

Esther Is Brave

Lesson 52

Bible Story

Esther 2—9

Teacher Challenge

The biggest choices of life are seldom the ones we prepare for! For Esther, no seminar on career planning prepared her. Along with many other girls, she was taken to the king's palace, where one would be chosen queen. The rest would go to the harem, prisoners of a king's lust.

- ➔ What is something you are doing right now for which you feel unprepared?
- ➔ What has God done to prove His ability in that risky situation?

The biggest choices of your life may be ones that seem unwelcome. Those circumstances, however, are not random. Your loving Father brought them to you for His good reason. He is at work—and He is always prepared! All you need is to choose to obey Him. Even in teaching this class, there may be struggles, or you may face a situation at home or work that has no simple solution. But you can always choose obedience to your loving Father—and rest in His ability. The more you rest in Him, the better those little ones who are watching you will see HIS ability!

God's Word

"Be ready to do whatever is good."
Titus 3:1

God's Word and Me

God helps me do good things.

Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Play to Learn

Lesson 52

Active Game Center: Be Ready

Collect

Bible.

Do

Children sit in a circle. Call out the names of two children. Children quickly stand and run clockwise around the circle and then sit back in place. Continue calling children's names until all children have had a turn or as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Be ready to do whatever is good." God helps us do good things. Let's practice being ready as we listen for our names in this game!**
- ➔ **Jayden, you were ready to get up and run as soon as I said your name! You know how to listen! You can listen to God's Word and do good things.**
- ➔ **Lily, what are some good things you can do at home to help your family at dinner-time? What other good things can you do at home?**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, God, thank You for Your love. Please help us do good things for others.**

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For Younger Children

Children stand in a line at one side of the playing area. Stand on the opposite side and beckon children to come. Children run to join you. Children run back to the other side of the playing area and repeat as time and interest allow.

For Older Children

Vary the manner in which children run around the circle (hopping on one foot, walking backwards, tiptoeing, etc.).

Play to Learn

Lesson 52

Art Center: Regal Crowns

Collect

Bible, one 9x12-inch (23x30.5-cm) sheet of colored construction paper for each child, scissors, ruler, decorating materials (plastic gems, sequins, glue, markers), stapler.

Prepare

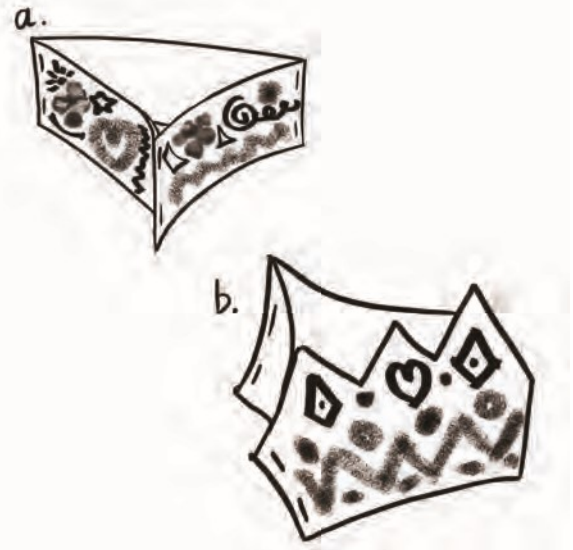
Cut each sheet of construction paper into three 4x9-inch (10x23-cm) strips.

Do

1. Give each child three strips of paper. Children decorate strips with decorating materials.
2. Assist children in stapling together the short ends of their three strips to form a triangle-shaped crown, as shown in sketch a.

Talk About

- ➔ **Our Bible story is about a woman named Esther. Esther became a queen and did many good things because she loved God. Let's make crowns like queens or kings would wear.**
- ➔ **God wants to help us do good things. What are some good things God can help you do at home? Yes, Aiden, helping your mother is a good thing to do.**
- ➔ **What good things can God help you do when you are playing with friends? (Share toys. Give someone else first turn on the swings.)**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Be ready to do whatever is good." Erin, when you passed that marker to Stephanie, you were sharing. That is doing good!**



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For Younger Children

Instead of a variety of decorating materials, provide markers and stickers for children to use to decorate the crown. Children use markers and stickers before assembling crown.

For Older Children

Give each child one strip of paper taller than 4 inches (10 cm). Provide scissors so that children can cut points into the tall side of the crown, making a pointed front (see sketch b).

Play to Learn

Lesson 52

Construction Center: Pool Play

Collect

Bible, blue covering (tarp, construction paper, blanket, etc.), blocks, water toys (boats, windup water animals, etc.).

Prepare

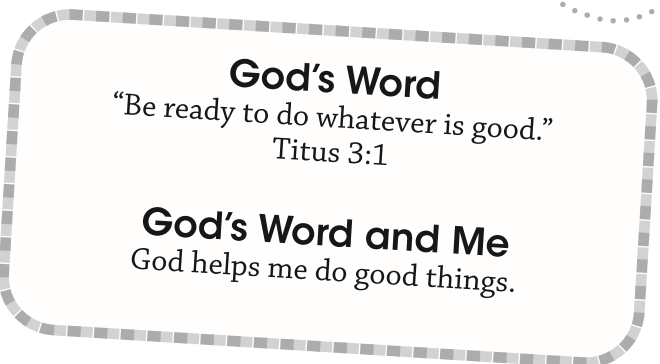
Place blue covering in middle of activity area.

