

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 4 • Week 2

GOD SAVES HIS PEOPLE

OBJECTIVE:

To show how God used Esther, an obedient woman, to save His people.

PREPARE BEFORE CLASS TIME:

Make copies of the reading "Brave Queen Esther" (under Lesson Application) for each child or use an overhead projector so all can see the words.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: Does God ever use people in special ways to do His will?

Ask: Can you name some people in the Bible that God used in special ways? [Possible answers: Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Mary, Paul, etc.]

Ask: Why do you think God chose these people? [Possible answers: Abraham was chosen for his obedience (Genesis 26:5). Saul was "a mighty man of power" (1 Samuel 9:1). David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Rebekah was especially kind and helpful to the stranger at the well (Genesis 24:42-46).]

Say: God uses people for many different reasons. Today's lesson is about a brave, beautiful and wise woman that God used. She had courage to obey even though her life was at stake.

BIBLE LESSON:

Read the story of Esther from *Just in Time Esther*, (©1999 by Carol Wedeven; Concordia Publishing House, Arch Books) or another Bible story book. Or summarize from the book of Esther.

Ask: Why was it hard for Esther to do the right thing? [Possible answers: Esther faced death going

before the king. The king may have agreed with Haman. Esther may have thought that she herself could escape. She had to face her problem all by herself with no one to stand with her.]

Ask: Have you ever experienced a time when it was difficult for you to do the right thing?

Say: We all have times when it is difficult to do what is right. The Bible tells us, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29b).

Ask: What does God promise when we obey? [(Possible answers: We'll be a special treasure (Exodus 19:5). God gives blessings for obedience (Deuteronomy 11:26-27; 30:19). Life will be better understanding the truth (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20; John 10:10). Most important are the spiritual blessings (John 16:33; James 2:5).]

Ask: How was Esther blessed for obeying God? [Possible answers: God's people were saved. Mordecai was saved. She fasted and was close to God. She knew she did the right thing.]

LESSON APPLICATION:

Help the children act out reading "Brave Queen Esther" (see following page). You may want to go over it several times with different children taking turns on the various parts. Depending on the children's reading level, you may need to say the lines and have them repeat it after you.

MUSIC:

"O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E" from *25 Bible Action Songs Kids Love to Sing* ©1996 StraightWay Music by Star Song Communications.

MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 6:18a "And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you."

Do: Write each word of the verse on a 3-by-5-inch card. Divide the cards up among the children. See if they can place all the words in order on the table or floor.

Brave Queen Esther

Everyone: Mordecai told Esther,
Beautiful Queen Esther,

Boy (Mordecai): You must ask the king
to save your people's lives.

Everyone: She was very fearful,
Very, very fearful.

Girl (Esther): I am very fearful
The king may take my life.

Everyone: Mordecai told Esther,
Beautiful Queen Esther,

Boy (Mordecai): Maybe that's why you are queen,
To save God's people's lives.

Girl (Esther): I love my people
Brave Jewish people.
I love God's people
Better than my life.
I'll go before the king;
I'll bow before the king;
I'll ask the Persian king
To save my people's lives.

Everyone: Obedient Queen Esther,
Loyal, brave Queen Esther,
Went before the king
And asked for her people's lives.
The king agreed with Esther,
Courageous Queen Esther.

Boy (King): I'll send a different message
And save your people's lives.

Everyone: So Esther saved her people.
Her brave, Jewish people;
Esther saved her people
And gave them back their lives.

Adapted from "Brave Queen Esther," by Edith Cutting (Shining Star Publications ©1998).

family activity

THE POINT:

We learned how God used Esther, an obedient woman, to save His people.

ASK ME...

Who was Esther?

Why did God choose Esther to save His people?

Why was it difficult for Esther?

How was Esther blessed for obeying God?

What does God promise when we obey?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Share with your child an example of a time that you obeyed your parents even though it was difficult.

Discuss with your family: Why do you think God wants us to obey Him?

Ask your child how they think the story of Esther might have ended if she had not had the courage to go before the king.

Read other stories in the Bible about people who were obedient.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)