esson

Esther

God's Young Heroes Lesson 5

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of how God used Esther to save the Jews.
- The children will state that God had a plan for Esther.
- The children will tell one way God can use them to help others.

Lesson Text

Esther 1-8

Scripture Memory Verse

"...And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Who's Who in Esther

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: God Saves the Queen

Craft: The Gold Scepter

Scripture Memory: Right Time and Place

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.







Esther

Who's Who in Esther

The children will preview this week's lesson as they make a set of story figures to use during the Bible Story.

Materials

For each child:

- markers and crayons
- brass fastener

For the teacher:

- scissors
- hole punch

Reproducible Pages:

Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

- 1. Cut out the story figures from the copies of Reproducible Page A for the children.
- 2. Punch a hole in the bottom of each figure on the space indicated.
- 3. Make a sample set of figures to show the children. (Give this set to the Bible Story teacher when Preclass is over.)

Instructions

- 1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell them that today they are going to learn about a beautiful young woman named Esther who saved an entire nation of people. Show the children your sample and tell them that they will make their own to use during the Bible Story.
- 2. Distribute the story figures you prepared and crayons. Tell the children to color their figures.
- 3. Distribute the brass fasteners and help the children to put it through the holes and open it.
- 4. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement. Tell the children to write their names on the backs of their figures.
- 5. Collect the figures and give them to the Bible Story teacher.

- If you have an older class, you may want to let the children cut out their own figures and you can circulate among them to punch the holes.
- Arrange the story figures by alphabetical or registration order to help the Bible Story teacher.





B Esther

S

God Saves the Queen

The children will participate in the story of how God used Esther to save his people.

Materials

For each child:

- story figures from Preclass For the teacher:
- large writing surface

Preparation

- 1. On the large writing surface, neatly write: Esther; Mordecai; King Xerxes; Haman.
- 2. Practice presenting this Bible Story with great enthusiasm and energy. (See Teacher Tips.)

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Esther. Tell the children that today's Bible Story comes from the Old Testament book of Esther. Hold up the title page to show the children. Say the names on the large writing surface and have the children repeat them after you.

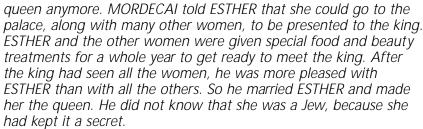
Distribute the "Who's Who in Esther" story figures from Preclass. Help the children to identify each of the four characters. Explain that during the story, the children will hold up each character when they hear its name. For example, every time you say "Esther" the children will hold up the picture of Esther.

NOTE: Be careful to read slowly enough to allow for the children to hold up their pictures.

Presenting the Bible Story

ESTHER was a beautiful, young Jewish girl. She lived in a foreign land, far away from her homeland. ESTHER was an orphan. After her parents died, ESTHER was raised in a land called Susa by her cousin, MORDECAI. MORDECAI was a good man. He worshiped the Lord and he served the king. In the land where they lived however, the people did not worship the Lord or care about God. The people were ruled by a king named XERXES.

KING XERXES was looking for a new wife and a new queen. His first wife did not honor and respect him, so she could not be the



The king had an important assistant named HAMAN. One day, the king decided to honor HAMAN and told all the people that they must honor him too. So the people bowed down to HAMAN when he walked by. But MORDECAI would not bow down to HAMAN because MORDECAI only bowed down to worship God. When HAMAN saw that MORDECAI would not bow down to him, he was angry. He was so angry that he came up with a plan to kill MORDECAI and all of the Jews in the land, including ESTHER!

MORDECAI went right away and told ESTHER about HAMAN'S terrible plan to kill all the Jews. He told her to go and tell KING XERXES. ESTHER was afraid. She told MORDECAI that she could only go to the king if he called her. The king could put someone to death if they came without his invitation. If the king did not extend his gold scepter, then ESTHER would be put to death. But MORDECAI believed that God had a plan for ESTHER to save the people. This is what MORDECAI said to ESTHER: "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 royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14)

ESTHER listened to MORDECAI. Even though she knew the danger, she agreed. She told MORDECAI to have all of God's people in the city fast for her for three days. ESTHER said that she and her helpers would also fast for three days. Then she would go to the king. (Explain to the children that fasting was done together with prayer to show God that the people were serious about their prayers.)

