God Humbles Haman

Bible Lesson: God Humbles Haman – Esther 5:1 - 6:14

Main Teaching: God can give you the grace to be humble.

Word Up: God gives grace!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Beanbag for each group – Small Group
- Recording for "His Name is Jesus" and "I Look to You" - Worship (Sing About the King 2 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for "I Look to You" and "His Name is Jesus" – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Picher of water, clear cup, and eye dropper – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story "God Humbles Haman" – Bible Lesson 4
- Box of clothing items such as shoes, socks, ties, necklaces, gloves, hats, scarves, shirts, suspenders, sunglasses, wigs, coats, etc. – Review Game
- Robert Foster Flash Card Visual 5 – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Color sheet Week 4 – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Quiet Time Week 4 – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

15 min – Small Group
10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
10 min – Object Lesson
15 min – Bible Lesson
10 min – Review Game
5 min – Missionary Story
10 min – Small Group

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven things God hates. "A proud look" is listed first. God hates pride and its fruits. Some say pride is the root of all sin—thinking we somehow know better than God or thinking we are better than others. A perfect example of pride is Haman, who delighted so much in himself, his wealth, and his accomplishments that it became his downfall. While pride may seem like a very adult concept, children need to know about pride and its counterpart, humility. Help them see that God loves a humble heart and He gives grace. The best example of this is Jesus, who humbled Himself to be obedient to death on a cross. Tailor the examples in the applications to fit the children you teach, and exalt Christ, who humbled Himself that we might be exalted into His kingdom.

SMALL GROUP

Others First

We are going to review last week's memory verse as we pass a beanbag *(show beanbag or other soft, passable object)* around the circle. Whoever has it when we say the last reference, Philippians 4:6, will give the beanbag to someone else saying, "I want you to go before me." Hand the beanbag to someone who hasn't gone yet. That person will share their favorite thing to do and then start the verse again. *(Continue until each child has shared his favorite thing to do.)* Good job, everyone! When you put others before yourself, it is called humility or being humble. Listen today for ways you can show humility.

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to YouTube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

"His Name is Jesus"

"I Look to You"

RULES

Review the Up Rules – Sit Up! Look Up! Listen Up! Hands Up! and Zip Up!

WORD UP!

"God Gives Grace!"

Do you like spending time with people who always want to be first? *(Allow response.)* Maybe they always like to be first in line, first to lunch, or first to talk. It can be fun to be first sometimes. But the Bible talks about something called humility. Humility is not thinking highly of yourself but considering others first. This can be very hard to do! That's why we need God's grace. Grace is a gift from God that helps you live for Him each day. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior. **WORD UP!, "God gives grace!"** *(Say with children.)* Today we'll talk about how God gives grace to put others first!

OBJECT LESSON

Drops of Water Grace

Materials: Large pitcher or bucket filled with water, eye dropper, smaller cup
(Tip: This object lesson works best if your large container and smaller cup are clear.)

What you say:
How much water do you think I have in this large container here? Some of you may be thinking gallons, liters, or cups. But let me ask the question a bit differently….How many *drops* of water do you think are in this bucket? There's only one way to find out. I brought a dropper here, and we are just going to start counting. (Begin to fill the dropper with water from the bucket and empty it into the cup as you count each drop.) 1…2…3…4…5…6...7…8….. This might take a while. 9….10….11…12…13…14…15… Wow - It would take a VERY long time to count all of the drops of water in this bucket, wouldn't it? This kind of reminds me of grace.

