



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 39

ESTHER

Scripture: Esther 1-10

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Paper in squares, triangles cut for smaller children, glue

Activity:

- Give each student two sheets of 8 ½ X 11 inch paper (copy, construction, notebook, etc.) and a pair of scissors or 8-10 square post-it notes.
- Do NOT tell the students what they are making. This is demonstrating how we are to trust and follow God even though we may not know His plans for us.
- Demonstrate and lead them through the steps of making 8-10 individual triangles as seen in the video below. During or after each triangle, tell a little bit of the story of Esther (see summary below).
- Ask if anyone has figured out what we're making
- After the story, once everyone has their pieces, show them how to connect them together.

Alternative Options:

If this is too hard to do, opt to have the kids reenact the story. Or you can try telling the story while you're creating the crowns. Breaking up each section to tell a bit of the story, then make a bit more of the crown.

Young kids can color triangles to put together at the end of the story to make a crown.

Summary (You can use this, read from a children's Bible, or create your own):

Explain that some of the Jewish people didn't return to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem like we learned about last week. Two of those people were Mordecai and Esther. Esther became queen and kept her Jewish heritage a secret because her cousin Mordecai who cared for her asked her to. During her time as queen, Mordecai saved the king from a plot to kill him by telling Esther about it. But there was an enemy of the Jewish people named Haman. He wanted the king to destroy all the Jewish people and so he had the king sign into law a time where people could wage war against the Jews and the Jews couldn't defend themselves.

When Mordecai heard this, he tore his clothes and cried. Afterwards, he went to Esther and asked her to appeal to the king. But there was a big problem. If Esther came to the king without him asking her to come, he could have her killed. How would you feel if you were Esther? What would you do?

Esther told Mordecai what could happen and he told her these famous words from Esther 4:13-14

"Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther responded this way:

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

After fasting and praying, Esther went to the King and he spared her. She invited Haman and the king to a banquet, but didn't tell them. Again she invited them to a banquet and asked the King that he might spare her people. The king didn't want to destroy Esther's people and she explained that her people were the Jews. Because of her appeal, the Jews were allowed to fight back and save their properties.

Explain and Apply:

By putting the lives of others before her own, Esther became a heroine. It wasn't her beauty on the outside God used, but her obedient and wise character on the inside. See, she trusted God even when she did not understand His plan. She went to Him in prayer instead of following her own plans first.

A hero is not immune to fear. In spite of fear, a hero does what needs to be done for the sake of others, like Esther did. I doubt Esther ever imagined she'd be used in such extraordinary ways, but God uses ordinary people when they trust Him.

He longs for us to trust him, too. Even if we don't know where God is leading us or what his plans are. Just like with this crown you made, you had no idea what we were making in the beginning, but you trusted me to give you the directions and get us there. You can trust God so much more because his plans are way better and he loves you even more than I do! He loves you so much he died on the cross for your sins. And when we accept Jesus as Savior, when we come to him for forgiveness of our sins and submit to him and obey him, we become princes and princesses- joint heirs with the One True King Jesus! (Romans 8:17). So we really can wear these cool crowns!

Comic Book Bibles:

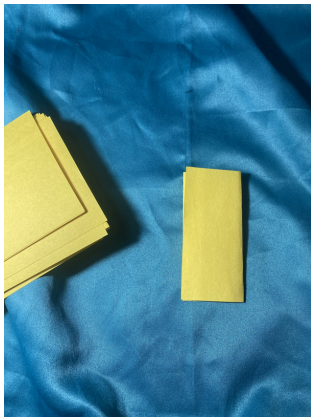
Have the kids color the story of Esther in their comic book Bibles.

Memorize: Esther 4:14

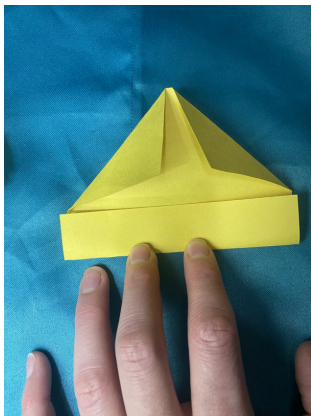
Close in Prayer



Step 1: Cut several perfect squares out of construction paper. Mine were 11.5 cmx11.5 cm. Plan to need 12-15 per child if they want to wear the finished crowns.



Step 2: Fold an individual square in half.



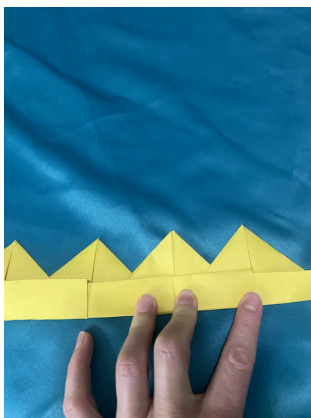
Step 3: Unfold the square, then fold the top corners into your middle crease. Then fold the bottom up to reach your folded corners.



Step 4: Do this with all remaining squares.



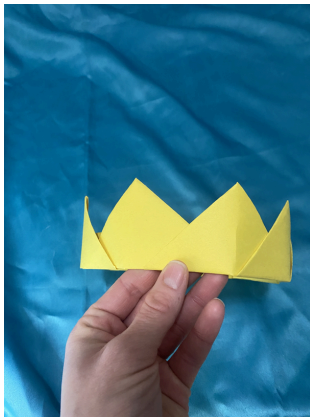
Step 5: Overlap each piece into one another in a line. Place the top piece inside the bottom fold of the previous piece. It won't hold well yet, but don't worry.



Step 6: Fold the bottom up the same length of the first rectangular fold. Now it should hold better.



Step 7: Insert the final end into the beginning piece. Do this by pulling the triangular point of the crown towards you, then insert the end under the beginning piece's folded lip. Return the point of the triangle, forming the circle.



Step 8: Enjoy your crown!