After three days, ESTHER went to see the king without an invitation—and he let her come in and approach him. He was even happy to see her. KING XERXES held out his gold scepter and invit-



Esther

ed her to touch it. ESTHER asked the king to come to a special dinner that she had prepared for him, and she invited HAMAN too.

After ESTHER gave two special dinners for the king, she told him about HAMAN'S terrible plan to kill MORDECAI and all the Jews. ESTHER told the king that she was also a Jew and begged the king to have mercy on her people. When the king heard this, he was very angry and had HAMAN put to death. Then he made sure that HAMAN'S plan was stopped and made a law—called an edict to protect all the Jews in the land. After that, the king made MORDECAI his new assistant and made sure that the people honored MORDECAL.

All of God's people in Susa celebrated because they had been saved! God used ESTHER to rescue his people.

Share and Tell

Encourage the children that God helped Esther not to be afraid so that she could help save her people. Ask the children if they have ever felt afraid of what someone thought of them or of their faith in God. Tell them that Esther felt the same way. Remind them that God is very powerful. God can change people—even kings!

Ask the children if any of them (or someone they know) are adopted. Encourage them that Esther was adopted and God used her to help lots of people and even change some of the laws in that land! Encourage the children to think of someone that they can tell the story of Esther to this week. Close with a prayer for the children to believe that God wants to use them to help others the way he used Esther.

- For a really captivating presentation, present the story in the character and costume of Esther, or invite a disciple with theatrical experience to do it. Use the Bible Story as the script but present the story in the first person, i.e. My name is Esther and in this story I was a young Jewish girl. Be careful not to change the story as it is presented here.
- Emphasize Esther's adoption by Mordecai. This will help children who are adopted to relate and feel special.
- Enlarge the story figures to use as you present the Bible Story.





Esther

The Gold Scepter

The children will make a craft to remind them that God had a great plan for Esther.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 long cardboard tube, at least 24" long
- 1 Styrofoam ball, 3" to 4" in diameter
- 2 pieces of gold foil to cover the tube and ball
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- invisible tape
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

• Page B, 1 copy for every 3 children

Preparation

- 1. Cut out the scepter bands from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
- 2. Make a sample craft to show the children.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce today's activity: Today you are learning an amazing story about a beautiful young woman named Esther. Esther was an orphan who became the queen! Esther had to risk her life to save her people, the Jews. She had to go to the king without his invitation. If the king did not extend his gold scepter, then Esther would be put to death. But Esther fasted. She believed that God had a plan for her to save God's people. When Esther went to see the king, he wasn't angry-he was happy to see her! He held out his gold scepter and invited her to touch it. Soon after, the king helped to rescue the Jews from being destroyed. Show the children the craft you prepared. Tell them that they will each make a gold scepter to remind them that God had a plan to rescue Esther and the Jews.
- 2. Distribute the cardboard tubes and Styrofoam balls to the children. Help the children place the Styrofoam balls onto one end of their tubes. Circulate among the children and use the masking tape to make the balls stay secure. See Figure A.

