God Rescues His People!

Bible Lesson: God Rescues His People! Esther 7:1 - 9:5, 20-32

Main Teaching: You can praise God that He is always at work in your life.

Word Up: God is in Control!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Paper plate and markers or crayons for each child – 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" – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Two eggs and a pan or cookie sheet – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story "Esther" – Bible Lesson 5
- Two sets of table setting cut outs – Review Game (Resource Pack)
- Color sheet Week 5 – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Quiet Time Guide Week 5 – 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

The book of Esther has such a satisfying ending—God's people are saved and His enemies destroyed! Throughout the whole book, God's hand has been moving, working, and preparing for this glorious ending. And the result? Praise! The book of Esther is a reminder that God does work all things together for good. In our lives God may graciously give us glimpses of His purposes somewhere along the journey or we may not see this till the end. Regardless of whether we can see the ending or not, our command and our joy is to praise the sovereign God who guides our steps.

SMALL GROUP

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader.

Paper Plate Pictures

Provide each child with a paper plate and crayons or markers as they arrive. Encourage them to draw pictures of their favorite food, favorite dessert, and a food they don't like at all. Talk with the children as they draw their pictures to build relationships. After several minutes, have the children write their name on the back of the

plate and pass them to you. Mix the plates up and hold them up one at a time as you have the children guess whose plate it is and then allow the child to quickly share about his favorite/least favorite foods.

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

Go over the Up Rules – Look up, Listen up, Sit up, Hand up and Zip up.

WORD UP!

"God is in Control"

Are any of you looking forward to driving? Having your own place to live? Making your own decisions? *(Allow responses.)* Those things are good things to look forward to. Sometimes we look forward to making those decisions because it means we have more control or we think we do. But even adults need to recognize that they aren't always in control—God is! God, the powerful Creator of the whole universe, has control over His creation. **WORD UP!**, **"God is in control!"** *(Say with children.)*

OBJECT LESSON

Egg-cellent Power

Materials: 2 eggs, pan or cookie sheet

What to say:
When we look at life sometimes, it can seem hard. Sometimes people who we love get sick, and parents can sometimes fight, and our friends can move away. Those are all really hard things! This egg is kind of like life. It can seem super fragile, like something terrible could happen to it at any given moment and it would completely fall apart. I would like a volunteer to come drop this egg over my pan and see what happens. *(Have another leader in the room or a kid drop the egg over the pan.)* What happened? It broke! Sometimes in life, we can feel like this egg. We might feel like at any moment, something bad or sad could happen that would leave us feeling broken inside. But in our memory verse last week, we learned that God is the one in control, and He works all things together for good! You see, when you understand that God is in control, it's almost like you can feel His arms wrapping you up in a big hug. *(Grab the second egg and wrap your fist completely around the egg.)* You no longer have to be afraid of the bad things that are happening all around you, because you can know that God has complete control. And when the pressures of life come and things get really hard *(squeeze the egg as hard as you can in your fist.)* we will not be broken. God is still in control even when things in the world seem so out of control, and He has a plan!

BIBLE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

I have some pictures that will help us remember what has happened so far in the story of Esther from God's true Word, the Bible. *(Flip through previous flashcards and review the Esther story.)* What was Queen Esther's request at the end of her banquet for the king and Haman? *(Allow response.)* Esther invited them to come back the next day for a second banquet.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Flashcard 5-1

The king, Queen Esther, and Haman were having their second banquet. As was the custom in Persia, they were stretched out on couches, leaning on soft pillows as they ate and drank. King Ahasuerus watched the queen. He knew there was something important she wanted to ask him. When the meal was over, he asked, "What is it you want? I will give you whatever you desire!"

The queen had been waiting for this moment and was prepared with her answer. "If it please the king," she said, "let my life and the lives of my people be saved, for we have been sold to be destroyed and killed completely."

