

Esther Confronts King Xerxes

Bible Point: God has special plans for us to help others.

Bible Verse: “The Lord will work out his plans for my life.” Psalm 138:8a

Prayer

Read: Jeremiah 29:11-13.

Ask: How do these verses apply to Esther’s situation? to yours?

Pray: Lord, thank you for your good plans. Please give me the courage to participate in the work you have for me as I help others by...

Set the Stage (optional)

A Royal Banquet

SUPPLIES: construction paper, crayons, paper plates, napkins

Invite the children to help you prepare a banquet table to use for a celebration. Set out paper plates, napkins, construction paper, and crayons. Have some children make place mats by drawing on sheets of construction paper. Be sure children make a place mat for each child in class. Other children can set paper plates and napkins around the table. Tell children that Esther made a special meal for the king and Haman.

Bible Story Time

Our Bible story comes from the book of Esther. First, who can tell me what we have learned about Esther so far...

Read Esther 5:1-8; 7:1-7, 10 from your Bible.



Download the YouVersion for Kids app on your phone or tablet. Search for “The Brave and Beautiful Queen”.

Say: During the holiday of Purim, Jews still tell the story of brave Queen Esther. They cheer when they hear Esther's name and boo when they hear Haman's name. Let's do that as we listen to our story today. We'll need to keep our cheering and booing short so we can hear this exciting story!

When the story is done, turn off the app.

Ask: • **How did the king show that he liked Esther?** (By holding out his scepter; by saying she didn't have to die; by going to the special dinner she made.)

- **Who did Esther help?** (The Jews; her people; Mordecai.)
- **How did Esther tell the king about Haman's plan?** (She had a special dinner;

she told him when Haman was right there; she told the king that she was Jewish, too.) Say: **Because Esther was very brave, she helped save the Jews from**

Haman's plot. Esther risked her life to help her people—that was part of God's plan. ►God has special plans for us to help others, too. Our Bible verse for today reminds us of that. It comes from Psalm 138:8a, and this is what it says: ►“The Lord will work out his plans for my life.” As we move to our next activity, think of some ways you can help people.

Helping Hand Door Hanger

Cut out the door hanger and trace your child's handprint on the hanger. Hang the door hanger on your child's door.

Helping Hand Door Hanger

Photocopy the hanger. Have each child trace a handprint on his or her door hanger, color the hanger, and then cut it out.