Grace means getting something that you do not deserve. You and I all deserve to be separated from God forever because of our sin. Sin is anything you think, see, say, or do that makes God sad or breaks His law. And the Bible says, "all have sinned." (Romans 3:23) That means you've sinned, and I've sinned, and your teachers and parents have sinned. The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death - that is very bad news! But God loves you so much, that he didn't want to be separated from you forever. He had a better plan so that you and I do not have to die! He sent His one and only Son Jesus to die on the cross for the punishment of your sins. Remember how grace means to get something you do not deserve? You see, you and I deserve to die because of our sin, but God gives grace! He doesn't want us to die - He offers a way for us to have eternal life together with Him in heaven one day! The Bible says if we admit that we have sinned, believe that Jesus died on the cross and came alive again,

and choose to follow Him, we can have eternal life! And the best part is, the grace of God will never run out. God gives grace, and more grace, and more grace, and more grace! Kind of like how it seemed impossible to count all the drops of water in this bucket, it would be impossible to count the number of times God gives grace to us.

BIBLE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Queen Esther took a deep breath. This was it! She was going before the king. She didn't know if she would live or die.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Do you remember why Queen Esther was going to the king? *(Allow response. Briefly review last week's lesson.)* Haman had made a law that all the Jews were to be killed. All over the kingdom, the Jews were praying for Esther. She was their only hope to be saved!

Esther stepped into the throne room. Would the king hold out his scepter, allowing her to approach, or would he command her to be killed immediately?

Flashcard 4-1

The king was delighted to see her and held out his golden scepter. Esther would live! Everyone cheer! *(Do with children.)* Listen to what the king said. *(Read Esther 5:3.)*

Queen Esther said, "I would like you and Haman to come to my feast today." Esther wanted to plead for her people in just the right way. The king agreed and gladly went to Esther's feast with Haman.

Flashcard 4-2

As they were enjoying the feast, the king again asked Esther, "What is your wish?" But instead of telling the king what she wanted, Esther invited them to another feast the next day. "Then I will tell you what I want," she said. The king agreed and left with Haman. Haman couldn't have been more excited! The queen had invited him—and only him—to a dinner with the king. He felt very important and couldn't wait to go home and tell his wife and friends about how important the king and queen thought he was.

Haman thought he was better and more important than others.

Have you ever thought you were better or more important than others? Thinking you are better than others is a sin called pride. Pride is putting yourself first. Maybe that's pushing to be first in the line at school, pouting until you get your way at home, or bragging about how good you are at sports or music. Pride is also thinking you know best. You may even think you know better than God. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, God doesn't want you to be proud. *(Read Philippians 2:3-4.)* God wants you to see other people as more important than yourself and to think of what they need before what you need. God wants you to be humble, to see yourself as God sees you and to see others as God sees them—precious and valuable. **God can give you grace to be humble.**

WORD UP!, **"God gives grace!"** *(Say with children.)* God does not want you to think you are better or more important than others.

Flashcard 4-3

Haman thought he was better than others. He was full of pride. As he happily walked home, he saw Mordecai sitting at the gate, not bowing to him. Suddenly he remembered how much he hated Mordecai and all the Jews. Make an angry face like Haman may have had. *(Do with children.)* He couldn't wait to get rid of them forever!

Flashcard 4-4
When Haman came home, he bragged to his wife and friends about how important he was and told them about his special day. *(Read Esther 5:12.)* His wife and friends were impressed. But then Haman frowned and said, "But all this means nothing as long as Mordecai the Jew is sitting at the king's gate!" His wife and friends had an evil solution to Haman's problem. "Prepare a place for Mordecai to be killed so everyone can see it. After you kill him, you can go happily to the banquet." Haman was pleased with this terrible plan! He hated Mordecai so much he just wanted him dead.

God says hating someone else is sin. Even though we are all born sinners, God made a way for you to be saved from your sinful ways. Jesus could have hated those who caused Him to suffer and die on the cross. But He is the perfect Son of God who willingly died on the cross and even forgave those who nailed Him there. He loves you so much, He was willing to take your punishment He didn't deserve so you could be saved from your sin. *(Read Ephesians 1:7.)* Jesus gave His blood, died on the cross, and rose again on the third day for you because He loves you so much, even though He knows you sometimes sin.

