

MAKING CHOICES... TAKING RISKS

“Esther Trusts God”

Preschool Bible Study

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Session Bible Thoughts:

- Help one another. Gal. 5:13
- God has plans for you. Jer. 29:11
- God is my helper. Ps. 30:10
- Sing thanks to God. Ps. 147:7
- A friend loves at all times. Prov. 17:17
- Be kind to one another. Eph. 4:32
- We are helpers. 2 Cor. 1:24
- Do what is right. 2 Cor. 13:7
- I thank God. 2Tim. 1:3

Preparation:

1. Read the story of Esther from your Bible.
2. Review the suggestions from this lesson.
3. Choose which learning centers to lead. Gather the resources you will need.
4. Look through picture files for pictures of Esther and other community helpers
5. Locate books on Esther; stories of trusting God; and helping others.
6. Print these Bible verses on different colored strips of construction paper and place them in the appropriate places in your Bible. Verses to use:
 - (2 Tim 1:3) I thank God.
 - (Eph. 4:32) Be kind to one another.
 - (2 Cor. 1:24) We are helpers.
 - (Gal. 5:13) Help one another.
 - (2 Cor. 13:7) Do what is right.
 - (Ps 147.7) Sing thanks to God.
 - (Prov. 17:17) A friend loves at all times.
7. Choose appropriate preschool music for this lesson.
8. Pray for yourself (as you prepare), your preschoolers and their families, and for your teachers.



Teacher Bible Study:

Read the book of Esther. Esther is the only book in the Bible that God is not named, yet God's work is being done. Esther answered the call to be a part of God's work. Esther was a Jew and raised by her uncle, Mordecai. Then when she was of age he took her before the King and the King found Esther beautiful and made her his Queen. Later, Mordecai calls out to Esther to help him and all the Jewish people because they are in danger. Haman, one of the King's men, is out to destroy all the Jews. Mordecai asks Esther to help. At first Esther does not know what she could do to help. Mordecai reminds Esther she is not entirely safe just because she is living inside the palace. Esther sends Mordecai a reply saying she will help and

Background: Esther 4:1-17

Key Passage: Esther 4:12-14

Purpose: To help preschoolers learn they can make good choices and they can choose to be a helper.

Bible Story: Esther Made a Good Choice

wants all the people to pray and fast for three days as she will. I often wonder what her prayers were. Was she praying for strength and courage? Did she pray for the King to accept her and not punish her? Or perhaps she prayed for God's will to be done? Esther knew the consequences for going before the King without permission. She knew she could be put to death. She stepped out in faith and trusted God with the results. Do we ever do that? Sometimes we are too busy analyzing all the ins and outs of a decision trying to figure out if our effort is worth it. Esther shows us no matter the outcome we need to step out in faith. God will never fail. God does ask us to answer the call to be God's helpers. The question is do we trust God to be in control of the fruits of our labor?

Learning Centers: (35-45 min.)

The learning centers are designed to encourage preschoolers in making good choices. As preschoolers move about and investigate the activities, teachers may retell parts of the Bible story, share Bible truths, and use Bible phrases.



Blocks

Place a teaching picture of a Bible-time palace in your block area. Encourage your preschoolers to build palaces or homes. Talk with them about how Esther lived in a palace because she was a queen. Our homes are different. Share ways our homes are different. We all make choices everyday; some of our choices are good, and some of our choices are bad. What are some good choices God wants us to make in our homes? You may also want to cover some blocks with paper and write words from one of the verses above on the blocks for the children to put in order. Be sure to have the verse displayed on a sentence strip for them to copy from.



Homeliving (bible costumes, bible)

In your home living center have Bible costumes available. Tell the preschoolers about the banquet Queen Esther had for the King and Haman. Queen Esther wanted to ask the King to help her people. Esther made a good choice. The preschoolers may pretend they are at the banquet with Queen Esther and practice serving one another. Look for opportunities to praise good choices such as sharing, taking turns, listening to one another and so forth. Show the Bible and where they may find the story of Esther.



Bible phrase: Do what is right.(2 Cor. 13:7)

Puzzles (a variety of teaching pictures and/or wooden puzzles)

Place appropriate puzzles in your center. Some good choices are puzzles of healthy food, community helpers, people going to church, people giving an offering, families at home, Bible-time homes or a palace, or a picture of Esther. Using teaching pictures cut them into several pieces (10-12) for the preschoolers to put them together. Lead the preschoolers in a discussion about their pictures, and how the people in the pictures are making good choices. Talk about God wanting God's people to make good choices. Tell of Esther's good choice to ask the King to help her people. Look for opportunities to praise preschoolers for the good choices of sharing, taking turns, listening, etc.



Place a Bible in the center with bookmarks at these verses: 2 Cor. 13:7, Gal. 5: 13, Jer. 29:11 and Esther 4.

