

## Lesson: Esther

**Readings:** Esther 1:2-17; 1 Pet. 2:9

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that a Hebrew girl named Esther was chosen by God to fulfill a great mission, and that God continues to call us today to fulfill His mission.

**Materials:** Aluminum Foil, Construction paper, Markers

**Memory Verse:** “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

### Lesson Summary

King Ahasuerus was a very powerful man that ruled a large kingdom. The king invited lots of people to a banquet at his palace in Shushan. On the seventh day, the King told the servants to go get his wife, Queen Vashti, to show the princes and people and the banquet how beautiful she was. However, Queen Vashti refused to come and the King was very angry. The King then said that Queen Vashti would be no more according to the law, and someone else would become queen. King Ahasuerus sent out men to find the most beautiful women in the kingdom to come to the palace, and he would then choose a new queen. Mordecai was a Jew that worked in the king’s palace, and he had a young girl named Hadassah. Hadassah was his uncle’s daughter, but Mordecai was raising her. Hadassah was a Jewish name and Mordecai knew if she was taken to the palace, she would need to have another name. He called her Esther, and told her not to tell anyone she was a Jew. Esther was chosen to go to the palace and found favor in the sight of the king’s servant. The King met all the women, but Esther pleased him and was chosen to be Queen.

## BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

### Ideas to Illuminate

1. Make crowns by cutting construction paper into strips and stapling or taping to fit each child’s head. Let the children decorate with markers or aluminum foil. Remind each of them that just as the King chose Esther to be Queen, God has chosen us to be his ‘royal priesthood’. Students can also wear the crowns to act out the memory verse or play a game of “The King/Queen Says”. This is the old game “Simon Says” with a different name.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the King become upset with Queen Vashti?
2. Why was Esther different from the other women? Where did she come from?
3. Esther was chosen for a specific purpose that we will learn about later. Does God choose us? What is our purpose?



## Lesson: Esther

**Readings:** Esther 2:21-3:15; Matthew 5:11; Matthew 10:22

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn how Esther and her people (the Jews) were in grave danger because of their faith in God; just as many Christians do today.

**Materials:** Large sheet of construction paper or poster board, markers/crayons

**Memory Verse:** "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." (Matthew 10:22).

### Lesson Summary

Queen Esther and her people (the Jews) were in grave danger. The King loved Esther, but he did not know that she was a Jew. There was a plot to kill the King! Mordecai warned Esther and the men were caught. However, the King thought a man named Haman had discovered this, and he rewarded him by giving him great power of those in his kingdom. Haman was an evil man that secretly hated the Jews. When he discovered Mordecai was a Jew and that Mordecai refused to bow before him; he was very angry! He went to the King and told him the Jewish people living in his kingdom did not follow his laws and requested a decree to kill all the Jews. The King gave Haman his ring and told him to do what he wanted. The Jews were to be killed, not because they had done anything wrong, but because of their faith in the one true God. Haman had lied to the King and deceived him. However, God had a plan. Remember Esther was chosen for a purpose and now God would call her to stand for Him. Today, many people are still persecuted by evil men because of their faith in God. God still calls us to stand for Him, and He has a plan!

## BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

### Ideas to Illuminate

1. Have students to brainstorm with you to name other Bible characters who were persecuted for their faith. Then divide your students into groups of 4-6 and have them choose one of the characters. Have them search the scripture (with your help as needed) and list facts about that character. Let them draw a picture of the character and list important facts to share with the class. (If you have younger children, you could provide the characters and reference scriptures).

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be persecuted?
2. Do we ever suffer because people know we are Christians? Explain.
3. How does the Bible say to treat those who persecute us? Why?



## Lesson: Esther

**Readings:** Esther 4-5:3; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 2:1

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn God sometimes asks us to be brave, strong, and courageous in Him as we face the enemy.

**Materials:** Yarn or rope, index cards, pencils/pens/markers, glue or tape

**Memory Verse:** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” (Ephesians 6:10).

### Lesson Summary

Haman’s decree has gone out and Mordecai and Esther have learned what is to happen. They know they must seek God to save His people. The Jews join together and declare a fast to call upon Jehovah, however His answer asks Esther to be very brave. Queen Esther must go before the King and break the law. The law stated that no one could enter into the inner court of the King unless he had sent for them. The penalty for breaking the law was death, unless the King extended his golden sceptre to pardon them. Queen Esther was afraid, but she knew God was asking her to be brave and trust Him. Queen Esther dressed in her royal clothing and went to the court. The words of Mordecai were, no doubt, echoing in her mind, “and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14) The King saw Esther standing in the court and she found “favour in his sight:” (5:2) He stretched out his golden sceptre and asked Esther “what is thy request?” (v. 3) God was with Esther when he asked her to stand for Him, and he will be with us, too. Remember our strength comes from Him alone.

## BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

### Ideas to Illuminate

Cut enough pieces of yarn or small rope for each student. The length should be about 1 ft. Have the students take an index card or piece of paper and write the memory verse on it. Then give each student their piece or rope/yarn and tell them to let the rope or yarn stand alone. Let them try several times. Then ask them if it worked. Discuss the fact that we can’t stand in our own strength, it is like the rope or yard. Now ask the students to hold their piece of rope/yarn up with their hand. That is what God does for us. He help us be strong in his might, not our own. Let the students glue or tape the rope/string to their memory verse cards as a reminder.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be brave?
2. Can you be afraid and still be brave?
3. What does it mean to be strong in the Lord?



## Lesson: Esther

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings:** Esther 5:4-5; 7-8

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn God is faithful to deliver His chosen people.

**Materials:** Smooth Rocks or Stones or construction paper cut into the shape of a rock, paint/crayons

**Memory Verse:** “And he said, The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer;” (2 Samuel 22:2).

### Lesson Summary

Esther’s request was that the King and Haman attend a banquet she would prepare. The King granted the request and Haman was very pleased to be included. When they arrived at the banquet and had feasted, on the second day, the King asked Esther again what she wanted. She answered by saying, “if I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:” (7:3) Esther went on to tell the story of how the Israelites (Jews) had been sold as slaves and treated poorly at the hand of an evil man. She then revealed to the King that Haman was that man. The King ordered Haman to be killed after he learned of his lies and deception. He soon learned that Mordecai was the one to save his life and granted Mordecai Haman’s position. The Jews were saved! Queen Esther was God’s chosen vessel that stood for Him in the face of danger. She was strong in the Lord and saw God deliver her and His people. We can be like Queen Esther if we understand God is our strength and our deliverer. All we have to do is accept His call to be brave and strong for Him!

## **BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible**

### **Ideas to Illuminate**

1. Discuss with students how God is like a rock. What are the characteristics of a rock? Have students paint or color a rock with images that will remind them of the memory verse. Ask them to say the verse as they hold their rock. If you use paper cut into the shape of a rock, students can write the verse on the paper.

### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. How did God use Esther to deliver His people?
2. Does God use people today? How?
3. What does God want to deliver people from in today’s world?



## Lesson: Nehemiah – Willing to Work

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings:** Nehemiah 1:3-11; Nehemiah 2:4-9

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that God will use us if we will be willing to work for Him.

**Materials:** Bible, apples (or items to stack)

**Memory Verse:** “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” Isaiah 6:8.

### Lesson Summary

Have you ever had to do a job that seemed impossible? (Give students time to respond with examples of difficult tasks). If you had not tried to accomplish the job, what might have happened? God wants us to be ready to work in order to accomplish great things for Him. But we have to be willing, rely on God, and put forth an effort to do what He wants us to do. Nehemiah is a great example of a willing worker for the Lord who had, what would seem to us, an impossible task he wanted to complete. He received word that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the gates were burned with fire (Nehemiah 1:3). This troubled Nehemiah; so, he began to pray to confess the sins of Israel and ask for favor upon him as he was willing to rebuild the city that had been destroyed. Building a wall around an entire city seems difficult to you, right? Nehemiah didn't give thought to how hard the task was or how impossible it was going to be. Nehemiah began to fully rely on God for instruction on how to begin this difficult task as he gathered materials and made preparations to rebuild. God has a job for each of us to do too. But like Nehemiah, we must be willing to say yes, pray for God's help, and put God's plan to action.

## **BIBLE POINT:** Heroes of the Bible

### **Ideas to Illuminate**

Have apples or objects scattered on the ground and allow students to take turns gathering the objects and trying to stack them in an allotted amount of time. Make time short enough to give the idea that gathering materials and building is challenging but possible.

### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. What are some jobs God might want us to do today?
2. What action can you take to begin working for the Lord?
3. Who should we depend on?



## Lesson: Laborers Together

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings:** Nehemiah 2:11-18; Matthew 3:8-11

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that God wants us to work with Him and each other.

