

WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God helps us do good behind the scenes.

BIBLE

Scene II. Mordecai and Haman:
Esther 3:1-6; 6:1-11

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Showstoppers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Praise You With My Song (Esther's Song)" (Little Big Heroes)
 - "This Little Light" (Ark Kids)
 - "God is So Good" (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
 - "Strong and Courageous" (Justin Graves Band)

ACTIVITY | Thumbs Up Relay

- If you wanted to let people know you thought a show you saw was really good, how might you show them?
- Many people around the world like to use a thumbs up when they like something or think something's good. Let's play a game where we get to tag each other with something good!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line up the kids single file and facing forward. When you say, "Go!" the first kid in line turns around to the next kid and gives them a thumbs up, then the next one gives the next person a thumbs up. Have the kids keep going until they reach the end of the line. Once they do, the kid in last place runs to the head of the line. Go through the whole line until the first kid is at the beginning of the line again.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Play a game of "Simon Says" thumbs up edition with toddlers. For example: "Simon says turn to your neighbor and give them a thumbs up," "Simon says look at me and give me a thumbs up," "Simon says point your thumb up high to God and give God a thumbs up," etc.

ACTIVITY | Cut, Cut, Action!

- In the theater, it's the director's job to make sure everything is going well and that the actors are doing what they're supposed to do.

- When the director wants everyone to stop what they're doing, the director will yell, "Cut!" When the director wants everyone to start acting again, the director will yell, "Action!"
- Let's pretend to be directors today. Ready? Action!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In this variation of the game, "Duck, Duck Goose," one kid will be "it" while all of the other kids sit in a circle. The kid who's "it" will go around the circle tapping everyone's heads while saying, "Cut . . . cut . . ." Whomever they choose to become "it," they'll yell, "Action!" when they tap their head. Play for as long as time allows.*

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Have an adult leader hold the hand of the kid who's "it" to help them see how it works. Have another adult leader monitor the circle helping kids get up when they are tagged.*

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Esther 3:1–6; 6:1–11 (Scene II. Mordecai and Haman)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the [stick-figure marionettes](#) for Xerxes and Mordecai you used last week. Make another marionette for Haman. Recruit one or two volunteers to help you as you tell the story behind a [cardboard theater](#). Use the puppets as you read Esther 3:1–6; 6:1–11 (using a preschool Bible or kid-friendly Bible translation) or you may choose to use the script below.*
- **Narrator:** Welcome, everyone, to the Behind-the-Scenes Theater! Last week, we heard a story about Esther, her cousin, Mordecai, and King Xerxes.
 - Esther and Mordecai were both Jews, which meant they worshiped God. King Xerxes picked Esther to become his queen and Mordecai became a guard at the palace gate. Let's see where the story picks up today.
- *[Enter Haman.]*
- **Haman:** Oh. Hello, there. My name is Haman. I'm King Xerxes' right-hand man. King Xerxes trusts me to make a lot of decisions. I'm very important. And because I'm so important I think everyone should bow to me! *[Do a long, slow bow.]*
- **Narrator:** And everyone bowed to Haman just like that. But one person did not . . . Mordecai.
- **Mordecai:** I will not bow down to anyone. Not Haman . . . not even the king! I only worship the one, true God and that's it! *[Shakes side to side.]*
- **Narrator:** When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down to him, Haman became very angry. Haman wanted to hurt Mordecai and all of Mordecai's people.
- **Haman:** I will get you back, Mordecai! If it's the last thing I do! *[Exits stage.]*
- **Narrator:** I know Haman's feelings were hurt, but that's not very nice, is it? Well, time went on and one day, Mordecai heard some bad news — he heard someone was going to try to hurt the king.
- **Mordecai:** Oh, no! I have to do something! *[Runs to tell the king.]*
- **Narrator:** The king was so happy that Mordecai looked out for him in that way, he told Haman to celebrate Mordecai's bravery by giving Mordecai a special parade through town on the king's special horse and with the king's special robe!
- *[Have Haman and Mordecai puppets walk across the stage together.]*
- **Narrator:** This whole thing made Haman even more mad! But Mordecai always chose to do something good behind the scenes even though nobody was watching. But do you know who was watching? God was!