Esther's people, the Jews, had been condemned to death by a law that could not be changed. They were helpless to save themselves. They probably wondered why God would let something like this happen or if He was really sovereign—in control of everything.

Maybe you've wondered at times if God is really in control of your life or if He can make terrible circumstances turn out right. Sometimes we look at things happening in our world, like shootings and sickness, and feel as if God is not in control. Perhaps things have happened to you or your family that seemed out of control—maybe a family member was a victim of a crime or is very sick. Maybe your best friend moved away or you have seen bad things happening on TV. But even when you can't understand how God is at work, you can trust that He *is* working. He is sovereign. Do you remember what sovereign means? *(Allow response.)* It means God is in control.

WORD UP!, **"God is in control!"** *(Say with children.)* If you have believed on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, **you can praise God that He is always at work in your life.** You praise God when you declare His greatness. *(Read Psalm 9:2.)* You can be glad because of who God is and what He is doing in your life. Though you may not understand the reason something happens, **you can praise God that He is always at work in your life.** You should praise God even in hard times when you may wonder if God is really in control.

The Jews might have wondered if God was in control. Queen Esther asked the king for the lives of her people. What do you think happened then? *(Allow response.)*

Flashcard 5-2

The king was horrified to realize his queen and her people would have to die! "Who would dare to do such a thing?" the king demanded to know. Esther turned and looked at Haman. Esther said, *(read Esther 7:6).* King Ahasuerus was furious when he found out it was Haman! He quickly got up from the couch and stormed out of the room into the palace garden. Haman's mind was racing, trying to think of a way to escape the terrible situation he was in. He knew there was no point in trying to reason with the furious king.

Flashcard 5-3

He got up from his couch and rushed over to Esther. In a desperate attempt, he fell down at Esther's feet on her couch and begged her to save his life. At that moment King Ahasuerus came back into the banquet room. His face blazed with anger as he saw wicked Haman fall across the queen's couch. It looked like Haman was trying to harm Esther. "Will you also attack the queen?" Ahasuerus shouted. At the king's command, his servants approached Haman and put a covering over his head—a sign that he was sentenced to death.

Just then, one of the king's trusted servants came in and said, "Haman has built a place to kill Mordecai, the man who saved the king's life." Looking at Haman with disgust, the king said, "Kill Haman there instead!" After Haman was killed, King Ahasuerus gave all of Haman's property to Queen Esther. Then the queen told the king that Mordecai was her cousin, who had raised her.

Flashcard 5-4

Once again, the king honored Mordecai. He had him brought into the palace and dressed in royal robes with a crown on his head. The king made Mordecai his second in command—the same job that was once Haman's. He also gave Mordecai his signet ring of authority, and Esther put Mordecai in charge of Haman's property.

Queen Esther must have been happy Mordecai was with her. But she was still very troubled about her people. The law that said they must die on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month could not be changed. Let's say, "Oh no, what will they do?" *(Say with children.)*

Flashcard 5-5

Even though she knew she would be risking her life again, Esther went boldly, for the second time, before the king without being invited. She fell at his feet and wept for her people. King Ahasuerus held the golden scepter out to his sad queen, granting her permission to speak.

Esther stood and made another request. "Please let another law be written to stop the law of wicked Haman. How can I stand to see my people destroyed?"

God, who is sovereign, was using Esther to work out His plan to save the Jews.

Do you see God working in your life? If you have believed on Jesus, God is working out His good plan for you. You might wonder why you are going through a difficult time. But God wants you to remember that He is sovereign—He is in control of everything. It can be hard to see God's sovereignty, especially if a family member was a victim of a crime or is very sick or if your best friend moves away. Maybe you worry about the bad things you hear about on TV. But God wants you to remember He is at work at all times. Since God is greater than any problem you face, you can know He is taking care of you. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, **you can praise God that He is always at work in your life.**

