

SALT + LIGHT

LESSON 9





POWER PHRASE

I can stand up for what is right!

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 2:4, “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

SUPPORTING DOCTRINES

For supporting doctrines, see Novo’s Statement of Faith at <https://novoministries.org/statement-of-faith>.

GOALS

The child will...

- Learn that God wants him to stand up for what is right.
- Know that he can learn in the Bible what is right and what is wrong.
- Choose to follow God and stand up for what is right.

REMINDERS

The leadership trait we are emphasizing in this lesson is choosing to stand up for what is right. A great leader knows what he believes in and is not afraid to take a stand for what is right.



ESTHER STANDS UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT BIBLE STORY

Recommended Visuals

- Bible Story visuals*

Recommended Supplies

- Bible, lip sync signs*

Captivate #1 — Lip Sync!

- Print the lip sync visuals and cut out the mouth section of each. Choose four children to be King Xerxes, Esther, Mordecai and Haman. Have them repeat different parts of the story as you tell it. Also emphasize expressions.

Captivate #2 — Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down!

- Stop at different points during the story and ask children a question that has a “yes” or “no” answer. Ask them to show their answer by putting their thumbs up for “yes” and their thumbs down for “no.”

Background

- King Xerxes ruled over the 127 territories in his kingdom. The king called for Queen Vashti so he could show her and her crown off to some of his officials. She refused to go. The king was furious and removed her title as queen because she wouldn't go to the king when he called for her. The king then began a search for a new queen.
- At this time Esther, a Jewish girl, lived in the kingdom. Esther was adopted by her uncle Mordecai because her father and mother had both died. Esther was very beautiful. Esther was one of the young ladies that was brought to the king's palace. When Esther's turn came to go in to the king, everyone who saw Esther was pleased with her. Esther found favor with the king and he made her the queen. Esther had kept her family history a secret; no one knew that she was Jewish.

Story

- Retell the story from Esther 5:1-8.
- See story script.

Conclusion

- Esther risked her life to stand up for what was right. She had the ability to go before the king and to ask for her people to be spared. God gave her favor with the king and used her to save her people.

TESTIMONY

- Share a time that you stood up for what is right.
- Share a time that someone stood up for you. Tell how they were looking out for you and not just themselves.



CHALLENGE

Recommended Visuals

- picture of gladiators fighting in a Coliseum*, Key Point visuals*, Power Phrase visual*, Memory Verse visual*

Supplies

- Bible

Introduction

- There once was a monk named Telemachus. He lived a long time ago in a small village. One day he thought he heard the voice of God telling him to go to Rome. He was obedient and set out for Rome by foot. He arrived during a great festival. He followed the crowds to the Coliseum and saw two gladiators before the emperor ready to fight to their death. He pushed through the crowd as they cheered and ran out into the arena crying out “In the name of Christ, stop!”
- The crowds were angry that he was trying to stop the fight. As Telemachus begged the gladiators to stop, one of them stabbed him with his sword. His last words were “In the name of Christ, stop!”
- A hush fell over the Coliseum. Silently everyone left the Coliseum. Never again in the great stadium did men kill each other to entertain the crowd, all because one man was willing to stand up for what was right, even if he risked his own life.

Key Points

God calls us to stand up for what is right!

- The Bible says that if we know what the right thing to do is and don't do it, it is sin (James 4:17).
- The Bible also teaches that we can't just read our Bible and hear what is right; we need to do what is right (James 1:22).
- We also need not to worry about ourselves and what is best for us, but we also need to think of others (Philippians 2:4).

Do what is right, not what is easy!

- Choosing to do the right thing isn't always easy, but it is always the right thing to do (1 Peter 3:14).
- Jesus is our Example; He endured so much suffering for us.

God will be honored when we stand up for what is right!

- The Bible encourages us not to grow weary; but if we continue to do what is right, we will be rewarded (Galations 6:9). The reward is giving honor to God.
- Our greatest reward is the love of God for us. He is always there for us and will help us do what is right (John 14:23).



CHALLENGE CONTINUED

Conclusion

I can stand up for what is right!