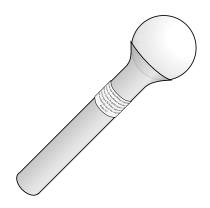
God's Young Heroes Lesson 5

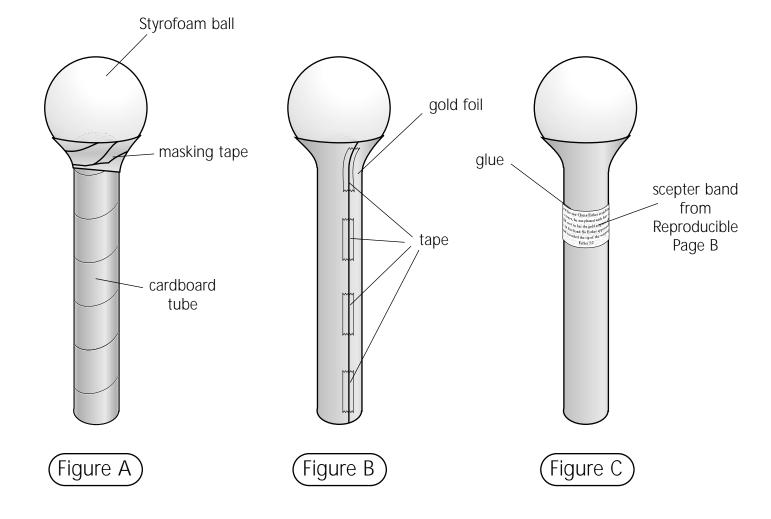
- 3. Distribute the gold foil. Help the children to cover their tubes and Styrofoam balls with the gold foil. Circulate among them to reinforce the edges with invisible tape. See Figure B.
- 4. Distribute the scepter bands you prepared and glue sticks. Help the children to glue their bands around their scepters. Reinforce with invisible tape if necessary. See Figure C.

Conclusion

Encourage the children that God has the power to change even the most powerful people in the world, like kings and world leaders. Tell the children that God's plans are greater than any man's plans—even the plans of a king. Ask the children who they think the most important (or powerful) person in the whole world is. Tell them that God is even more powerful than that person. Close with a prayer thanking God for his power and plans for our lives.

- If long cardboard tubes are not available, tape together two smaller ones or purchase dowel rods from a hardware store.
- To save time, spray paint the Styrofoam balls with gold paint several days in advance so that they are thoroughly dry before the children make this craft.
- Gold foil can be found at most florist shops.







For the teacher:

- scissors
- · watch or timer with second hand Reproducible Pages:
- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

- 1. Cut out each of the words from the Scripture Memory Verse puzzle from your copy of Reproducible Page C.
- 2. Memorize this week's Scripture Memory Verse.
- 3. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce this activity: Today you are learning an amazing story about a beautiful young woman named Esther. Esther was an orphan who became the gueen! She risked her life to save her people, the Jews. God had a plan for Esther and she let God use her to rescue the people. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, believed that God had a plan for Esther's life. In your Scripture Memory Verse, you are going to learn what he told her.
- 2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to the children three times as they listen. Point to each word as you say it. Ask the children to say it together with you three more times, pointing to the words as you say them. Ask each child to take a turn saying it with you to the rest of the group.

God's Young Heroes Lesson 5

- 3. Tell the children that this was Mordecai's message to Esther in the palace. Mordecai knew that he and all the Jews' lives were in serious danger. He knew that Esther was the only one who could change the king's mind. Esther was afraid to speak to the king. But Mordecai understood that God had a plan. Mordecai wanted Esther to see that she was in just the right place at just
- 4. Show the children the puzzle that you prepared. Place the words in the correct order to show the children. Pick up the pieces and distribute them among the children. Say each word of the verse as the children place their words down in the correct spaces. Pick up the words, shuffle them and repeat this activity, making sure to say each word of the verse for the children.
- 5. Pick up the words and shuffle them. Now tell the children to put the words down in the correct order from memory. Encourage them to work together and help each other. Do this three times.
- 6. Tell the children that you are going to time them three more times, to see how quickly they can place the words in the correct order. Take the best of their three times.

Conclusion

Ask the children if they have ever been in the right place at the right time to help someone, or do something good for someone else. Encourage the children that God has a plan for each of their lives and he wants to use them to help other people learn about him. Close with a prayer for the children to see God's plan working in their lives.

Teacher Tips

• Pair young or struggling readers with those who are older and more confident.







"...And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Fsther 4:14





God's Young Heroes Lesson 5

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of how God used Esther to save the Jews.
- The children will state that God had a plan for Esther.
- The children will tell one way God can use them to help others.