WORD UP!, **"God is in control!"** *(Say with children.)* Sometimes it's easy to see how God is taking care of you and controlling the circumstances in your life by the good things He does for you. But at other times, this is harder to see. Remember, God is always working toward what's best for you even if you don't see how He is working. Do you remember our memory verse? *(Quote Romans 8:28 with children.)* You can think of ways God has already shown His care for you and praise Him for them. One way God works is through people. Just like He used Esther to talk to the king, He sometimes uses other people to help. If you are going through a hard time, you should talk to an adult you trust about it. God sometimes works in big ways, but He also works in small ways. Each day look for ways God is at work in your life. Praise Him daily for His care. He is in control and has a plan for your life, even in difficult times.

God had a plan to save the Jews, and He was using Esther to work out that plan as she made her request to the king.

King Ahasuerus told Esther, “You and Mordecai may write whatever law you want for the Jews and seal it with my ring so it can never be changed.”

Esther and Mordecai were filled with joy! The king had given his permission for them to help their people! Mordecai gathered the king’s scribes and told them exactly what to write. Let’s pretend to write down the message. *(Do with children.)*

Flashcard 5-6

The new law gave the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies when the day of their destruction came. God, through Mordecai and Esther, had made a way for His people to be saved from death.

God has made a way for you to be saved from death too. *(Read Romans 6:23a.)* Your sin, the things you think, see, say or do that are against God, separates you from God now and forever—this is spiritual death. When you are selfish, look at things you shouldn’t on the internet, or do things to your body that are harmful, you sin. You are born separated from God because of your sin. That’s why you need Jesus! *(Read Romans 6:23b.)* Because of God’s great love for you, He offers you the gift of eternal life. Eternal life is new life with God that last forever. Jesus, God’s perfect Son, died on the cross and came alive on the third day so you do not have to pay the wages of your sin but can have eternal life instead. Jesus paid for your sin! *(Read Romans 5:8.)* Because of His great love, Jesus died for you even though you are a sinner. Because of what Jesus did, the gift of life with God can be yours. When you believe Jesus died and came alive for you, you will have eternal life with God that starts now and lasts forever. What a wonderful gift from God, to be saved from spiritual death!

God made a way for His people to be saved from death with the new law that Mordecai wrote. The law was copied into various languages and sealed by the king’s ring. Swift messengers again carried the message into every province in the kingdom. Stand up and pretend to ride on a horse to the far places in the kingdom. Keep riding. Everyone needs to hear the new law! *(Do with children.)* As word of the new law spread through the city of Shushan, the people rejoiced. Mordecai must have celebrated with his people throughout the city. The Jews in Shushan may have had trouble seeing God’s care during their difficult time, but He was at work.

CLIMAX

When the day finally came, the Jews were able to defend themselves and they were victorious against their enemies. The Bible says, “God gave them rest from their enemies.”

CONCLUSION

Esther and Mordecai made a law stating that the Jews should remember this event each year with a time of feasting, giving gifts, sharing with the poor, and celebrating. They called this special event the Feast of Purim *(POOR-im).* The word Purim comes from the word pur, which means “lot.” It was a reminder of how Haman had his advisors cast lots to determine the date of the battle. Even then, God was in control. The Jews would always remember how God took care of them. To this day, many Jewish people celebrate the Feast of Purim to remember and praise God for His care.

INVITATION

God's special care is promised to those who belong to Him. You can belong to God today by believing on His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as your Savior. The **Bible says**, *(read John 3:36a).* To believe on the Lord Jesus means to trust completely in Him as the only one who can save you from sin because He died on the cross and came alive again for you. **When you believe**, you will have everlasting life—new life that lets you know God now and someday live with Him in Heaven. Your sins will be forgiven, and you will be changed on the inside so you can live to please God. **Will you believe** on the Lord Jesus as your Savior? **Bow your head and close your eyes**. If you are ready to believe on Jesus as your Savior today, will you **show me** by standing right where you are? *(Acknowledge responses.)* You may all open your eyes. If you are standing, **meet me** *(designate time and location)* so we can talk more from God's Word about believing on Jesus.