- Our greatest desire should be to honor God and do as He has asked us. Every day we have an opportunity to make the right choices and to stand up for what is right. It isn't about what we want or what is best for us; it is about honoring God and being obedient to Him because we love Him. So decide today to stand up for what is right!
- Invite the unsaved child to believe on Jesus and ask God to forgive his sin (Acts 16:31).
- Invite the saved child to stand up for what is right and to honor God in all he does.





SALT OF THE EARTH ARRIVING ACTIVITY

Supplies

- a picture of someone spreading salt on an icy path*

Instructions and Application

- As the children arrive, show them the picture of the person spreading salt on an icy path. Ask them if they know what the person is doing and why. Explain that the salt causes the ice to melt. It prepares the path so people can walk on it without slipping and falling.
 - Explain to the children that God has called us to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13a). We are like the salt; God uses us to prepare the way so that people can hear about Jesus.
 - In our Bible Story today, we are going to learn about how Esther chose to be the “salt of the earth.”
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IDOLS GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Visuals

- Foundational Gospel Truths “What’s the Problem?” visuals*

Supplies

- Bible, six plastic cups, ball, writing tools, paper

Instructions and Application

- In our story today, we learned how Esther took a stand for what was right. She stood up against evil. Haman was a very sinful man. Sin is anything we think, say or do that breaks God’s Law. Haman wanted everyone to bow down to him. Ask the children what law that would break. The Ten Commandments say we should have no other gods. It also says that we should not bow down to idols. Mordecai refused to break God’s laws.
- The punishment of sin is death and separation from God (Romans 6:23b). In the end, Haman faced death because of his sin.
- We all sin, but thankfully we can ask God to forgive our sins (Romans 3:23). He loves us so much and wants to forgive our sins and have a relationship with us.

Discussion

Older Team: Have the children talk about idols that they may be tempted to worship today. Idols can be anything that we make more important than God.

Younger Team: Have the children talk about all the things they love to have or to do. Remind them that we need to love God the most and not let anything be more important than Him.

Quiet Team: Have the children write “What are my idols?” on the top of their paper. Then have them write down anything that they make more important than God on the page.

Active Team: Stack the cups and tell the children that the stack is like an idol. Have the children take turns saying something that they shouldn’t make more important than God and then try to knock down the “idol” with the ball.





DOMINOS MEMORY VERSE

Visuals

- Memory Verse visual*, picture of a domino maze*

Supplies

- paper, writing tools

A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic

A — ATTENTION GRABBER

Show the children the picture of the domino maze. Ask the children how many of them have ever lined dominos up and knocked the first one over. Ask what happens when the first one is hit. Show them in the picture how there are so many paths that the dominos can travel. Ask them what would happen if a domino is tipped one direction instead of another. Just like the dominos, we can make a difference on the outcome of circumstances. When we are serving God, we choose to do things that aren't just in our best interest, but are looking out for others.

G — GOD'S WORD

Philippians 2:4, "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

A — AWARENESS

I — IN THEIR LIVES

Unsaved Child (Questions to ask an unsaved child)

Saved Child (Questions to ask a saved child)

N — NUMBER OF TIMES

Memorization Activity

- Play Hot or Cold. Hide a small object from one child. While that child tries to find it, the rest of the group quotes the verse, getting softer when the child gets closer to the object and louder as the child moves farther away. Repeat the verse until the object is found. Have the seeking child say the verse after finding the object.



DOMINOS MEMORY VERSE CONTINUED

Discussion

- Older Team: Have the children discuss different situations they may face at home or with their friends and what right or wrong choices they may have. Ask them what the consequences are for those choices.
- Younger Team: List different examples of choices the children might make at home or at school. Have the children stand up if it is a right choice and sit down if it is a wrong choice.
- Quiet Team: Have the children draw a picture of a time they stood up for what was right.
- Active Team: Have the children play pick up sticks with their writing tools. Each time they take a turn, have them discuss different situations they may face at home or with their friends and what right or wrong choices they may have.

FLASHBACK REVIEW QUESTIONS

Supplies

- sheet of review questions with storyboard boxes to write or draw the story (one per child)*

Large Group Review Questions

- Who was the king? (Xerxes)
- Who raised Esther? (Her uncle Mordecai)
- Why did Esther go to the palace? (To be considered to be queen)
- Who did the king promote and command people to bow to? (Haman)
- Why wouldn't Mordecai bow to Haman? (Would not bow to anyone but God)
- What was Haman's plan to destroy the Jews? (Have the king give an order to have them all killed)
- What was Esther's plan? (She invited the king and Haman to dinner twice.)
- What did the king do when he found out Haman was behind killing Esther's people? (He had Haman killed.)