Lesson Text

Esther 1-8

Scripture Memory Verse

"...And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

Lesson	Plan
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Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Tool Time

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: God's Tool Kit

Game: Fsther's Solitaire

Bible Skills: Memories of Esther

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.





pre class







Tool Time

The children will review this week's lesson as they make a craft to remind them that God can use them.

Materials

For each child:

- 3 large craft sticks
- tape
- glue stick
- crayons or markers
- 1 new restaurant take-out container For the teacher:
- scissors
- tape

Reproducible Pages:

 Page D, 1 copy for each child (on heavy paper)

Preparation

- 1. For each child, cut out the tools from the copies of Reproducible Page D.
- 2. Make a sample to show the children. After the Preclass, give it to the Life Application teacher.

Instructions

- 1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about Esther, the beautiful young queen who God used to saved his people. Show them the sample tool kit that you made. Tell them that the tools remind us that God wants to use us today, just as he used Esther in the Bible to help save many other people.
- 2. Distribute the tools you prepared, large craft sticks, crayons and glue sticks. Tell the children to color in their tools and then glue them to their craft sticks. Have

- the children write their names on the craft. sticks. Circulate among the children to reinforce their tools by taping the backs.
- 3. Distribute the empty take-out containers to the children and have them place their tools in it. Help the children write their names on the containers. Tell the children that they will use their tools later in their lesson.
- 4. Collect their labeled tool kits and give them to the Life Application teacher.

- Empty take-out containers with handles can be purchased at wholesale food and supply stores.
- If you cannot find the containers, make a "bucket" with a large paper cup and pipe cleaner handle.

God's Tool Kit

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they think of ways that God can use them to help people.

Materials

For each child:

- tool kit from Preclass
- 1 gold star sticker
- 1 white self-sticking label
- marker

For the teacher:

- sample tool kit (from Preclass teacher)
- large writing surface
- tape
- black marker

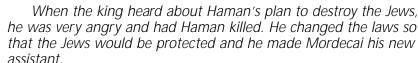
Preparation

- 1. On each of the self-sticking labels, write: God's Tool Kit.
- 2. On the large writing surface, write: sing; write; help; cook; pray; clean; draw; paint.
- 3. Read Esther 1-8 to review this week's Bible Story text.
- 4. Practice reviewing the Bible Story with great enthusiasm.

Reviewing the Bible Story of Esther: A Tool Used by God

Open your Bible to Esther. In your Bible Story this week, you learned about a beautiful young woman named Esther. She was an orphan who was raised by her cousin Mordecai. Esther and Mordecai were Jews. They lived in a foreign land where the people did not worship or obey God. King Xerxes ruled the people. He was looking for a wife to be the new queen. His first wife did not respect him, so she could not be the queen anymore. After the king saw Esther, he chose her to be his wife and the new queen.

King Xerxes had an assistant named Haman who hated the Jews, especially Mordecai. Haman came up with a plan to destroy all the Jews in the land. When Mordecai heard about this, he told Esther to go to the king. Esther was afraid at first. But she asked the people to fast for her, and then she went to the king to tell him Haman's plans.



God had a plan to use Esther to save his people! And Esther let God use her to save the people!

Life Application: God's Tool Kit Today

Tell the children that God has a plan to use each of us just as he used Esther. Explain that Esther was the queen and God used her position and talents to rescue the people. God wants to use our talents to help other people. We have to let God use us like he would use a tool. We are God's tool kits!

Distribute the tool kits from Preclass and the labels. Tell the children to place the labels on the outside of their kits. Then have them take out their three tools. Read each of the words on the large writing surface to the children. Ask each child to pick three words that describe something that God can use them to do to help others and write them on each tool. Circulate among the children to help them with the writing. Have them place their tools back in their kits.

Go around in a circle and ask the children to hold up one tool from their kit. Put a gold star on that tool and help the child to say how he can use that talent this week. For example: David, you can paint a picture for Miss Kay who was out sick today. I know that God could use you to encourage her if you did that.