BIG IDEA | God helps us do good behind the scenes.

- Last week, we heard the phrase, "behind the scenes."
 - **Does anyone know what that means?**

- That's right! It's something we say to talk about what goes on in the background, which we normally can't see.
- God was with Mordecai when Mordecai decided to do good and not bow down to the king. Mordecai only wanted to worship God.
- Let's learn these hand motions to help us remember how **God helps us do good behind the scenes**.
 - **God helps us** (point up with pointer finger on all three words)
 - **do good** (two thumbs up on both words)
 - **behind the scenes** (thumbs pointed back behind your shoulders)
- Even though Mordecai didn't know it then, Mordecai's bravery helped the Jews. And God was with him the whole time, even behind the scenes.

VIDEO | Behind the Scenes, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Follow the Director

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids stand up and face you. Tell them you're going to instruct them to do a series of actions, but when you tell them to bow down, they should yell, "No!" like Mordecai told Haman. You can give the following commands and make up your own:
 - Follow the director and clap your hands.
 - Follow the director and hop on one foot.
 - Follow the director and wiggle your fingers.
 - Follow the director and bow down.
- **Who was the person who said "No" in today's story?** That's right! You all sounded like Mordecai!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Keep your actions very simple for toddlers. If you have enough adults, have an adult do what the leader is saying so the toddlers can follow along.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for loving us and helping us do good things. You are always working to help us behind the scenes. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Intermission!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out string cheese or fruit leather (dried fruit) to the kids. Show them how the string cheese or fruit leather can "bow down" by folding it in half.
- **Did Mordecai bow down to Haman or King Xerxes? No! He did not!**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) of kids helping others. Then use the puppets from the Bible story to help review today's story.
- There are always chances to be a big helper in your classrooms, at home, and in your neighborhood.
- And in today's story, we heard about how Mordecai was a big helper, too!
 - **How did Mordecai help the king?**
 - **How do you think Haman felt about that?**

- How can you be a big helper to someone?
- How do you think a person will feel after you help them?

ACTIVITY | Paper Plate Faces

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a paper plate to each kid along with crayons, colored pencils, or markers. Have them draw a happy face on one side of the plate and a sad face on the other. Show them [this image](#). After they're done designing their plates, ask them questions and have them hold up the side that matches the answer.
- A long time ago, when people performed in a show, they wore masks to show everyone that the play was going to be a happy or sad play.
- These masks were used so much that nowadays when we see these two masks together, everyone knows we're talking about theater!
- **What face do you make when you get yummy food for lunch?**
- **What face do you make when you get hurt?**
- **What face do you make when your friend doesn't want to share with you?**
- **What face do you think Mordecai made when he found out Haman didn't like him?**
- **What face do you think God made when Mordecai showed he only bowed down to God?**

MEMORY VERSE | Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

- **"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."**
- Back in the days when theater was performed outside, people needed to know how to control how loud their voices were so everyone could hear.
- Let's practice that today while going over our memory verse again! When I lift my hands up, I want you to repeat the memory verse as loudly as you can. When I put my hands down, say it like a whisper.
 - **For it is God** (point at kids to repeat)
 - **who works in you** (point at kids to repeat)
 - **to will and act** (point at kids to repeat)
 - **in order to fulfill** (point at kids to repeat)
 - **his good purpose** (point at kids to repeat)
 - **Philippians 2:13** (point at kids to repeat)

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

ACTIVITY | Make Something Good

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids several containers of Crayola Model Magic clay to play with.
- **What are good things someone has done for you? How about your friends or brother or sister?**
- Let's practice making something good. Let's pretend and make a gift that we can trade with each other!

ACTIVITY | Hoppin' Behind the Scenes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a few hopscotch patterns on the floor of your space using masking tape. Have the kids play a game of Hopscotch and instruct them to say, "Behind the scenes!" with each hop on the squares.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Some younger kids may have a hard time coordinating the jumps. Instead of jumping on the numbers with one foot, have them jump from box to box with two feet!