Haman's sin of hatred caused him to do a terrible thing. He hated Mordecai so much he planned to murder him! But God was still working. None of this was happening without His knowledge.

That night King Ahasuerus had trouble sleeping. He called a servant to bring the book with all the important events that had happened while he was king, probably hoping the reading would help him sleep. The servant brought the book and read aloud that Mordecai had saved the king's life by discovering a plot against him.

God guided the servant to read about this event, out of 12 years' worth of records! Let's see if we can make something like that happen. Here is the biggest book I could find at my house. *(Show book.)* I put one sticky note on one page in this book. Raise your hand if you think you can open the book to that note in just one try. *(Choose several volunteers to try.)* One of you might happen to open my book to the sticky note. But it's not very likely! There is no doubt that God put the thought in the king's mind to have the record book read. And God made sure the servant opened to the one page that mentioned Mordecai!

God knows everything that is going on and He is *sovereign*—in control of everything.

The king asked his servants, "What has been done to honor Mordecai?" "Nothing," they replied.

Flashcard 4-5

Just then Haman arrived. He had come to get permission to kill Mordecai. Before Haman could speak, King Ahasuerus asked him, "Haman, what do you think should be done for a man I wish to honor?" Haman thought, *Who else would the king want to honor but me?* Haman said, "Let one of the royal robes be brought to one of the king's noble princes and let him dress the man. Have him lead the man on the king's royal horse through the streets of the city and call out loudly, 'This is a man the king wants to honor!'"

The king liked Haman's plan. "Hurry," the king said, "take the robe and my horse and do all these things for Mordecai the Jew, who is at the king's gate!" Haman stood shocked and silent. *Mordecai?* Haman thought. *No! It can't be!* Haman planned to put Mordecai to death but now he had to proclaim him as a hero. He would be embarrassed before the whole city! God was allowing Mordecai to be honored and Haman to be humbled.

If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **God can give you grace to be humble.** Being proud comes easily to us because we are sinners. It is God's work in our hearts that helps us to be humble. Do you remember what it means to be humble? *(Allow response.)* Being humble is not thinking of yourself more highly than you should and thinking of others before you think of yourself. That is how Jesus lived. Jesus gives you and me the grace to live like that too! When you want to be first, **stop** and

think of Jesus and how He loved us and put us ahead of Himself. **Pray and ask Jesus to help you** be humble and not full of pride. **Then obey God**. God says to be humble and not proud. Are there ways you could be humble and not proud? Will you let other kids go ahead of you at school? Will you let others in your home choose the movie or activity? Maybe you need to ask God to help you show kindness and love instead of bossing others around in a mean way. God will help you be humble. *(Read James 4:6.)* God resists (goes against) the proud, but He gives His grace (power to live for Him) to those who are humble. He will work in your heart and life to help you be more like Jesus by being humble and loving to others.

WORD UP!, **"God gives grace!"** *(Say with children.)* Being proud comes easily, but God gives grace to be humble.

Haman was being humbled when Mordecai was honored.

Flashcard 4-6

Haman had to obey the king and honor Mordecai just as he had described. Everyone stand up and act like you are leading Mordecai's horse through the streets. Then shout with me, "This is a man the king wants to honor!" *(Do with children.)* Haman must have been furious—he hated Mordecai and believed the king should have honored him instead. When Haman got home, he told his family and friends what had happened to him that day. Instead of comforting him, they said, "If Mordecai is one of God's people, then you will have no power against him. When you face him, you will be defeated."

CLIMAX

Haman couldn't win against God's people. God protected and honored Mordecai.

CONCLUSION

As Haman and his wife were talking, there was a knock at the door. Let's knock too. *(Do with children.)* The king's servants had come to take Haman to the palace for Queen Esther's second banquet. Maybe Haman thought he was done with being humbled, but there was more to come. God was sovereignly watching over His people and working in their lives.

