NOV
8

K - 2ND

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:

What do you think it means to be brave?
Have you ever had to be brave? When?

CONTROL IT

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into groups 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 STORY REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open their Bibles to Esther 4. **The Book of Esther is a book of history. It covers the history of the Jewish people in Persia about 100 years after the exile.** Read Esther 4:14-16 and have kids follow along as you read the verse aloud.

What can do when we feel afraid or unsure about a decision?
We can pray and ask God for guidance, and we can read His Word, the Bible.

Can we trust God even when we don't know what will happen?
Yes! God loves us, He is always in control, and His plans are good!

DISCUSSION

Why was it dangerous for Esther to go before the king? It was dangerous for Esther to go before the king because, in Persia, no one was allowed to approach the king without being summoned. If someone went to the king without an invitation, he or she could be put to death unless the king showed them mercy by holding out his golden scepter. Esther had to trust God and be very brave because she didn't know if the king would listen to her or punish her.

Esther went to the king on behalf of her people. Who went before God on our behalf? Jesus went before God on our behalf. Like Esther risked her life to save her people, Jesus gave His life to save us from sin. He is our mediator, the one who stands between us and God, making the way for us to be forgiven and have a right relationship with Him. Because of Jesus, we can come to God with confidence, knowing He hears us and loves us.

How can we trust God's plans even when we don't understand them? We can trust God's plans, even when we don't understand them, by remembering He is always in control and loves us. God promises to take care of His people. We can pray, read the Bible, and look back at times when God has been faithful to help us trust Him, even when things felt uncertain. God showed His plans are for our good when He sent Jesus to die for our sins.

GOD PROVIDES

Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a marker. Tell kids they are going to draw a picture of something, but they won't know what they are supposed to be drawing until more and more parts are revealed. Explain that kids must follow what you draw on a dry erase board. Lead kids to draw a picture of your choosing, such as a cat, house, ice cream cone, etc. Draw one part at a time, trying to slowly add to the picture so kids do not guess what it is right away. As more parts are added, invite kids to guess what they are drawing. Repeat, choosing a new item to draw.

At first, you couldn't see the whole picture, but as each part of the drawing was added, you began to see more clearly. We won't always understand God's plan. Sometimes, God may give us understanding, and other times He doesn't. But we can trust God no matter what. God always sees the whole picture; He knows everything! Like Esther, we can trust God's plans are always for our good.

As time allows, pass out crayons and pencils for kids to work on the activity sheet.

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.