Discussion Questions

- No one knew Esther was a Jew. Why didn't she just keep her secret and not risk her life to help the Jews?
 - What risks are you willing to take to stand up for what is right?
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ROYAL SCEPTER CRAFT

Visuals

- craft sample*

Supplies

- lollipops (one per child), a 3-inch square of tinfoil (one per child), gems or sequins, and glue

Instructions and Application

- Share with the children that we are going to make a scepter just like the king used to let Esther know she was allowed to come to him.
 - Give each of the children a lollipop. Considering given the younger children the flat lollipops to avoid a choking hazard. Then give them each a piece of tinfoil, gems and glue. Have them wrap the lollipop with tinfoil all the way down to cover the stick. Then have them glue the gems or sequins onto the scepter.
 - Remind the children that Esther risked her life by going before the king. God was with her and gave her the courage to stand up for what was right.
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WHAT'S THE POINT APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

Supplies

- paper, writing tools, “I can stand up for what is right!” cards*

Activity #1

- Hand out the “I can stand up for what is right!” cards to each child. Have the children share specific areas in their lives where they feel God could use them. Then have them think about steps that they can take to accomplish those things.
- An example might be, WHAT CAN I STAND UP FOR? God wants me to tell my friends about Jesus. HOW DO I STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT? I could tell my friends about Jesus when we are playing on the playground.
- The important part of this activity is encouraging the children to think independently and come up with solutions on their own.

Activity #2

- Have the children take turns acting out different ways that they can stand up for what is right. If you have a group that is more quiet, you could choose to have them draw a picture instead.
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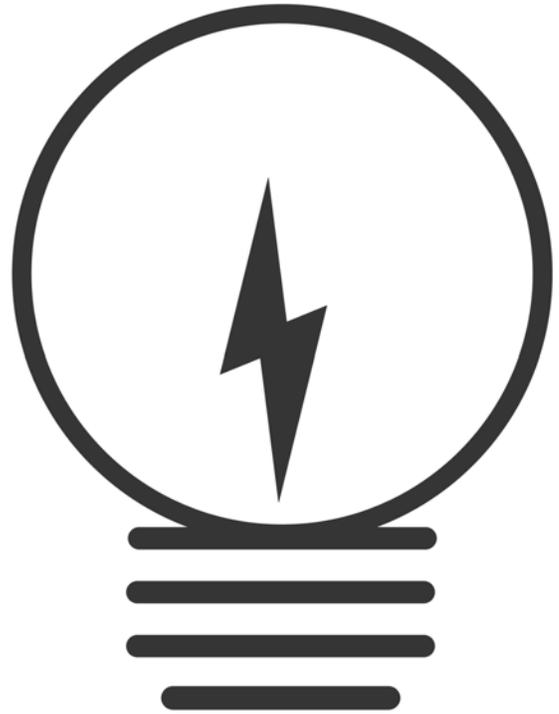
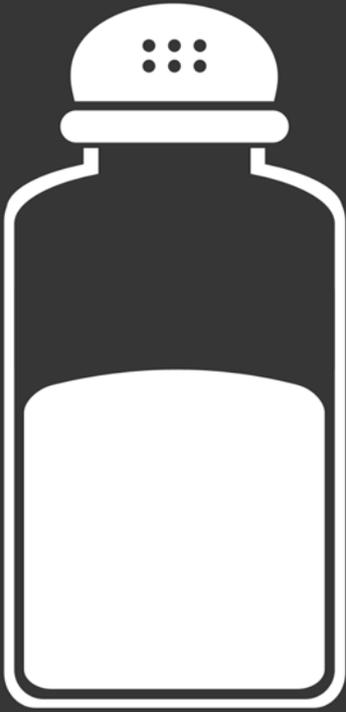
NOW WHAT? ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Supplies

- Esther Letter Puzzle*
- The Big Take Away Key Chain*
- Esther Coloring Page*

Instructions and Application

- These activities are to be used with your team as time fillers while reinforcing the lesson concepts. They can take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don't have time to start another activity.
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