Conclusion

Encourage the children that God has a special plan for each of their lives. Whether they grow up to be famous world leaders or great mothers and fathers, God wants to use them to help others know him. Close with a prayer asking God to help the children think about God's plans for them this week.

Teacher Tips

 Think of additional ways to enhance this activity. If time permits, have the children think of more than one way to use their talents this week.





Esther's Solitaire

The children will review key words and ideas from this week's lesson on Esther.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons
- pencil
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- scissors
- marker

Reproducible Pages:

Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

- 1. Cut out the crowns and gemstones from the copies of Reproducible Page E for each child.
- 2. Practice reviewing the story and playing this game.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity by reviewing the Bible Story: In your Bible Story this week, you learned about a beautiful young woman named Esther. She was an orphan who was raised by her cousin Mordecai. Mordecai worked in the palace. He and Esther were Jews. They lived in a foreign land where the people did not worship or obey God. The people were ruled by King Xerxes. He was looking for a new wife. His first wife did not respect him, so she could not be the queen anymore. After the king met Esther, he chose her to be his wife and she became the new queen.

King Xerxes had an assistant named Haman who hated the Jews, especially Mordecai. Haman came up with a plan to destroy all the Jews in the land. When Mordecai heard about this, he told Esther to go to the king. Esther was afraid at first. But she asked the people to fast for her, and then she went to the king to tell him what Haman did.

When the king heard about Haman's plan to destroy the Jews, he was very angry and had Haman killed. He made a new law—

- called an edict—so that the Jews would be protected. Then he made Mordecai his new assistant. God had a plan to use Esther to save his people! And Esther let God use her to save the people!
- 2. Have the children sit in a circle. Distribute the crowns and explain that they have four spaces on their crowns for gemstones. They will have a chance to answer questions and place gemstones on their crowns until they are filled. Place the four piles of gemstones in the center of the circle where the children can reach them. Explain that the letters on their crowns and gemstones refer to the four characters in this week's lesson: "E" is for questions about Esther; "M" is for questions about Mordecai; "X" is for questions about King Xerxes; and "H" is for questions about Haman.
- 3. Choose one child to go first. Tell him to choose one of the letters from his crown. Read a question from the list on the back of this Lesson Card that corresponds to that letter. If the child answers correctly, he may take a corresponding gemstone to fill that space. For example: if the child answers a question from the "E" category, he receives a gemstone with the letter "E" to fill that space. Encourage the children to help each other answer the questions.
- 4. The child next to him may go next. Play continues until all the children have filled all their gemstones. Questions may be asked more than once. If a child has filled his crown, direct him to help a child who has not.

Two Are Better Than One

If this is a younger group of children, or if several children did not hear this week's Bible Story, have two children play as partners with one crown between them.

Conclusion

Encourage the children for their participation. Ask them what is their favorite part of the story of Esther. Close with a prayer thanking God for Esther's willingness to be used by him.

Teacher Tips

• Use this game again as an extra activity.

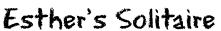












Ouestions and Answers

"E" Questions (questions about Esther)

- What book in the Old Testament does this story come from? (Esther)
- Was Esther a young girl or an old woman in this story? (young girl)
- Was Esther an orphan or a twin? (orphan)
- What did the king do after he met Esther? (chose her; married her)
- Did Esther become the king or the queen? (queen)
- When Mordecai told Esther to tell the king about Haman's plan to kill the Jews, Esther was: asleep or afraid? (afraid)
- What did Esther ask the people to do to help her? (fast)

"M" Questions (questions about Mordecai)

- What was the name of Esther's cousin? (Mordecai)
- Where did Mordecai work? (in the palace; for the king)
- Yes or No: Mordecai took care of Esther after her parents died. (yes)
- Yes or No: Mordecai worshiped God. He would not bow down to Haman. (yes)
- Yes or No: Mordecai ran away when he learned that Haman wanted to kill the Jews. (no)
- Yes or No: Mordecai believed that God had a plan to use Esther to save his people. (yes)
- Yes or No: Mordecai was honored by the king after Haman was killed. (yes)

