



UNIT 18 | FEBRUARY 2020

Babies-Toddlers Lesson

Esther Saved Her People

Bible Passage: Esther

Story Point: Nothing can stop God's good plan.

Key Passage: "God ... will Himself restore ... you after you have suffered for a little while." 1 Peter 5:10

Christ Connection: Jesus died and rose again to do God's plan.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS

(Scepter)

Show children the scepter as you tell the Bible story.

King Ahasuerus (uh haz yoo EHR uhs) of Persia chose Esther to be his queen. Esther was a Jew, one of God's people. One day her cousin Mordecai found out someone wanted to destroy the Jews. He sent a message to Esther, "Ask the king to save our people." Esther wanted to help her people, but no one could go to the king unless the king asked for that person. The only way to not be punished was if the king held out his scepter. Esther went to the king. The king saw Esther waiting and held out his scepter to her. Esther asked the king to come to a special meal. At the special meal, the king said to her, "I will give you whatever you ask." Esther said, "Please save my people!" The king made a plan to save the Jews from their enemies!

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

God made Esther queen of Persia.
God used Esther to save His people.
Jesus saves us from our sin.

HOW TO USE THE ACTIVITIES

As a nursery volunteer, your primary focus is on keeping babies-toddlers safe and happy. We understand that your classroom is busy, and your hands are literally full. However, we know that your influence on these children is more than childcare. The activities included in this lesson are suggestions of how to be more intentional in pointing little ones to Jesus. The theme will remain the same all month long. Choose one activity per week to focus on and don't worry if you run out of time.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card, *1 per family first weekend of the month)

Hand parents/influencers the Big Picture Card and encourage them to review the Babies & Toddlers Christ Connection with their child this week.

**Designate a pickup location for rest of month*

BABIES ACTIVITIES

LOOK IN THE BIBLE

(small Bibles, Bible Story Picture, Key Passage Card)

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to the Book of Esther. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY • God made Esther queen of Persia. God used Esther to save His people. NOTHING CAN STOP GOD'S GOOD PLAN. Jesus died and rose again to do God's plan. [*Pray for the babies.*]

SING SONGS ABOUT GOD

(No Supplies Needed)

Sing songs about God that you know, such as "God Is So Good," "Oh, How I Love Jesus," and "Jesus Loves Me." Retell the Bible story.

SAY • God used Esther to save His people. Jesus saves us. NOTHING CAN STOP GOD'S GOOD PLAN.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR

(Non-Breakable Mirrors)

Provide non-breakable hand mirrors. Sit with a baby on your lap. Help him look in the mirror. Point out his unique features.

SAY • God used Esther to save His people. God loves you very much, and God has a plan for you. NOTHING CAN STOP GOD'S GOOD PLAN.

TODDLER ACTIVITIES

CIRCLE TIME

(small Bibles, Key Passage Card, Bible Story Picture)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Esther. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the

Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

TOUCH A SCEPTER

(Paper Towel Roll, Gold foil or Paper, Gems)

Display the royal scepter. Invite toddlers one at a time to touch the scepter. When they touch the scepter, repeat the story point. Retell the story.

SAY • God made Esther queen of Persia. God used Esther to save His people. **NOTHING CAN STOP GOD'S GOOD PLAN.**

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(Key Passage Card, Toy Crown, Tape)

Tape the key passage card to a toy crown. Encourage toddlers to pass the crown as you play music. Stop the music and read the key passage. Play again as time allows.

SAY • Our key passage says that God will help us. Jesus bring us back to God. **NOTHING CAN STOP GOD'S GOOD PLAN.**

READ ABOUT ESTHER

(“God Helped Esther Book” printable)

Invite toddlers to sit with you as you read the book. Remind toddlers that Esther's story is true because it comes from the Bible.

SAY • God used Esther to save His people. **NOTHING CAN STOP GOD'S GOOD PLAN.** Jesus saves us.