

ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE

ESTHER



CHRIST CONNECTION: Like Esther helped her people, God sent Jesus to help us and rescue us from sin.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: This is our God. He saved us. Let's rejoice and be glad! Isaiah 25:9

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- The king of Persia chose one of God's people, a woman named Esther, to be the queen.
- A bad man named Haman wanted to hurt God's people.
- Esther prayed and helped her people. The king made a new rule to keep all God's people safe.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Some of God's people were in Jerusalem, and some were in Persia. The king of Persia wanted a queen. He chose a beautiful woman named Esther. Esther had a secret; she was one of God's people. One day, Esther's cousin, Mordecai (MAWR duh kigh), found out that a bad man named Haman (HAY muhn) wanted to hurt God's people. Esther could not go to the king unless he called her, but she knew God's people needed help. Esther prayed and went to see the king. Esther told the king about Haman's bad plan. The king was very angry, and he had Haman taken away. Then the king made a new rule to keep all of God's people safe.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Esther 1. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “I’ve Got the Joy”:

“This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad, rejoice and be glad!
This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad today!”

SAY “Who saves people? Yes, God! Our key passage phrase says, ‘This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.’ God sent Jesus to help us and rescue us from sin.”

2 BUILD A CROWN

Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in the leaders’ laps. Cut a ring outline from paper plates (one per baby). Provide different-shaped foam blocks for the babies to build a crown on the paper ring. If desired, try balancing the “crown” and placing it on a leader’s head without the blocks falling. Repeat as interest allows. Ensure safety as the blocks fall, making the blocks fall away from the babies. Say the first gospel gem as the babies build their crowns.

SAY “Kings and queens wear crowns! The king of Persia chose one of God’s people, a woman named Esther, to be the queen.”

3 HELP A BALL

Sit the babies on the floor using horseshoe-shaped pillows. Place two balls underneath a laundry basket. Encourage the babies to help rescue the balls from under the basket. Allow the babies to take turns lifting the basket to get the balls. Monitor safety when babies are moving the basket to get the balls.

SAY “Esther prayed and helped her people, and God kept His people safe. Can we pray too? Yes, we can pray at any time, at any place, and using any words.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Esther 1. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 DECORATE A CROWN

Precut long strips of cardstock paper. Provide dot markers, crayons, and adhesive gems. Write Queen Esther helped her people on each strip. Allow toddlers to decorate their "crowns." Wrap the crowns around each toddler's head, and tape in place. Retell the story.

SAY “ Who was the queen from our Bible story? Yes, Queen Esther! Did Esther help God’s people? Yes! Esther prayed and helped God’s people. We can pray to God for help too! Jesus helps us and rescues us from sin! ”

3 WHISPER SECRETS

Form two groups. Discuss with toddlers how Esther had a secret. Guide each group to use the pool noodles to whisper Esther’s secret to the other group. Instruct one group to say, “I’m one of God’s people.” Instruct the other group to respond with, “Jesus helps and rescues us from sin!” Discuss how God used Esther to save His people. Monitor safety as toddlers play.

SAY “ Esther had a secret. She was one of God’s people. Esther prayed and helped her people. Who did God send to help rescue us from our sin? Yes, Jesus! Is that a secret? No! We can tell all people that God sent Jesus to help us and rescue us from sin. ”

4 MAKE A PRAYER CALL

Discuss how there are times we have to wait for a phone call. Hide a phone and set it to ring, then instruct the toddlers to follow and find the noise. Repeat as interest allows. Review the Bible story. Tell the toddlers that Esther could not go to the king unless he called for her.

SAY “ Did Esther need to see the king? Yes, Esther and God’s people needed help! Did Esther pray before she went to see the king? Yes! Esther prayed and called on God for help. We can pray and call on God for help too! ”

5 FIND THE STARS

Place two star cutouts on opposite sides of the room, one for “Jerusalem” and one for “Persia.” Show the toddlers where Jerusalem and Persia (modern-day Iran) are on a globe or world map. Lead the toddlers on a “walk” to Jerusalem and Persia in the room. If desired, allow the toddlers to place the stars on the globe or world map. If possible, use star-shaped sticky notes for easy removal.

SAY “ God’s people were in Jerusalem and Persia. God sent Jesus to rescue all people from sin. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SWITCH PLACES

Form two groups, and assign the **black paper** "Jerusalem" and the **white paper** "Persia." Gather toddlers at each "location." When you say, "Jerusalem," the Jerusalem toddlers have to move to the other location. If you say, "Persia," the Persia toddlers have to shift to the other location. When you say, "all God's people," guide all the toddlers to sit wherever they are and listen to the Bible story. Call locations slowly to ensure safety.

SAY “ Some of God’s people were in Jerusalem, and some were in Persia. The king of Persia chose one of God’s people to be his queen. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of "I've Got the Joy":

"This is our God. He saved us. Let's rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad, rejoice and be glad!
This is our God. He saved us. Let's rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad today!"

SAY “ Who can rejoice and be glad? Yes, we can rejoice and be glad because God saves people! ”

3 STACK THE GOOD AND THE BAD

Gather **red and green foam blocks**. Instruct the toddlers to stack a red block when they hear something bad and a green block when they hear something good. Retell the Bible story. Congratulate all toddlers on their stack.

SAY “ Was Haman’s plan good or bad? Yes, it was bad! Esther helped her people, and that was good! God sent Jesus to rescue us from our sins. Is that good or bad? Yes, that is very good! ”

4 THINK UP NEW RULES

Encourage the toddlers to think of rules they have at home, such as wash your hands before dinner, brush your teeth, eat your vegetables, and so forth. Allow toddlers to make up new, temporary rules for everyone in the room. Examples could be: everyone must hop on one foot or boys must sit and girls must stand. Retell the story.

SAY “ Did the king make a new rule to keep God’s people safe? Yes! Esther helped her people, and the king’s new rule kept God’s people safe. God sent Jesus to help us and rescue us from sin. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's **Big Picture Card** to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.