

ESTHER / PURIM

BIBLE REFERENCE: THE BOOK OF ESTHER / PSALMS 146:8-10
THE LORD LOVES THOSE WHO DO RIGHT... BUT HE OVERTHROWS THE WICKED... THE LORD WILL BE KING FOREVER.

Purim Puppets by Rite Lite



OPTIONAL POSTCARD INVITATION: (mail week prior)

- Invite the children to class dressed up in Prince and Princess garments, if they would like ([e-mail/postcard invitations](#))



PRAISE GOD IN THE GATES (BEFORE ENTERING THE CLASSROOM DOOR):

- Today's story is about a very brave Queen named Esther. She made the RIGHT choice and her people were saved!
- Let's declare together: **JESUS SAVED HIS PEOPLE.** Teach ASL:
[JESUS... SAVED... PEOPLE.](#)

ישע

From Strong's Lexicon:

Original Word: יָשַׁע Part of Speech: Verb

Pronunciation: yah-SHAH

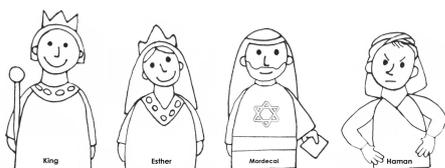
Definition: To save, deliver, rescue, bring to safety

WORKTABLE: [worksheet](#) / [step-by-step lesson](#)

Bible Lessons for 4 and 5 year olds
Series: JEWISH FEATS / CELEBRATIONS
Today's Lesson: THE STORY OF ESTHER / PURIM

Name: _____

PURIM PUPPETS



Bible Story: The Story Of Esther (The Book of Esther)

Prayer: Thank You for saving Your people!

JESUS SAVED HIS PEOPLE

©2009 JESUS: The LORD loves the righteous... but the way of the wicked He turns upside down. (Psalm 146:5)

SONGS AT CIRCLE:

- Transition: [Criss Cross Applesauce](#)
- Call to worship: [I Hear the Blowing of the Shofar](#)
- Purim Song: [The Lord Loves the Righteous MP3](#) (Instrument: [Purim Noise maker](#)) / [songsheet](#) / [toy keyboard](#) / [auto harp](#) / [ASL signing](#) **RIGHTEOUS**



The LORD loves
the righteous
but the way of
the wicked
He turns
upside down,
upside down!

(from Ps. 146: 8-9 NKJV)

BIBLE STORY FORMAT: You can read the story from [ESTHER AND THE VERY BRAVE PLAN](#) or re-tell it from the main points outline.

BIBLE MAIN POINTS / STORYTELLING WITH FINGER PUPPETS:

- A long time ago, in the land of Persia, there lived a King. His name was Xerxes.
- King Xerxes was lonely. He needed a Queen, so he sent His helpers throughout the land in search of a beautiful young woman. Of all the maidens who came before the King, Xerxes chose a Jewish girl named Esther to be the Queen.
- So Esther left her family home where she lived with her Cousin, Mordecai, she married the King, and went to live at the Palace. Mordecai was happy for Esther. He sat at the gates of the palace to watch for her.
- One day, Mordecai overheard 2 guards make a wicked plan to kill the King. Quickly, Mordecai sent a message to Queen Esther: **WARN THE KING!!** Esther did warn the King. The 2 wicked guards were captured. Their wicked plan was turned upside down! Mordecai and Esther helped save the King!
- King Xerxes ruled over a great big kingdom. He needed a helper to watch over all his land, so he chose Haman as his most important helper. "Haman, you will be my special helper. You can ride on one of my special horses." Haman was very proud of himself. He rode on the King's horse, and as he rode by, he said to all the people, "Bow down to me! I am very important!"
- When he rode by Mordecai, Mordecai did not bow down. Mordecai said, "I will only bow down to GOD."
- This made Haman VERY angry. He went back to the Palace and told the King a lie. He told the King that Mordecai and his family were disobeying the King's rules and they should be punished!
- The King believed Haman and told Haman he could punish them. Haman made a wicked plan to destroy Mordecai and his entire family. Who else belonged to Mordecai's family? **ESTHER!**
- When Mordecai heard about Haman's wicked plan, he quickly sent **ANOTHER** message to Queen Esther: **HELP! HELP! ASK THE KING TO HELP US!**
- Esther was afraid. She could not go to see the King without an invitation. Mordecai's family fasted (did not eat) and prayed for 3 days. Then Esther went to see the King. Would He send her away? Or would he extend his scepter and hear her plea?
- The King **EXTENDED** his scepter to Esther. He listened to her plea. He sent his guards to capture Haman. Haman's wicked plans were turned upside down! The King gave an order that saved Esther and her family!

