



Date: _____

Series: God Is Powerful
Fall Year 1, Lesson 23

God Uses Esther to Save the Jews

Bible Event: Esther 3:8-10; 5:1-5, 8; 7:1-5; 8:11; 9:1-6,18

Take Home Point: *GOD IS POWERFUL – *God's power saves.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: God saves us through Jesus.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God has great power. He demonstrates his power all the time through us, his people. God has us use our special gifts to help other people and that is how his power shines through us. All of this is because God loves us. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD IS POWERFUL – *God's power saves.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and creating them. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before showing. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting them to see what happens by watching the video. Also, you can introduce the video by inviting them to watch for special actions or words.

Show the video, *Animated Bible Stories II: Esther*

Before the video, tell the children that they need to be able to answer three questions by the end of the video. The three questions are:

- 1) Who was Esther?
- 2) What did the evil Haman do?
- 3) How did Esther save the Jews?

After the video, have the children answer the questions with the large group presenter. If you do not have enough time for the whole video, you might tell the first part in storyteller fashion, then let the children see the conclusion of the video.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to

the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Make pretzel scepters. Take rod pretzels, dip them in cheese sauce/dip and then roll them in sprinkles of your choice.

Drama Zone: Provide colorful robes, crowns, and a table and chairs to set up for a feast.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Esther. (For example, materials can be found in #91, "Brave Queen Esther", from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Puppet Zone: Invite the children to make up a story with their puppets. One puppet can have a special need. The other puppets can help. God's power is seen in the way we help others, just like Queen Esther helped others.

Messy Zone: Provide play dough for children to make food for the feast.

Video Zone: *Veggie Tales: "Esther, the Girl Who Became Queen."*

Craft Zone: Gift Butterflies. Each child gets two die-cut butterflies to color or paint. One is to keep and one is to give to a friend. Attach pre-made stickers (Avery 5160) that say, "God is Powerful – God's Power Saves." *Option:* if you prefer, an appendix with butterflies is at the end of this lesson. If you use this option, copy the appendix on cardstock and cut in half before class begins.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of Books. Be sure to include any books you may have that contain the story of Esther.

Music Zone: *What a Mighty God We Serve*, 2002 Agnes Day Music, from the CD titled, *God's Kids Worship – Orange*, by Tommy Nelson Inc.

Coloring Zone: "God Uses Esther to Save the Jews" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes on the stage very busy, looking for something. He's peering out into the crowd, and looking under things and in the large group leader's pockets, etc. The large group leader wants to know what Bubba is looking so hard for. He's trying to find God's power. He wants to see it in action. Where is it?

Where can Bubba find God's power? The large group leader says he can help Bubba with that. The leader knows exactly where Bubba can find God's power. He holds up a mirror to Bubba's face. Bubba doesn't understand. What does a mirror have to do with God's power? The large group presenter tells Bubba to look into the mirror and tell him what he sees. Bubba only sees himself. Exactly! The large group presenter explains that the way we can see God's power in action is to look at ourselves! God's power works through us! The large group presenter gives Bubba some examples so he understands. When we:

- Help others
- Pick up our room
- Help Mom with dishes
- Tell others about Jesus
- Comfort a friend if he falls
- Forgive a friend

You see, whenever we do these things, we are letting God's power work in us! God is really powerful if he can be in our hearts and help us to help others. That's God's power! Cool!

Remember: ***GOD IS POWERFUL – God's power saves.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: *Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents*

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- *Esther, Animated Bible Stories II*, 1993 Nest Family Entertainment. (30 minutes)—order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=ESD

Action Zones:

Messy Zone:

- play dough
- plastic mat or tablecloth

Video Zone:

- *Veggie Tales: Esther, The Girl Who Became Queen*, Big Idea Productions—order from <http://store.yahoo.net/yhst-54787164184156/esgiwhobequv.html>

Snack Zone:

- pretzel rods
- cheese sauce or dip
- sprinkles

Drama Zone:

- colorful robes
- crowns
- table and chairs

Puppet Zone:

- puppets for the children to use to make up stories; one puppet can have a special need, the other puppets can help; God's power is seen in the way we help others, just like Queen Esther helped others

Felt Zone:

- felt board materials to show the story of Esther. (For example, materials can be found in #91, "Brave Queen Esther," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*—order from www.bettylukens.com)

Craft Zone:

- two butterfly die cuts per child or the appendix
- markers, crayons or paint and sponge brushes
- one pre-made sticker* (Avery 5160) per child that say, "God is Powerful – God's Power Works Through Us"
- newspaper, paper towels and smocks

Quiet Reading Zone:

- basket of books

Music Zone:

- *What a Mighty God We Serve*, 2002 Agnes Day Music, from the CD titled, *God's Kids Worship – Orange*, by Tommy Nelson, Inc.—order from http://www.thomasonelson.com/consumer/product_detail.asp?dept_id=130250&sku=1400300517

Coloring Zone:

- crayons and markers
- "God Uses Esther to Save the Jews" coloring page[†]

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- hand-held mirror

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Appendix