Do

1. Children place blocks around the edge of the blue covering to build a wading pool large enough for several children to sit inside.
2. Children play with water toys inside of the block wading pool. Children may also use blocks as pretend water toys.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible tells us, “Be ready to do whatever is good.” Being kind and sharing with people we are playing with are good things to do. Let’s work together to make a wading pool we can play in.**
- ➔ **Andrea, thank you for helping Jenna finish the pool wall. That was a good thing to do. What else can you do to help Jenna?**
- ➔ **Juan, you can share that boat with Madeline. That is a good thing to do. We can “be ready to do whatever is good,” just like it says in the Bible.**
- ➔ **God helps us do good things. What are some of the good things you can do at home to help your family? Yes, Jack, you can help your dad by bringing him the tools he needs when he is fixing something.**



For Younger Children

Arrange blocks ahead of time. Children play with toy boats inside pool.

For Older Children

Do activity outside and provide small tubs filled halfway with water. Children play with water toys.

Play to Learn

Lesson 52

Dramatic Play Center: Kings and Queens

Collect

Bible, dress-up clothes, a variety of fancy fabric pieces (velvet, metallic fabrics, tulle, etc.), accessories (costume jewelry, toy or paper crowns or tiaras, scepters, etc.), mirror.

Do

Children dress up like kings and queens, using fabric pieces as robes, and looking at themselves in mirror.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible story today talks about a king and queen. The queen's name was Esther. Let's pretend to be kings and queens and dress up!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Be ready to do whatever is good." Esther helped save God's people when they were in danger. We can do good things, too. What are some of the good things you can do when playing at home?** (Share your toys with your brother or sister. Pack away your toys when you're done.)
- ➔ **Luis, I see you are waiting patiently for your turn to dress up like a king. Being patient is a good thing to do.**
- ➔ **God will help us do good things. Pray briefly, God, we want to do good things. Thank You that You will help us.**

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For Younger Children

Collect enough accessories so that children do not have to wait long for their turn to dress up.

For Older Children

Set two chairs on one side of the room. As children dress up, have a king and queen sit on the throne. Provide long cardboard tubes as scepters for children to hold while sitting on their thrones. Obtain parents' permission to take photographs of children seated on thrones.

Listen to Learn

Lesson 52

Esther 2—9

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 26 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player.

Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Walk around the circle and touch three or four children on the shoulder. Children say their names and then the group claps. Repeat until all children have had a turn to say their name.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Esther 2. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 26 pictures.

What would you do if you were a king or a queen? Listen to hear about how God helped a queen do something that was very good.

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A young woman named Esther and her cousin Mordecai were Jews who lived in a country far from Israel. (God's people were called Jews.) Mordecai was kind to Esther and cared for her. One day, King Xerxes (ZUHRK-sees) chose Esther to be his new **queen!**

The king had a helper named Haman. Haman hated Mordecai so much that he wanted to kill him. Because Mordecai was a Jew, Haman wanted to kill all Jews. Haman tricked the king into making a law to kill all the Jews.



Now Esther had a big problem. Haman and King Xerxes did not know that she was a Jew. She wanted to talk to the king about Haman's plans, but she was afraid. Anyone who talked to the king without being invited could be killed—even the queen.

Esther said, "I will go to the king, even though I am afraid." For **three** days, Esther, Mordecai and all the other Jews prayed and did not eat anything. Then Esther got dressed up. She stood at the door where the king was. When she walked through the door, she wondered what the king would do. When King Xerxes saw her, he **SMILED!** Esther came up to the king.



Esther asked the king and Haman to come to **eat** dinner with her. Haman was very **HAPPY** to be the only person invited to have dinner with the king and queen! So King Xerxes and Haman came to Esther's dinner. Esther told the king that someone was going to **KILL** all of her people. She asked the king to please save her life and the lives of all her people. The king got **ANGRY**. He asked, "Who would **DO** such a thing?"



Esther **pointed** at Haman. "The man who wants to do this is **HAMAN!**"

King Xerxes had Haman taken away! Then the king wrote a new law to protect the Jews. Queen Esther and Mordecai and all of God's people were **VERY** happy!

Talk About the Story

How did Esther help God's people? (She told the king about Haman. She got the law changed so that God's people would not be hurt.) **Esther did the right thing to help God's people. What is a good thing you can do for your family? You can ask God to help you!**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about God's help. Lead children in singing "My Helper" (on DVD or track 14 on CD). **God is our helper. God helps us to do good things for others.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Titus 3:1, say verse aloud. **Sometimes it can seem hard to do good. But God always helps us do good things.** Lead children in repeating the verse by echoing phrases after you: "Be ready/to do/whatever is good." Repeat several times.

Option: When repeating the verse, children take turns to add the word "to" and the name of someone they know (brother, sister, friend, cousin, etc.) or a category of people (teachers, police officers, etc.).

Pray to God

On a large sheet of paper, print the words "We do good things for." Ask children to name people for whom they can do good things. Print children's responses on paper. Pray, mentioning items children suggested. Close prayer, **Thank You, God, for helping us do good things. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen.** Place paper where parents can read it when class is dismissed.

Praise to God

Children walk in a circle while you play "Good-Bye for Now" (track 15 from CD). After a few moments, stop the music and call out a number from one to four. Children stop to form groups of that number. Repeat activity as time and interest allow. **It's good to have friends! God can help us do good things for our friends.**

Talk to Learn

Lesson 52

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 26 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #2* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—glitter crayons.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children color the clothes of Esther and the king with glitter crayons.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Bible Story Puzzle 52, Bible Verse Puzzle 52 and/or Challenge Puzzle 52 from *The Big Book of Preschool Puzzles #2* for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect

A copy of Story Picture 52 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #2* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