INVITATION

Jesus showed you what it is like to be humble and give yourself for others. That's what He did when He died on the cross for your sins. ***(Read John 3:16.)*** God loved you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take your punishment. If you believe—trust completely—in Jesus, you won't be separated from God forever. Your sins will be forgiven so you can have everlasting (forever) life with God. You will have a friendship with Him here on Earth and someday you will live with Him in Heaven. **Will you believe in Jesus today and have everlasting life?** Please **bow your head** and close your eyes. If you want to believe in Jesus or know more about having everlasting life, will you **show me** by looking up at me? *(Acknowledge responses.)* You may all open your eyes. If you looked up to show me you want to believe in Jesus, **meet me** *(designate time and location)* so we can look at God's Word together.

REVIEW GAME

Teacher Dress Up

Provide a box of clothing items such as shoes, socks, ties, necklaces, gloves, hats, scarves, shirts, suspenders, sunglasses, wigs, coats, etc. Each team will prepare someone to attend a royal banquet with Queen Esther. Divide the children into teams and let each team choose a teacher (or an older child) to dress up. Tell the children that one of the items is a mystery item and the teacher who is wearing it at the end of the game wins for their team. When a child answers a question correctly, he has 10 seconds to choose an item and hand it to his team's teacher, who puts it on. At the end of the game, reveal the mystery item. The teacher wearing that item wins for their team!

1. What did the king do to show Esther was welcome in his court? *(He held out the golden scepter.)*
2. What did Esther ask the king to do after he held out the scepter to her? *(Esther asked the king to come to a banquet with Haman.)*
3. Why was Haman so upset after he left the palace following the banquet? *(He was reminded of his hatred for Mordecai and the Jews.)*
4. How did Jesus show us how to be humble? *(Jesus obeyed God; He loved others; He did not put Himself first.)*
5. What did Haman boast to his family and friends about? *(Haman boasted about how important he was; how he was invited to the queen's banquet.)*
6. What are some ways we show we are proud? *(Answers will vary.)*
7. What did Haman want to have done to Mordecai? *(Haman wanted to kill him.)*
8. What does our memory verse promise to those who believe in Jesus that can help in times of trouble? *(God works everything for good.)*
9. What did the king find out when the records were read to him? *(Mordecai was never rewarded for saving the king's life.)*
10. What does it mean to be humble? *(Humble means to not think of myself more highly than I should; to think of others before I think of myself.)*
11. How did God humble Haman? *(Haman had to lead Mordecai through the streets on the king's horse.)*
12. Why couldn't Haman win against God's people? *(God was in control of everything that happened and He would take care of His people.)*

MISSIONARY STORY

Robert Foster

Week 5

Do you remember what Dr. Bob was missing to build a new hospital? *(Allow response.)* There was no cement in the whole country! But Bob knew God is all-powerful. He prayed for God to provide a way to build this hospital.

Then one day the governor came for a visit. "I understand you want to build a hospital. Why aren't you getting on with it?" he asked. Bob showed the governor where he planned to build and explained there was no cement. "I'll see that you get it," the governor answered. "We have plenty in storage."

What do you think Dr. Bob did when trucks brought ten tons of free cement to build the hospital? *(Allow response.)* He praised God. How excited he and all the nurses were on the day the beautiful,

new, clean hospital opened! More than a thousand guests, including African chiefs, came for the opening. Now that they had a hospital, patients would no longer have to lie on a mat laid on the dirty floor or be treated in a dark, tiny grass hut and bugs could no longer get in and drop on Dr. Bob and the patients.

At the end of the first week, the 60-bed hospital was already full. In just one year Dr. Bob did 200 operations and treated over 1,000 patients. God gave him strength and wisdom to do His will. Dr. Bob went on to build other hospitals in Africa and help missionaries go into new places to tell God's Word. He said many times, "Learn to trust God one day at a time. Be faithful with what God has given you and He will give you more."