"X" Questions (questions about King Xerxes)

- What was the name of the king in this story? (Xerxes)
- What was the king looking for? (a new wife; a new queen)
- Why was the king looking for a new wife to be queen? (his first one did not respect him)
- What did the king do after he met Esther? (he chose her; he married her)
- What did the king do to Haman when he learned of the plan to destroy the Jews? (he was angry; he killed Haman)
- What did the king do to protect the Jews? (made a new law or "edict")
- What did the king do for Mordecai? (made him his new assistant; honored him)

"H" Questions (questions about Haman)

- Yes or No: Haman was the name of the king's wife. (no)
- Yes or No: Haman was the name of the king's important assistant. (yes)
- Yes or No: Haman was honored by the king for his work. (yes)
- Yes or No: Haman wanted the people to bow down to him. (yes)
- Yes or No: Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman. (yes)
- Yes or No: Haman was happy that Mordecai refused to bow down to him. (no)
- Yes or No: Haman hated the Jews and wanted to kill them. (yes)
- Yes or No: Haman was killed because of his evil plan to kill the Jews. (yes)





NOTE: For a simpler version, make all the questions in a "Yes or No" style.



Memories of Esther

The children will review key names and words from this week's lesson about Esther.

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- 24 index cards, 5" x 7"
- glue stick

Reproducible Pages:

Page F, 4 copies for the teacher

Preparation

Cut out the playing cards from the copies of Reproducible Page F and glue each one to an index card.

Instructions

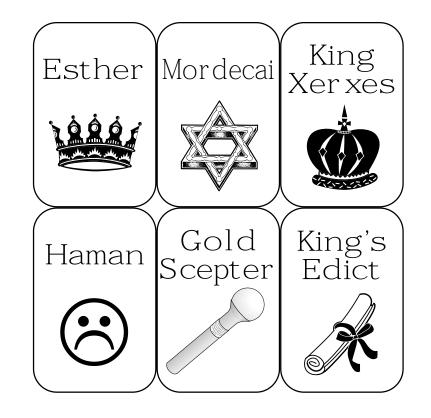
- 1. Introduce today's activity: This week you are learning an amazing story about a beautiful young woman named Esther. She was an orphan who became the queen, and God used her to save his people. God had a great plan for Esther's life, and Esther prayed for God to give her the courage to obey that plan. The story of Esther shows us that God's plans are greater than any man's plans—even the plans of a king!
- 2. Show the children the cards you prepared. Read each of the six different cards to the children. Use the guide on the back of this Lesson Card to help you review them.
- 3. Place the cards in four rows of six face down in front of the children. Divide the children in two teams. Have the children take turns turning over two cards at a time as they try to find a match. When they find a match, have them tell the group one thing about the person or word on their card. Encourage the children on each team to help each other.
- 4. Play as many rounds as time permits.

Conclusion

Remind the children that God can use anyone—even a young orphan girl—to accomplish his plans! Tell them to imagine that as an orphan child, Esther never dreamed of being a queen, or saving a whole nation of people! Yet, God has great plans—even for young children. Close with a prayer thanking God for the Bible and that it is full of God's plans for our lives.

Teacher Tips

• Think of additional ways to use these cards to review the events of this story.







Esther Review Guide

Esther

Esther was a beautiful young Jewish girl. She was an orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai. She became the queen and risked her life to save her people from Haman's evil plan to destroy the Jews.

Mordecai

Mordecai was Esther's cousin who raised her. They lived in Susa, far from their homeland. He worshiped the Lord. He worked for the king. He refused to bow down to Haman. The king honored him at the end of this story by making him his most important assistant.

King Xerxes

Xerxes was the king. His first wife did not respect him so he searched for a new one. He found Esther the most pleasing of all the women and married her. King Xerxes was very angry when he learned of Haman's plan to kill the Jews. He had Haman put to death and made a special law—or edict—to protect the Jews.