RESPONSE TO STORY:

- Sing: [The Lord Loves the Righteous](#) (but the way of the wicked He turns upside down)



TRUTH OR LIE CHALLENGE: [pdf](#)

CHALLENGE:

TRUTH vs LIE / RIGHT vs WRONG THINKING...

One statement is TRUE / RIGHT THINKING. One statement is a LIE / WRONG THINKING. Cut out the statement strips. Read them both to the students. Ask the students to identify the TRUTH / RIGHT THINKING. Put it atop of the Sword of the Spirit. Ask a student to tear up the LIE / WRONG THINKING and put it in the trash.

Remind them that the Sword of the Spirit is for piercing through the lies of the enemy. God's truth will protect our hearts and minds.

The Word of God says,

ONLY BOW DOWN TO GOD

Haman said,

"BOW DOWN TO ME!"

OR... THINK UP YOUR OWN CHALLENGE!

Some people say...

EVIL PLANS RULE

Some people say...

GOD'S PLANS RULE

PRAYER: [pdf](#)



BIBLE LESSON: THE STORY OF ESTHER

Let's Pray:

BIBLE REFERENCES:
Esther 4:14
...And who knows, you may have been chosen queen for such a time as this.

Ps 146:5
Happy are those who are helped by the God of Jacob. Their hope is in the Lord their God.

Ps 146:7-9
The Lord does what is fair for those who have been wronged... The Lord loves those who do right... But He overthrows the wicked.

Dear Heavenly Father...

Choose one prompt or create your own:

WORSHIP: You do what is right and fair!

THANKSGIVING: Thank You for Your promise to save us. **JESUS** turned satan's wicked plan upside down!

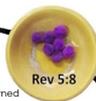
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES: What is one of your favorite parts of this story?

-
-
-
-
-
-

in Jesus' name, Amen!

CLASSROOM BLESSING:

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help. Their hope is in the Lord their God!



FREE PLAY IN CENTERS:

Release the children one at a time, with their play cards, to choose a center.

- **DRESS-UP:** Prince and Princess Garments / Crowns
- **DRY TABLE:** White sand and red hearts / Weigh Scales / Balance
- **(TRAIN) TABLE:** Foam Blocks for building castles



- **KITCHEN:** Standard Foods / Specialty Food:
- **PLAY DOUGH:** Assorted Play dough Colors / Shapes
- **EASEL DRAWING:** Charcoal drawings (sackcloth and ASHES theme)

Charcoal drawings of the sad Jewish people in sack cloth and ashes.

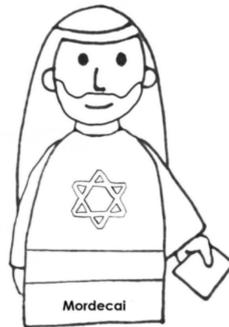


FREE PLAY IN CENTERS:

- **EASEL PAINTING:** Purim Characters 11x17 [pdf](#)

Purim Story: God Saved His People From Destruction

Bible Reference: The Book of Esther



Name: _____

- **OPTIONAL CRAFT:** Purim Popsicle Stick Puppets. (mini characters [pdf](#) for printing on **cardstock**, kids cut and paste)



CLEAN-UP OF CENTERS (IN PREPARATION FOR DISMISSAL):

Students must tidy up the centers where they were playing when the timer rang. Teachers/Helpers oversee this activity. Students learn to sort and return items to their proper place. In so doing, they are learning to take care of the classroom. It also helps them be prepared for dismissal. Once the centers are tidy, students move to the BOOK NOOK and quietly look at books.

FEATURED GAME:

- If parents have not arrived after 5 minutes of quiet reading, lead the children in a game (such as Bean Bag Toss, Duck Duck Goose, Dogie Dogie Who Has My Bone, I Spy, etc). Featured game for the month of March: MARBLES.

DISMISSAL:

Assign an adult to greet parents/guardians.

Call students ONE AT A TIME when families arrive. Prompt the remaining student to call out, "GOODBYE (student's name)."

Families check mailboxes. Today's TAKE HOME: Worksheet / [STUDENT GIFT](#) / Optional Craft / Easel Art Work / Booklet [pdf](#)

BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

ESTHER AND THE VERY BRAVE PLAN by Tim Thornborough

