when the king got angry with his queen and sent her away. So all the beautiful young women, including Esther, were gathered together. The king would choose one of them to be his next queen.

Esther 2:17

When it was Esther's turn to go before the king, she didn't know if he would like her or if he would throw her out like his first queen. Listen to Esther 2:17. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and turn to the sticky note. Read the verse.

What did the king think of Esther? The king loved Esther.
What did the king set on Esther's head? The royal crown.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Wow! Esther was chosen to be the queen of Persia!

Was that good luck, or did God make that happen? God made it happen.

Mordecai, Esther's cousin, stayed close by. One day, he overheard two men making plans to kill the king! Mordecai told Esther about it, and she told the king, so he was saved. Then everything that happened was written down in a special book. Some might say it was good luck that Mordecai was there at the right time. But we'll see that it was all part of God's plan.

Esther Saves the Jews

Although Esther was the queen, things were not good for the Jews in Persia. There was an evil man named Haman who got so angry at Mordecai that he wanted to destroy him and all his people—the Jews!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Haman went to the king. "O king," he said. "There are people in your kingdom who do not keep your laws. We should destroy them."

"All right," the king agreed. "Do whatever you want."

Haman sent letters throughout the country, telling everyone that, on a certain day, they should attack and destroy all the Jews.

Oh no! Was this bad luck, or was God still in control? God was in control.

God is sovereign; he's in control. He knew all about Haman's plan to kill the Jews, and he allowed Mordecai to learn about it. Mordecai told Esther, "You

must beg the king for help so the Jews will be saved.”

“I can’t do that,” Esther explained. “The law says no one may go to the king unless he calls you. I could be killed if I go—unless he holds out his golden scepter.”

Refer to the Flip Chart. A scepter is like a long, gold or silver stick a king would hold as a symbol of his power and authority.

Mordecai told Esther she should go to the king anyway. “Who knows?” said Mordecai. “Maybe you were made queen—at just this time—so you can help us all.”

Esther knew Mordecai was right. She would go to the king and trust in God to protect her.

Refer to the Flip Chart. When Esther went to the throne room, she didn’t know if she would be welcomed or punished. But when the king saw her, he held out his scepter. Whew! What a relief!
Was that good luck, or was God with Esther? God was with Esther.

Esther invited the king and Haman to a fancy dinner. Then she asked them to come to a second dinner. Haman was happy to be invited to dinner—twice! He was sure his plan to kill Mordecai and the Jews would happen very soon.

But that was not God’s plan. Remember the special book where they wrote important things that happened? Well, one night, the king told his servant to read from this book. God even controlled which part was read to the king that night! It was the part about Mordecai. As the king listened, he remembered how Mordecai stopped the men from killing him.

Later, at the second dinner, the king asked Esther what he could do for her. Esther said, “I wish that you would let me live. And I ask that you would let the Jews live, too.”

Suddenly, the king understood that Haman’s plan to kill the Jews included his queen and Mordecai, who had saved his life!

Esther 7:5–6

The king was surprised when he heard this. Let’s find out what happened next in chapter 7. Read verses 5–6.

What did the king ask? Who is he, and where is he who dares to do this?
Who did Esther say was the enemy? Wicked Haman.
How did Haman feel at this moment? He was terrified.

The king was extremely angry and ordered the death of Haman.

Was this bad luck for Haman? Who was in control? God.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Then the king told Mordecai to write a letter that allowed the Jews to fight back against anyone who attacked them. On the

day that was planned for the Jews to be destroyed, they fought all their enemies and won. It became a day of celebration because God was in control and saved the lives of his people!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Introduction

Have the electric fan plugged in and ready to use.
Turn on the fan. I brought a fan with me today. A fan moves the air around. What do we call it when we feel the air moving outside? The wind.

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Some people say luck is like the wind; you don't know when or where it will come or go, but you hope it will be good and not bad. They think good luck makes good things happen and bad luck makes bad things happen.

But think about this: was anyone controlling the fan that caused the wind to blow? Yes, the teacher.
What do you think controls everything that happens to us: luck or God? God.

Just like I controlled the fan, God is in control of everything that happens. There's no such thing as luck. In today's lesson, we'll see how God controlled events to save his people from a powerful enemy. And we'll see that luck had nothing to do with it.

Refer to Lesson 113 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, God caused King Cyrus to let the Jews return to Judah after 70 years of captivity. Zerubbabel led the group of people to the city of Jerusalem and helped them build the altar of God and lay the foundation of the temple. But some people did not want the Jews to rebuild, and they scared them so that they stopped building. But God worked that problem out. The temple was finished 21 years later, and all the Jews celebrated.