Haman

Haman was the king's important official. After the king honored him, Haman wanted all the people to bow down to him. When Mordecai refused, Haman was furious. He planned to destroy all the Jews. When the king learned of this, he had Haman killed.

Gold Scepter

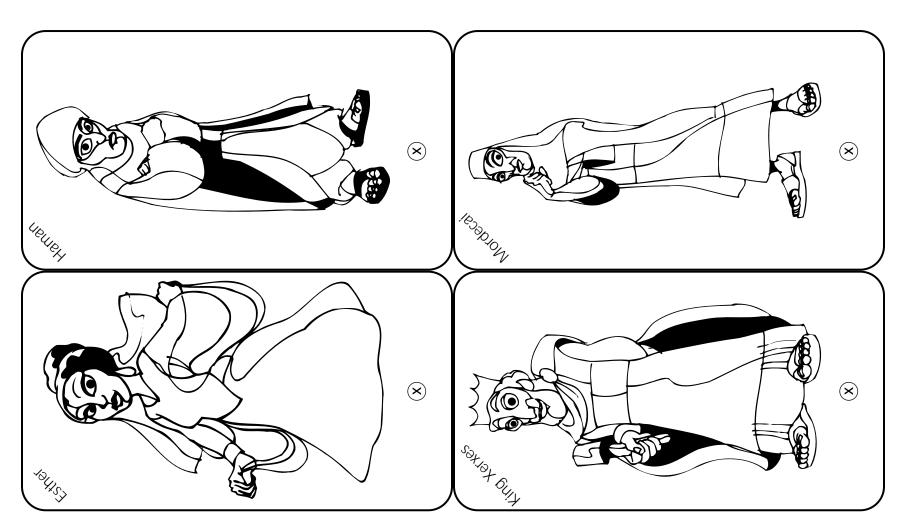
When Esther went to tell the king about Haman's plot, she did not know if the king would extend his scepter. She knew that if he did not, she would be killed. But the king did hold out his gold scepter and she was invited to speak with him. Soon after, he helped to save the Jews from destruction.

King's Edict

After Esther told the king about Haman's evil plan, he made a new law—or edict—that protected the Jews.



Core/Preclass
1 copy for each child





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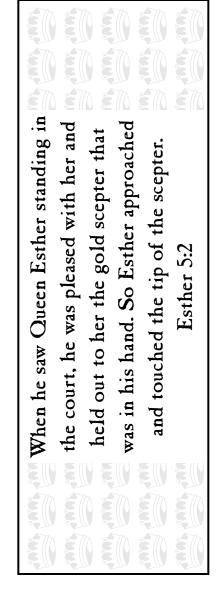
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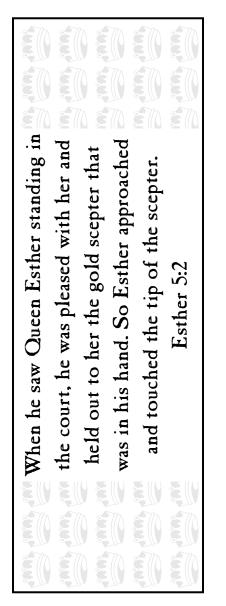
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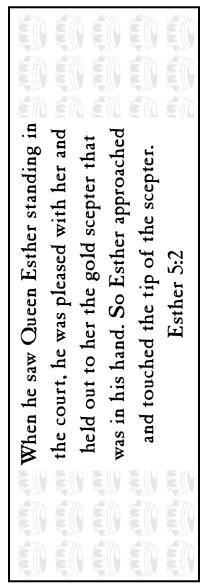
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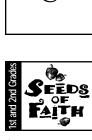






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"And	who knows	but that	you have
come to	royal	position	for such
a time	as this?"	Esther	4:14

