

The Brave and Beautiful Queen

Esther

Esther 2-5; 7; 9:20-22

Character Trait: Boldness

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God used Mordecai to encourage Queen Esther.
- Children will tell a way that they can share Jesus' love with others.
- Children will discuss specific ways that their boldness can honor God.

Supplies:

- *The Brave and Beautiful Queen* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Long pieces of construction paper *(one for each child)*
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors
- Tape and/or stapler
- Aluminum foil *(optional)*
- Stickers, sequins, plastic jewels, and glitter *(to decorate the paper crowns, optional)*
- Glue *(to decorate the paper crowns with optional supplies)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Explain that you will be describing an action, and they need to step forward if they think they can do it but step backward if it is too scary or difficult for them. *(Create your own statements or use the following: point out a friend's mistake, encourage someone during a difficult time, or help someone who is physically hurt.)*

SAY: Today, we will be learning about a Queen who had a secret and risked her own life in order to save others.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What did Daniel faithfully do three times a day?** *(He prayed to God.)*
- **What would happen to those who refused to pray only to King Darius?** *(They would be thrown into a lions' den.)*
- **Did Daniel stop praying to God?** *(No)*
- **What happened to Daniel when he was thrown into the lions' den?** *(God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. Daniel spent the night there, unharmed.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Brave and Beautiful Queen* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Esther was the Queen of Persia.
- Even her husband, King Xerxes, didn't know her secret.
- Esther was Jewish.
- Esther's cousin, Mordecai, worked at the palace and looked out for her.
- Xerxes' advisor, Haman, received a great reward.
- He was very proud.
- Everyone except Mordecai bowed down to him.
- Haman was insulted.
- He vowed to kill Mordecai and all the Jews!
- Haman told Xerxes that the Jews were dangerous and should die.
- Xerxes agreed and set a day to kill them.
- Mordecai was terrified and sent a message to Queen Esther.
- "Change the king's mind," said Mordecai.
- "If I go to the him without his invitation he can have me killed," Esther replied.
- "Perhaps you were made queen just for this moment," said Mordecai.
- Esther bravely agreed to try.
- She went to the throne room.
- King Xerxes was amazed by her beauty and invited her in.
- "Can we have dinner with Haman?" she asked.
- Haman was building a big gallows in his back yard.
- He planned to hang Mordecai on it.
- Then the king's invitation arrived.
- So Haman went to the palace for dinner.
- "A man wants to kill me and my people, the Jews," Esther told Xerxes.
- "Who would do such a thing?" he asked.
- "The evil Haman!" Esther cried.
- "Haman?" Guards! Put him to death."
- So Haman was hanged on the gallows he'd built for Mordecai.
- Because of Esther, the Jews were saved!
- They celebrated with a great feast, which they observe to this day.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What was Queen Esther's secret? *(She was Jewish.)*

What did Haman vow to do? *(Haman vowed to kill Mordecai and all the Jews.)*

What did Haman tell King Xerxes about the Jews? *(He said that the Jews were dangerous and should die.)*

Who did God use to encourage Queen Esther to go to the king? *(Mordecai)*

What did Mordecai ask Queen Esther to do? *(He asked her to change the king's mind.)*

Why was it dangerous for Esther to go see the king? *(People who went to the king without an invitation could be killed.)*

What did Mordecai say to Queen Esther to encourage her? *("Perhaps you were made queen just for this moment.")*

What happened when King Xerxes found out about Haman's evil plan? *(The king ordered that Haman be killed on the gallows he had made to hang Mordecai on.)*

SAY: It was risky for Queen Esther to visit the king without being invited by him. But she was able to be bold after Mordecai encouraged her that God had a plan for her: a plan to help save His people. We can be thankful that God had a plan to save us, too. God sent Jesus to save us from the punishment we deserve for our sin. Jesus made a way for us to go boldly before the King of all kings.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Even though Esther was scared, God used her to save the Jewish people. God loved Esther and made her for a special plan. God loves each of us and has a plan for us, too.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"Who knows *(shrug your shoulders)*
if perhaps you *(point forward)*
were made queen *(pretend to place a crown on your head)*
for just such a time as this *(point down firmly)***?"**

Esther 4:14b (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to start the game. Then, that child is to make three short statements about themselves: two statements that are true and one that is a lie. The remaining children in the group raise their hands to guess which statement is not true. The child who guesses correctly gets to go next. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: Queen Esther had a secret, too: She was Jewish. God knows all our secrets, weaknesses and fears, yet He can use us to complete His plans no matter what (Proverbs 19:21).



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of long construction paper. Demonstrate how to draw the outline of a crown and then carefully cut it out . While it is still flat, invite the children to decorate it by coloring it *(or covering it with aluminum foil, optional)*. Afterwards, use a stapler or a bit of tape to secure the two ends of the paper crown together.

For younger children...
Make this activity more accessible for younger children by having the paper crowns cut out and ready to decorate prior to the beginning of the lesson.

For older children...
Extend this activity by asking older children to write the words "Such a Time as This" somewhere on their paper crown as a personal reminder that God has a plan and purpose for their lives, too.

Character Trait: Boldness

(10 minutes)

SAY: Boldness means to have conviction or to feel strong and secure. Esther was bold when she went to see the king without an invitation.

Encourage the children to think more about boldness by asking the following:

- **Can you think of a specific time you were bold?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Can you be scared and bold at the same time? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What are some specific ways you can honor God through boldness?** *(Answers will vary but may include being bold to share the love of Jesus with others through our words, choices and actions.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think of someone you know in your life who does not know Jesus. Now, think of a way that you can share Jesus' love with this person through your actions. *(Call on a few volunteers to share their ideas aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: God had a plan for Queen Esther, and He used Mordecai to help encourage her to be bold. He pointed out that God had placed her right where she was for a special purpose. God has a plan and a purpose for each of us, too, and that includes sharing His love with others.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for always having a plan, no matter how we feel. Let this truth make us bold for You.
Amen.

Notes