Esther Becomes Queen

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Remember, not all the Jews left for home at the same time. Some of them were still in Babylon, which was now called Persia, and they were about to face some scary problems of their own.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We will be reading from the book of Esther today. Esther is a book of true history, which shows God's control over events as he protects his people.

Esther was born in Persia. After her parents died, she was raised by her cousin Mordecai.

The book begins when the king got angry with his queen and sent her away. He needed a new queen, so all the beautiful young women, including Esther, were gathered together. The king would choose one of them to be his next queen.

Esther 2:17

The time came for Esther to go before the king. Would he like her, or would he throw her out like his first queen? Listen to Esther 2:17. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and turn to the sticky note. Read the verse.

What did the king think of Esther? The king loved Esther.
What did the king set on Esther's head? The royal crown.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Wow! Esther was chosen to be the queen of Persia!

Was that good luck, or did God make that happen? God made it happen.

Mordecai, Esther's cousin, stayed close by. While he was at the king's gate, he overheard two men making plans to kill the king! Some might say it was lucky that Mordecai was there at the right time. But it was all part of God's plan. Because Mordecai told Esther what he had heard, she was able to tell the king, and his life was saved. All of these facts were written in the book of the chronicles, which was a journal of important events that happened in the kingdom.

Esther Saves the Jews

Although Esther was the queen, things were not good for the Jews in Persia. There was a powerful man named Haman who was very evil. When Mordecai would not bow to honor him, Haman got so angry that he formed a plan to destroy Mordecai and all his people—the Jews!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Haman went to the king. "O king," he said. "There are people living in your kingdom who do not keep your laws."

"What do you think we should do?" the king asked.

"We should destroy them," Haman replied.

"All right," the king agreed. "Do whatever you want."

Haman sent letters throughout the country, telling everyone that, on a certain day, they were to attack and destroy all the Jews.

Oh no! Was this bad luck, or was God still in control? God was in control.

God is sovereign, in control. He knew all about Haman's plot to kill the Jews, and he allowed Mordecai to learn about it. Mordecai told Esther, "You must beg the king for mercy so the Jews may be saved."

"I can't do that," Esther explained. "The law says no one may go to the king without being called first. I could be killed on the spot—unless he holds out his golden scepter."

Refer to the Flip Chart. A scepter is like a long, gold or silver stick a king would hold as a symbol of his power and authority.

Mordecai reminded Esther that, although she might die by going to the king, she would still be killed by Haman's plan to destroy the Jews. "Who knows?" said Mordecai. "Maybe you were made queen—at just this time—so you can help us all."

Esther 4:16

Would Esther risk her life to save her people? Let's find out what she said to Mordecai. Read Esther 4:16.

What did Esther tell Mordecai to do? Gather the Jews and fast (not eat or drink) for three days.

What was Esther going to do after the fast? Go to the king.

Esther would go to the king. She was willing to die for her people, but she would trust in God to protect her.

Refer to the Flip Chart. When Esther went to the throne room, she didn't know if she would be welcomed or punished. But when the king saw her, he held out his scepter. Whew! What a relief!

Was that good luck, or was God with Esther? God was with Esther.

Esther invited the king and Haman to a banquet, a fancy dinner. Then she asked them both to come to a second banquet. Haman was so happy to be invited to dinner—twice! He was sure his plot to kill Mordecai and the Jews would happen very soon. He even built an enormous gallows to hang Mordecai on.

But that was not God's plan. One night, the king ordered that the book of the chronicles be read to him—remember the journal we talked about earlier? As the king listened, he remembered the time Mordecai stopped the men from killing him. God even controlled what was read to the king that night!

Later, at the second dinner, the king asked Esther for her wish and request. This time, Queen Esther told the king everything.

Esther 7:3–6

Let's find out what she said in Esther chapter 7. Read verses 3–4.

What did Esther ask the king to grant for her wish? Her life.

What did she ask as her request? My people. The lives of her people.

Suddenly, the king understood that Haman's plan to kill the Jews included his queen and Mordecai, who had saved his life.

The king was surprised when he heard this. Let's find out what happened next. Read verses 5–6.

What did the king ask? Who is he, and where is he who dares to do this? Who did Esther say was the enemy? Wicked Haman. How did Haman feel at this moment? He was terrified.

The king was furious and ordered the death of Haman on the same giant gallows Haman had built for Mordecai.

Was this bad luck for Haman? Who was in control? God.

Then Esther begged the king to stop the evil plan against the Jews. The king listened to Esther and told Mordecai to write a letter that allowed the Jews to fight back against anyone who attacked them.

Refer to the Flip Chart. On the day that was planned for the Jews to be destroyed, they fought all their enemies and won. It became a day of celebration because God was in control and saved the lives of his people!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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