Art (construction paper geometric shapes, white paper, glue, teaching picture of Esther, bible, verse book marks)

Play appropriate preschool music. Set out construction paper cut into different geometric shapes, 12"x18" pieces of paper, and glue on a small plate with q-tips. The children may create a picture by gluing different shapes on to their paper. As they create, share with them that they will be learning about Queen Esther today. You may talk about what they might think the home of a queen looks like. They may want to create this on their paper. As you share with the children about Queen Esther, show a teaching picture. Show in the Bible where we find the story of Esther. Esther was a queen and needed to help her friends. She chose to ask the king to help; and Esther made a good choice.



Bible thought: God is my helper. (Ps. 30:10)

We are helpers.(2 Cor. 1:24)

Reading and Writing (appropriate books, pencil, paper, word cards)

Have appropriate books which illustrates good choices families make like going to church, giving an offering, having a healthy meal, children sharing, people showing kindness. Let the children lead the learning. If they ask you to read then sit with them and have them choose a book. Be sure to acknowledge their choice. They may choose to also read to you; if so encourage their efforts with this also. You might even encourage them to think of their own story to share. Tell the preschooler they will hear a story today about Queen Esther, who made a good choice to help her people.



Also have available words related to the topic for preschoolers to copy if they are interested. Older preschoolers may try to copy words or they can trace them. Young preschoolers may try matching small words. This could be a game where they turn words over; you read the words; and they match the words to a word on a sheet. Good words to use would be God, Esther, Love, Kind, Choice, Good, friend, share. Be sure to use these in a sentence. For example, God wants us to make good choices. You may choose to be a good friend.

Science and Nature

Provide fruits such as grapes cut into fourths, raisins, dates, dried figs. Have the children use their senses to describe characteristics of the fruit. Tell them how Queen Esther provided a banquet for the King and some of these fruits would have been served. Talk with the preschoolers about making good food choices for healthy bodies.

Bible truths: God has plans for you. Jer. 29:11



Clean Up Time: (5 minutes)

Preschoolers need a 3-4 minute warning to finish their activities and prepare to clean up. Sing a familiar clean up song. Teachers and preschoolers should work together to clean up all the learning centers.



Group Time: (10-15 minutes)

Bible Story: Esther Made a Good Choice (Esther 4)

1. Lead the preschoolers to large group area by playing follow the leader.
2. Ask the preschoolers to share how their moms and dads or others choose to help them.
3. Open your Bible to Esther 4 and lay it in your lap. Tell the preschoolers today's Bible story is about Esther. She had to make a choice to help her people. Let's listen to learn how Esther chose to help. Tell the Bible story in your own words.



Esther Made a Good Choice

When Esther was a little girl she lived with her uncle Mordecai. Esther grew up and Mordecai took her to see the King. The King made Esther Queen and loved her very much. Esther was happy living in the palace.

However, one day she received a message from Mordecai asking for her help. Esther's people were in danger. One of the King's men, Haman, was angry with Mordecai. Haman wanted to hurt Mordecai, Esther and all their people.

Esther sent a message to Mordecai asking him what she should do. Mordecai told her to ask the King for help. She remembered the law that no one could see the king unless he asked for them to come. Esther had to make a choice. She could either go to the king and ask for help or tell her uncle Mordecai she could not help.

Esther made a good choice. She chose to help her people. Esther asked Mordecai and all their people to pray for three days and she would also pray for three days. After Esther prayed to God she was ready to go to the King and ask for his help.

When Esther went to the king, he was happy to see her. The King told Esther, "Whatever you want I will give it to you."

Esther told the King she and her people were in danger. She asked the King for help. The King chose to help Esther. He made a new law that would help keep Esther and her people safe.

Based on Esther:

Recall the Bible Story

Show a teaching picture of Esther. Ask the preschoolers who chose to be a helper?(Queen Esther) Who did Esther ask for help?(the King)

Pray: "Thank you God for Esther who chose to be a helper."



Bible Verse Activity

Verse Hunt: Have the verses printed on different colored strips of paper and placed about the room. Have enough for each child to find one. Have a matching set of verses places in your Bible. As the preschoolers return to the circle, have them come to you with their colored strips. Find the matching colored bookmarks in your Bible. Read the verse with the preschooler.



Verses to use:

- (2 Tim 1:3) I thank God.
- (2 Cor. 13:7) Do what is right.
- (Eph. 4:32) Be kind to one another.
- (Ps 147:7) Sing thanks to God.
- (2 Cor. 1:24) We are helpers.
- (Prov. 17:17) A friend loves at all times.
- (Gal. 5:13) Help one another.

Transition/Closing Activity:

Bean Bag Toss game

Set out pictures of community helpers. (doctors, mail carrier, firefighter, police officer, moms, dads, children etc.) The preschoolers toss the bean bag onto a picture, naming the helper and telling how the helper makes choices.



Ex. Mail carrier chooses to help by delivering the mail.