

LESSON 3: ESTHER: GOD SENDS ESTHER TO SAVE THE JEWS

Leader Guide for One Room

Classroom: JAMmin' Hour

 Esther 5:1-8; 8

03/22/2020



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids link arms with a partner and swing each other in a circle.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids shout “Happy birthday!” as loud as they can.

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God puts us where we need to be. When you’re a kid, that might be school or sports. For Esther in the Bible, it was becoming the queen married to a not-so-nice king. God gave her the job of queen!**

Share

Tell kids a job you’d *love* to have and a job you’d *hate* to have. Explain why.

Have kids form pairs and share about jobs *they’d* love and hate.

After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Esther 5, and say: **It’d be great if all of us got our first choice of what to do with our time. But that’s not always how it goes! Sometimes God needs us in a special place to do his work. God puts us where we need to be. Right now, he’s put us here to learn from his special book—the Bible. And God is here, too—ready to talk to you!**

Pray, thanking God for putting us where we need to be.



Supplies

- “Buccaneer Adventure Island” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))
- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “Buccaneer Adventure Island”

Ask: • **What’s something you’re too young or too small to do?**

Say: **Even though we feel left out or discouraged because we’re too young or too small, God puts us where we need to be. That means God has a special place for you *right now*. He might even use the fact that you’re young or small to do something important!**

Watch “Buccaneer Adventure Island.”

Ask: • **When have you felt like Maisy did at the amusement park?**

• **What’s something you can help with at home because you’re young or small?** This could include chores, helping with meals, or retrieving items that fall behind furniture.

• **Have you ever been asked to do something you *didn’t* think you’d be able to do? Talk about that.**

Say: **In our video, Maisy couldn’t do much at the amusement park. But if she wasn’t so small, she wouldn’t have been able to fit through the doggy door and help her family. God puts us where we need to be to do important things.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Purposely Placed

[10 min]

Supplies

- 2 sets of 12 large, colored paper plates—each set a different color
- masking tape
- 32 pieces of paper

Easy Prep

- Make an 8x8 checkerboard pattern by taping paper to the floor. Mark a border with masking tape.

Tip

- If you have a large group of kids (24 or more), you can allow kids to be the game pieces and create ribbon sashes in two different colors for kids to wear to represent the two teams. You and another leader could be the players and move kids around the game board, allowing them to share ideas with you of where to move next.

Play a Life-Size Game of Checkers

Say: **We learned about Queen Esther today and how God put Esther in her position as queen for a very good reason—to save her people.**

Like Esther, we each have a purpose that God knows even when we don't. Let's play a game that's all about putting pieces in just the right place.

Form two roughly even, mixed-age teams. Give each team one set of paper plates, and then have teams go to opposite sides of the checkerboard on the floor. Each team will place its 12 paper plates on its side of the board, filling only the paper spaces of the first three rows of each side.

Teams will work together to decide how to move each of their pieces, with their goal being to capture all the other team's pieces. Pieces can only be moved forward diagonally on the paper spaces, one space at a time. The opponent's pieces can be taken when a piece can be hopped by another as it's moved forward. To hop, there must be an empty paper space just beyond the opponent's piece. Teams will strategize both how to get the opponent's pieces and how to protect their own from being taken.

Talk About It

Ask: • **As you played, what were some purposes or roles you took on to help your team?**

- **Why did it matter that you put your pieces in the right spots?**

Say: **As your team moved your game pieces around the board, you had a reason for each move. of the pieces are like our lives and the purpose God has given to each one of us. God puts us where we need to be, and it's always the right move.**



Supplies

- poster board
- glue sticks
- magazines, such as *Children's Ministry Magazine*
- scissors
- envelopes (1 per child)
- pens

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Puzzles

Set out supplies. Have kids follow these instructions to make their own puzzles.

