

WEEK 1
LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

With God in our corner,
we don't have to be afraid

BIBLE

Esther 7:1–6; 2 Corinthians 4:6–12;
Joshua 1:9

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Roller coasters are full of twists and turns, but we might feel terrified by a sudden or unexpected drop. This week, we'll take a look at Esther's story to see how she lived through a scary, sudden, life-or-death situation. Her story reminds us that even if we're afraid of the sudden changes that happen in our lives, **With God in our corner, we don't have to be afraid.**

WHAT?

Life is a lot like a roller coaster. We all have moments when we feel like we're at the top and have the courage to do anything. But then something happens, and we are at our lowest low. This is part of the reason we think roller coasters are fun. They take something we commonly experience, like fear, and make it exciting. But what do we do when fear jumps into our lives and we are not on a roller coaster? How do we deal with fear when it isn't fun or exciting?

SO WHAT?

When we read Esther's story, we see that she has the power to help keep God's people safe from those who want to harm them. But Haman, a Persian official, sought to eliminate God's people and sentence them all to death. Esther was the only one who had access to the king and could petition him on behalf of God's people to keep them safe. If she didn't do it, God's people would be doomed. When Esther was confronted with fear, we saw God was working in the background to transform her fear into courage so she could expose Haman's evil plot and save people's lives.

In 2 Corinthians 4:6–12, Paul told the Early Church they would be feeling crushed by the twists and turns of life. He reminds them Jesus experienced similar fears and pains when he was crucified. But God had the last word when he resurrected Jesus. When this happens, they can trust Jesus is close, strengthening them when they feel weak because **With God in our corner, we don't have to be afraid.**

NOW WHAT?

What do we learn from Esther's story? – **How to develop a deep-rooted trust in God?**

- **TALK WITH GOD IN THE SILENCE:** God is not mentioned in the Book of Esther. But we still see all the ways God is at work, and Esther trusts the ways God is moving behind the scenes. When it seems like God isn't there, keep talking with God because God is listening.
- **TALK TO GOD DURING THE HIGHS AND LOWS:** If things are going well, thank God for everything happening in your life. But if things are difficult this week, talk with God about what you need and the courage to sustain you when fear seems overwhelming.
- **TALK WITH PEOPLE CLOSE TO YOU:** Just like Esther did with Mordecai, reach out to a trusted person in your life who can help you through a challenging situation.

This week, talk to God when things feel scary because **with God in our corner, we don't have to be afraid.**