NOV
8

3RD - 5TH

17.4
Esther Saved
Her People

CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids:

Have you ever had to do something that scared you, even a little? What was it? Were you able to do it?

CONTROL IT

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into teams of three or four and provide each team with a beach ball. Challenge teams to keep the ball off the ground by hitting it back and forth to one another. When a ball falls to the ground, the kids are out. Play as time allows or until only one pair of kids remain.

Could you always control where the beach ball went or if it would hit the ground? This reminds me of how we are not in control of all things like God. Even when it may not seem like it, God is ruling over everything according to His good plans. Today, we will see how God was in control of how His people would be saved from an evil man named Haman. While Haman formed a plan against God's people, God had a greater plan to save them through a woman named Esther. We'll see how Esther obeyed God, risked her life, and saved her people.

START BY 9:30/10:55 REVIEW 3 BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW **LARGE GROUP**

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open their Bibles to Esther 2. **The book of Esther covers the history of the Jewish people in Persia about 100 years after the exile. Esther is found in the History division of the Old Testament. After the Babylonian exile, some Jews returned to Jerusalem, but some remained in Persia.**

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Esther 5:2 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

Why did Esther bravely go before the king even though it was dangerous? Esther trusted God's plan and wanted to save her people because their lives were in danger.

How can we trust and obey God when something is hard? We can trust that God loves us and has a plan for our lives. When we obey Him, even when it's hard, our obedience honors and glorifies God.

DISCUSSION

When have you trusted God during a challenging time? Answers will vary. We will all face times when we face challenges or uncertainty, but God is ready and willing to help us trust Him. It may mean we trust Him when we stand up for what is right or choose to believe He will provide what we need. (Option: Read Jeremiah 17:7-8)

How do Esther's actions for her people point us to Jesus? God raised up Esther to save His people. Mordecai urged Esther to take action, and she was willing to face death for them. In a greater way, God sent Jesus at just the right time, and Jesus willingly died on the cross to save sinners. One day, He will come back to rule as King forever. (Option: Read Hebrews 12:2)

God's plan was greater than Haman's evil plan. How will God defeat evil and sin once and for all? Through Jesus' death on the cross, evil and sin has been disarmed—they hold no power over those who trust in Jesus. One day, Jesus will return to defeat evil and sin once and for all. Those who trust in Jesus will be saved and will live with God forever. Those who do not will be separated from God forever. (Option: Read Colossians 2:13-15)

TRUE COURAGE

Invite kids to think about what the word courage means. Prompt kids to share their ideas by raising their hands. Then write their responses on a dry erase board. Provide each kid with a Bible. Invite kids to look up and read the following verses: **Joshua 1:9; Psalm 112:7; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 5:6-7.** Invite kids to share how the Bible defines courage.

Courage doesn't mean we are never afraid. It means we choose to trust God even when we feel afraid. God promises to be with us, and we can trust Him even when we don't know what will happen. Jesus has overcome the world, so we can have hope and walk by faith.

Esther showed courage by trusting and obeying God, even when it meant risking her life to save her people. Just like Esther, we can trust God when we face scary or difficult situations. Through faith in Jesus, God promises to be with us and help us. Because Jesus has overcome the world and saved us from sin, we can trust Him and have nothing to fear.

Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.

Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.
Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.