**Materials:** Bible, colored markers or crayons

**Memory Verse:** “For we are labourers together with God” (1 Corinthians 3:9a).

### Lesson Summary

Has anyone ever played a team sport or watched a sports event on television? Does everyone do the same thing when playing? (Allow students to reply). Of course not. Each team member has a certain job to do in order for the team, as a whole, to be successful. It also takes teamwork in order to be successful for God. Nehemiah knew God did not expect him to work alone when he set out to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. God gave Nehemiah a plan that required many people to work together. After Nehemiah told the Jewish people how Jerusalem had been destroyed, he asked them to rebuild the wall with him. Realizing God's favor was upon Nehemiah, the people replied, “let us rise up and build” (Nehemiah 2:18b). Different people built certain sections of the wall, but everyone's job was equally important in order for the entire wall to be joined together. God has a job for each of us, and there are many jobs to be done. God does not want one person to work alone but wants us to work together towards the same goal of building His church. Who's ready to work together on God's team?

## **BIBLE POINT:** Heroes of the Bible

### **Ideas to Illuminate**

Prior to class, write the key verse in large letters on a piece of paper. Cut the paper into different shaped pieces to form a puzzle with the Bible verse. Give each student a piece of the puzzle and have them work together to complete the puzzle without help from the teacher. Talk about the importance of working together and review the lesson while students work.

### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. When we are working for God, does He want us to work alone?
2. Who does God want us to work with?
3. Why do you think God wants us to work together and not alone?



## Lesson: Nehemiah – Never Give Up

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings: Nehemiah 4:1-21**

**Lesson Objective: The student will learn that working for God requires prayer and perseverance.**

**Materials: Blindfold, objects to make an obstacle course**

**Memory Verse: “Then therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).**

### Lesson Summary

When trying to complete a task, there are sometimes obstacles that make the task difficult to finish. Maybe when working on homework, your brother or sister starts aggravating you. Or while playing a video game, someone stands in front of the television. Have you ever been distracted from what you were doing? When Nehemiah and the Jewish people were rebuilding the wall there were distractions the whole time they worked. There was a group of people who mocked them, despised them, and even tried to fight them to hinder their progress on the wall. The Jewish people could have stopped the project because it was too dangerous or too hard, but they didn't. They put their confidence in the Lord and took their problems to Him in prayer. God revealed to them the enemy's plan to come in among them to fight. The Jewish people prepared themselves to fight and they continued to work hard toward the completion of the wall. The people did not let distractions stop the rebuilding. But through prayer, perseverance, and hard work, the wall was completed in just fifty-two days. What can we learn from these builders in Nehemiah's day? As we work for the Lord, we will face the same kinds of challenges. People will despise us, mock us, and may even want to fight us. We must not allow these obstacles to stop us from continuing to work for God. When the going gets tough, we must pray to God for help and continue working because we serve an awesome God who will fight for us! If God is on our side, who can be against us?

## **BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible**

### **Ideas to Illuminate**

Arrange objects such as chairs, boxes, etc. to create an obstacle course. Have students take turns being blindfolded while the teacher gives directions to guide the student around the objects to complete the course. Reinforce the point that while working for the Lord we will face opposition, but we must be listening to the Lord's voice for direction while reaching our goal of heaven.

### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. What should we do when distractions come our way?
2. Who should we rely on when being a Christian isn't easy?



## Lesson: The Importance of Leadership

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings: Nehemiah 5:1-19**

**Lesson Objective: The student will learn God uses people to be great leaders for Him.**

**Materials: Paper, crayons or colored markers**

**Memory Verse: “But be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12b).**

### Lesson Summary

Do you know what a leader is? Leaders are very important people who influence and help guide others. What characteristics come to mind when you think of what a leader should be? (Allow each student to brainstorm leadership characteristics on a piece of paper and share thoughts.) Pastors and teachers are just a couple of examples of leaders. God uses leaders now just as He did in the Bible to accomplish great tasks for Him. Nehemiah is a great example of a leader who was used by God. He depended on God as he felt lead to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, but he did not complete the work alone. He asked others to help, and God used him to be a great leader. Nehemiah put his confidence in the Lord while calling upon God for guidance as he directed others during the rebuilding of the wall. Nehemiah even took the time to take a stand for the poor Jewish people. The people told Nehemiah that their fellow countrymen were taking their vineyards, olive groves and homes, and even taking some of their children into slavery. Nehemiah took a stand for the people demanding all things be returned to them. Nehemiah warned those treating others badly and told them that what they were doing was not right and asked, “Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God?” (Nehemiah 5:9) Nehemiah was very busy building the wall, but as a good leader, being lead by God, took a stand for what was right. God still wants to use people to be leaders for Him. He needs leaders to preach, teach Sunday School, be missionaries, witness to others, etc. God wants to raise up leaders, will you be willing to lead for Him?

## BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

### Ideas to Illuminate

Have students take turns being a leader in front of the classroom. Have the leader perform simple tasks for the other students to copy such as clapping hands, touching their nose, etc. Discuss that followers look to their leader. Therefore, it is so important for leaders to be good examples because they are being watched.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who can be a leader for God?
2. Who should leaders trust for guidance?
3. Why do you think leaders are important?



## Lesson: The Mote and the Beam

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings:** Mt. 7:1-5; Lk. 6:41, 42; 1 Cor 5:12, 13; James 2:13

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn not to judge others with condemnation.

**Materials:** Bible, blind fold, paper, markers, small twig or straw, tape

**Memory Verse:** “Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37).

### Lesson Summary

Jesus taught his disciples thru the parable of the mote and the beam, not to judge others with the kind of judgment that condemns. In this text the mote represents a dry twig or straw and the beam represents a large stick of timber. Jesus said hypocrites will ignore the beam in their own eye and try to take out the mote in someone else’s eye. For example, a man may see a mote in his brother’s eye, something wrong in his life that shouldn’t be there. He should not be blind, however, to the beam in his own eye, a greater fault than that he sees in his brother’s eye. Jesus says you must first remove the beam in your own eye so that you can see clearly to help take the mote out of your brother’s eye. If we judge someone, it must not be according to appearance, but a righteous judgment based on God’s word. We are to go to our brothers and sisters in love and prayer, not in condemnation. For we will receive the same judgment we give.

### **BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible**

#### **Ideas to Illuminate**

Blind fold a child. Have him/her stand in the middle of the room. On a wall place a picture of an eye and tape a twig or straw to it. Spin the blind folded child around 3 times. Point the child in the right direction and let him/her find the eye and remove the twig/straw from the picture while still blind folded.

#### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. What do the mote and the beam represent?
2. Do we judge whether a soul goes to heaven or hell?
3. Can we judge whether someone has a Godly spirit according to the word of God?



## Lesson: The Two Foundations

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings:** Mt. 7: 24-27; Lk. 6:47-49; Ps. 18:2; Is. 28:16

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn to build their life on a solid foundation.

**Materials:** Bible, bowl, rock, sand, water, small object to sit on top of rock

**Memory Verse:** “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust.” (Psalm 18:2).

### Lesson Summary

Jesus taught us how to be wise by using the parable of the two foundations. The two foundations in this text are rock and sand. Jesus said those who hear His words and put them into action will be like the wise man who built his house on a rock. When the rain came down and began to flood, and the wind beat against the house, it did not fall to ruins. That is because rock is strong and doesn't move regardless of what goes on around it. But, Jesus warns, whoever hears His words and does not put them into action will be like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the rain came down and began to flood and the wind beat against the house, it fell to ruins with a loud crash. That is because sand is not strong and is always shifting when pressure is applied. We must not only hear God's word but do God's word. Then God will be our rock we can stand on when storms come against us in an attempt to destroy our faith. Christ teaches the importance of doing as well as hearing. We are secure if built on that foundation which God hath laid in Zion.

## BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

### Ideas to Illuminate

1. Place a rock in the bottom of a dish and pour sand over the top until it is completely covered. Place a small object on top of the sand. Pour water over the small object and watch how the sand washes away but the rock remains in place.
2. Sing: The wise man built his house upon a rock

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What instruction does the Bible give us on how to be wise?
2. What will happen to us if our foundation is built on sand?
3. Who is our rock?