- Choose a full page from a magazine, and cut it out. (Younger kids can tear it out.)
- Glue the page to a piece of poster board, making sure to glue the entire page.
- Cut the poster board right around the page.
- Cut out puzzle piece shapes to turn the magazine page into a puzzle. (Older kids can help younger kids with this step.)

Solve Puzzles

Have kids trade puzzles with a partner and try to solve the puzzles. Then have each child put his or her puzzle in an envelope and write his or her name on the envelope. (Older kids can help younger kids write their names.)

Talk About It

Ask: • **Tell about a puzzle you've done.**

• **What's it like when you just can't find the right puzzle piece?**

Say:

If you've ever gotten all the way to the end of a puzzle and realized a piece was missing, it was probably very frustrating! In a puzzle, every piece has a place. And no other piece can take that place! In the same way, God has a special job for you that no one else can do. God puts us where we need to be. We're all important pieces of his puzzle!



Wherever I Go

Supplies

- “Wherever I Go” handout (download [here](#))
- stickers

Easy Prep

- Hang the signs from the “Wherever I Go” handout around the room, low enough for your littlest children to reach. Set out stickers under each sign.

Call and Respond

Say: **Today we learned that God puts us where we need to be. Let’s think of all the places God has put the people in our group! Around the room, you’ll see the names of places. Read each sign as you stand near it, so that non-readers know which sign is which. **Some might be places God puts *you*! Put a sticker on each sign that represents a place you go often.****

Allow time. Then gather kids.

Say: **Wow! Look at how many people God has put in these places! And God has a special plan for you there! Let’s pray about that.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for putting us where we need to be. Thank you that you have a special purpose for us everywhere we go. Help us do your work. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Say: **Think of all the places you put stickers. Choose one where you can do something for God this week.**

Ask: • **What will you do, and where will you do it?**

Esther: God Sends Esther to Save the Jews Esther 5:1-8; 8



Haman, the king's most powerful official, is trying to kill the Jews! God makes Esther, a Jew, the queen. Esther bravely tells the king about Haman's plot. Many lives are saved. Esther didn't ask to become queen, but God puts us where we need to be.

Church Announcements

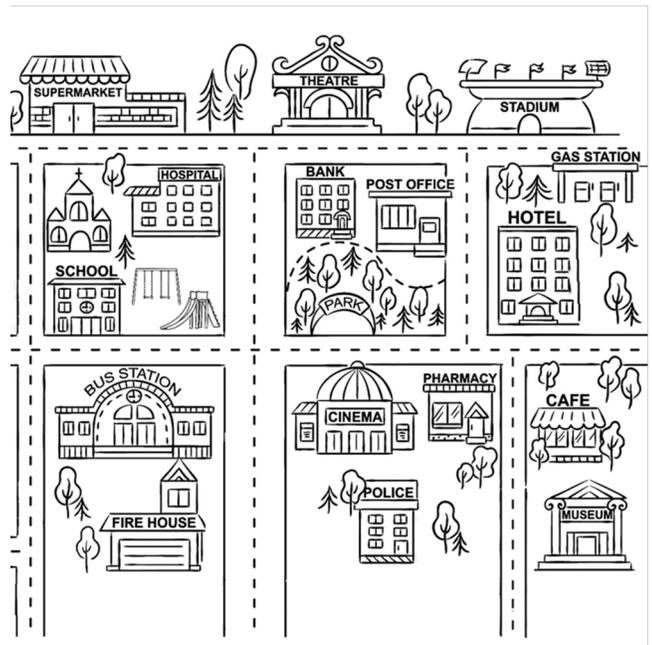
- Resources can be found at:

Mtoliveaustin.org/athome

"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Through the Week

- Every time family members are about to go somewhere this week, pray for them.
- Ask God to put them there for a good reason and do big things through them.
- Don't forget parents! Kids can pray for parents when they are about to go to work, the store, or other places.



Talk About This...

- Tell about a time God did something big through you. Where were you?