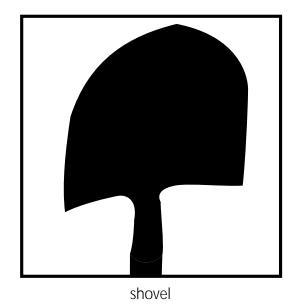
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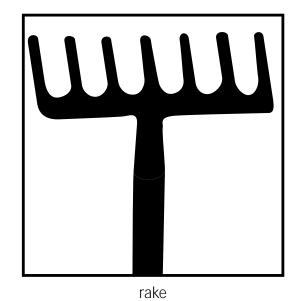


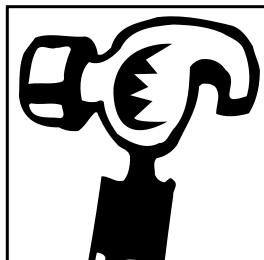
Summer 1 God's Young Heroes 11-5-18

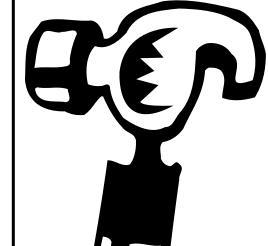
Supplement/Preclass 1 copy for each child (on heavy paper)











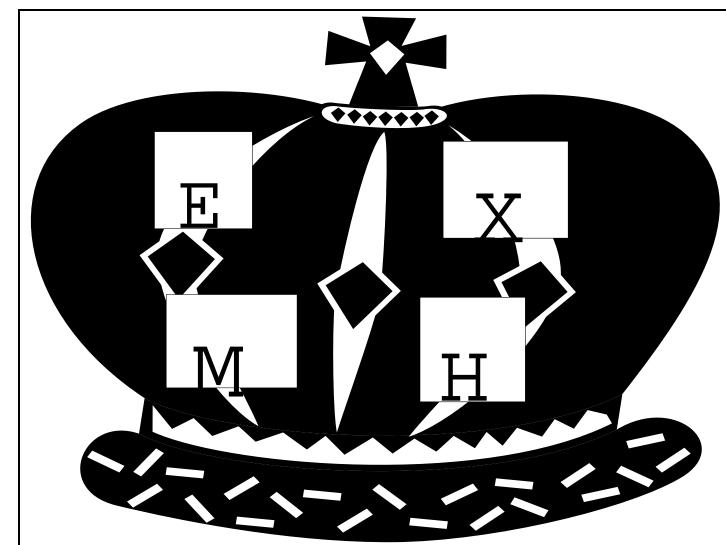
hammer



PAGE

Supplement/Game 1 copy for each child

God's Young Heroes Lesson 5



crown game card

R

E

P

R

В

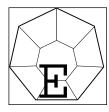
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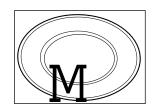
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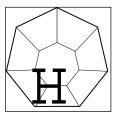
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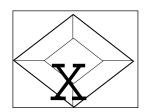


gemstones



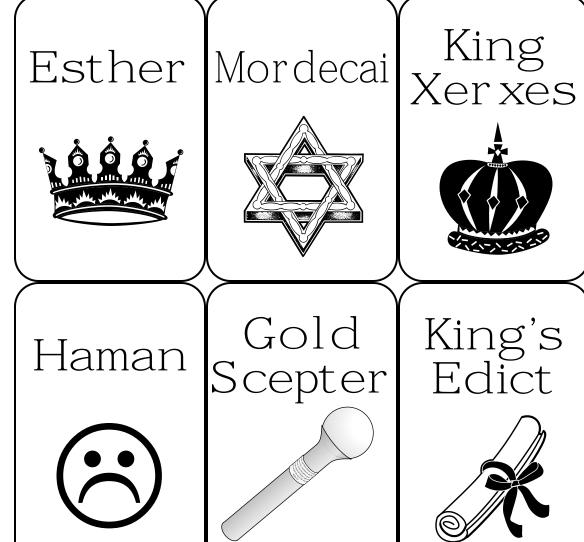






4 copies for the teacher

R E P R В E





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