## Lesson: Children in the Marketplace

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings: Mt. 11:16-19, Luke 7:32**

**Lesson Objective: The student will learn a fault finding disposition is evil.**

**Materials: Bible, paper, crayons**

**Memory Verse: “But wisdom is justified of her children.” (Mt 11:19).**

### Lesson Summary

In this parable Jesus is comparing that generation of people to a group of unreasonable children who find fault in everything. The people were given a message from the Lord by John the Baptist to repent. Instead they said he had a devil because he didn't eat or drink with them. The Lord sent Jesus who ate and drank with sinners and gave them messages of love and they called him a gluttonous man and winebibber. But, Jesus said children of wisdom accept both sides of truth in obeying the call to repentance and faith in the Savior. The people of that generation were unable to appreciate and receive God's message because of their fault finding disposition. They found something wrong in every way the Lord presented His message to the people.

## **BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible**

### **Ideas to Illuminate**

Have the children draw a picture of the crowd of grumblers with Jesus on one side and John the Baptist on the other delivering messages from God.

### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. Why couldn't the people receive God's messages?
2. What did they find wrong with John the Baptist and Jesus?
3. Are you too busy finding things wrong with the way God's messages are delivered to receive God's word?



## Lesson: The Two Debtors

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings: Luke 7: 41-43**

**Lesson Objective: The student will learn that much forgiveness results in much love.**

**Materials: Bible, paper, pencil, extra erasers**

**Memory Verse: “Thy sins are forgiven.” (Luke 8:48).**

### Lesson Summary

In the parable of the two debtors, Jesus speaks of two men who owed money to the same creditor. One man owed 500 pence and the other 50 pence. When the creditor discovered the two men had no way of paying back their debt, he forgave them and set them free of their debt. Jesus asked Simon which of the two debtors will love the creditor the most? Simon answered correctly; the one who has been forgiven of the most will love the most. Jesus taught this parable to Simon because Simon was a Pharisee. Pharisees were religious men who thought they could please God by acting better than others. Jesus wanted Simon to see there was something more than just trying to be good on your own. He taught that by forgiveness of our sins, our hearts are filled with love and the works we do are then done through love and not through learned rituals. We are not forgiven because we love, but we love because we are forgiven.

## **BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible**

### **Ideas to Illuminate**

1. Give each child a paper and pencil. Have each one draw a heart the size of the paper. Tell each child to write inside their heart all the things they need forgiveness from. Explain to the children that once they've been forgiven, everything is erased away. Have them erase what they've written inside their heart and point out all the room they now have for love.

### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. Why do you think the man with the largest debt loved the creditor more when his debt was erased?
2. We are not forgiven because we love, but we love because we are.....?
3. How can we receive the love talked about in this lesson?



## Lesson: The Rich Fool

### *Teacher Preparation*

**Readings: Luke 12:16-34**

**Lesson Objective: The student will learn there is no reason to store up treasures on earth.**

**Materials: Candy or small treats/prizes**

**Memory Verse: “For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” (Luke 12:34).**

### Lesson Summary

Do you know what a treasure is? Do you own something that is a treasure to you? Today we are going to talk about someone who was rich and not very wise. In Luke 12:16-21 we learn about a rich man who had grounds that produced a lot of fruit. He did not know what to do with all his goods; so, he tore down his barns and built bigger ones to store his fruits. He thought he could be content knowing he had all these fruits to last years and years. Verse 19 says, “And I will say to my soul, soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” In other words, he thought he had all this food and nothing to worry about. Little did he know, he would die that night and lose all his goods. Who was he trusting in? Is that how we are supposed to think? Who are we to trust? If we put our trust in God, He is our provider. It is not smart to store up all types of things here on earth and think we will not have trouble. What can happen if all we do is store up things and build our kingdom here? (Things may get stolen, ruin, break, etc.). We are not to build up things for ourselves here as if we will live forever. Are we going to live on earth forever? The Bible tells us to lay up treasures in heaven where they cannot be bothered or stolen. And like our memory verse says, “where your treasure is that is where your heart will be also.” Isn't it wonderful to think if we give our hearts to Jesus and commit ourselves to Him, one day when we make it to heaven, we will have treasures waiting for us!

## **BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible**

### **Ideas to Illuminate**

Prior to class, hide candy in different places around the classroom. After the lesson, tell students there are treasures in the classroom. Have students bring all the found treasures and put them in the center of a table or central area. As students watch the pile of candy grow, discuss how we should store up treasures in heaven. Allow students to have a treat and have them each take one to someone outside the classroom. Encourage the students to remind someone to store up treasures in heaven as they share candy with others.

### **Questions for Class Discussion:**

1. Is it wise to store up stuff while we live here on earth? Why?
2. Who should we trust to take care of us?
3. Where should we want to lay up treasures for ourselves?