One day, Dr. Bob was working in the mission station helping sick people. He had 100 patients waiting to see him. The first woman wasn't there long at all before she suddenly said, "I have to leave."

"But you just got here," said Dr. Bob kindly.

"Doesn't matter, I have to leave!" Dr. Bob was listening to her heart with a stethoscope. It was beating very fast. He wondered what could have caused her to leave so quickly. She jumped off the table and raced out the door. "No one go in there!" she shouted to the people who were waiting. "There's a big snake in there!"

A snake! Dr. Bob looked around the room but he didn't see anything. "Where is this snake?" he called to the woman.
"In the rafters," she cried. "A black mamba was hanging right above your head." The black mamba is the most dangerous snake in all of Africa, and extremely poisonous.

Dr. Bob looked up. There it was! A big, thick mamba—eight feet long! What could he do? No patients would come in with a dangerous snake in the room. And he didn't want to be there either. He had to kill the snake, but he couldn't do it by himself.

Dr. Bob quickly went outside and asked for help to kill the snake, but no one volunteered to help.

"Look," Bob said, "I can't treat anyone today if we don't get rid of that snake. Won't someone help me kill it?" At last someone volunteered. "I'll pray while you try to kill it," the man said. It was very wise to pray and ask God for help, wasn't it? But God often *uses people* to answer our prayers and help others. And the only person willing to do anything was Dr. Bob.

Do you think Dr. Bob will kill the snake? Come back next week to find out what happens next.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Color Sheet and Discussion

Have kids retell the story of Haman as they color their picture. Talk about how they can practice being humble in their own lives.

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 4 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids are working on being humble this week.

God Humbles Haman – Esther 5:1-6:14

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in you Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline

I. INTRODUCTION
Queen Esther took a deep breath. This was it! She was going before the king. She didn't know if she would live or die.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
After the Jews fasted for three days, Esther approached the king's throne and bowed. (Esther 5:1)

A. **Flashcard 4-1** (Esther 5:2-5)
1. The king held out his royal scepter toward Esther.
2. Esther invited the king and Haman to a banquet.

B. **Flashcard 4-2** (Esther 5:6-9a)
1. Esther invited the king and Haman to another banquet.
2. Haman was filled with joy.
3. Haman thought he was very important.

God can give you grace to be humble. [Philippians 2:3-4]

C. **Flashcard 4-3** (Esther 5:9b)
1. Mordecai didn't bow to Haman.
2. Haman was angry and could hardly wait until all the Jews would be destroyed.

D. **Flashcard 4-4** (Esther 5:10—6:6)
1. Haman bragged to his wife and friends but was still upset about Mordecai so they told him to prepare a place to kill Mordecai.

   Jesus died for you even though He knows you sometimes think or act in hateful ways. [Ephesians 1:7]
2. King Ahasuerus couldn't sleep and asked for the book of records.
3. A servant read the account of Mordecai saving the king's life and the king found out nothing had been done to honor Mordecai.
4. Just then Haman arrived and the king asked him what should be done.

E. **Flashcard 4-5** (Esther 6:7-10)
1. Haman described what should be done for the man the king wished to honor.
2. The king told Haman to honor Mordecai.

   Pray and ask Jesus to help you be humble like Him. [James 4:6]

F. **Flashcard 4-6** (Esther 6:11-14)
Haman honored Mordecai.

III. CLIMAX
Haman couldn't win against God's people. God protected and honored Mordecai.

IV. CONCLUSION
A. As Haman and his wife were talking, there was a knock at the door.
B. The king's servants came to take Haman to Esther's second banquet.

Will you ask God this week to make you humble like Jesus? [James 4:6]

When Jesus died on the cross for your sins, He showed you what it is like to be humble. Will you believe in Him today? [John 3:16]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text.
Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.

God Protects His People: The Life of Esther Coloring Sheet, Lesson 04