REVIEW GAME

Set the Queen's Table

Prepare a set of dishes and silverware for each team (or use pictures of forks, spoons, plates, bowls, cups, and napkins). Put these things (or the pictures of them) on the floor or, if possible, a table at the front of the room. Use a string to divide the table in half and place a complete set of all items on each team's side. Tell the children that each item has a secret point value and some of the items will actually take points away from their team. When a child correctly answers a question, he may either take an object from the other team's side and put it on his team's side in an attempt to get points or move an object from his team's side to the other team's side in an attempt to get rid of negative points. After all questions have been asked, reveal the secret point values of each item and see who has the most positive points to win!

Suggested Points:

- Napkins= +5
- Plates= +3
- Cups= +2
- Forks= -3
- Spoons= -2
- Butter knives= -1

1. What did Queen Esther ask the king for at the second banquet? *(To save her people.)*
2. What does our memory verse promise to those who love God? *(That all things will work out for good.)*
3. Why was King Ahasuerus angry with Haman? *(He found out Haman wanted to hurt the queen's people; he thought Haman tried to harm the queen.)*
4. What happened to Haman? *(He was killed.)*
5. How long will God's love for you last? *(Forever!)*
6. What did the king do for Mordecai? *(He gave him Haman's job.)*
7. What does it mean to praise God? *(Praising God is telling Him how much you appreciate something about who He is or what He has done.)*
8. What did Esther want the king to do after Haman had died? *(Make a new law that would save her people.)*
9. What was God's plan to save you from your sin? *(He sent Jesus to die and rise again.)*
10. What right did the new law give to the Jews? *(They were able to defend themselves.)*
11. How did the Jews remember God's work to save them? *(They had a celebration; they set up a new holiday.)*
12. What does it mean to believe on the Lord Jesus? *(To trust Jesus is the only one who can save you.)*

MISSIONARY STORY

We have been learning about Dr. Robert Foster and his family were willing to go to Africa as missionaries. His parents were missionaries too, and his son Dr. Stephen Foster. God used them to help many people in Africa and the Good News of Jesus they shared changed lives.

There are people all over the world who need to hear about Jesus. And God uses people like you and me to tell them.

God needed someone to go to **Russia**, and because a missionary went, a little girl named Tatyana heard about Jesus at a Christian camp and received Him as her Savior. A young man gladly went to the **Middle East** to serve God as a missionary. He trained 200 adults to have a vacation Bible school in one of those countries. Almost 1,000 children came to the VBS. Eighty children believed in Jesus as their Savior and 55 boys and girls said they were willing to be missionaries someday.

God needed a missionary to go to **Japan** and a young man said, "Yes, I will go." In just one meeting he taught 35 children and 10 adults. Twenty of them believed in Jesus that day. In another meeting over 100 people came to hear the missionary teach about God. Forty of those people believed in Jesus!

These missionaries and many others not only prayed for God to send missionaries, they were also willing to go where God led them.

How about you? If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, will you pray for God to send missionaries? Will you be willing to go if God leads you? Will you tell other people about Jesus now, where you live? God can give you the courage to share the Good News of Jesus with people around you and He will help you go wherever He leads you if He calls you to be a missionary someday.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Color Sheet and Discussion

Review the Esther story as kids color the Esther picture. Talk about how Esther was brave and trusted God in a scary situation, and how God worked everything out for good for the Jewish people.

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 5 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 bringing glory to God this week.

God Rescues His People - Esther

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

Lesson Outline

I. INTRODUCTION
I brought some things today that will help us remember what has happened so far in the story of Esther from God's true Word, the Bible.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. **Flashcard 5-1** (Esther 7:1-4)
1. The king, Esther, and Haman were enjoying a second banquet.
2. Esther asked the king to save her life and the lives of her people.

You can praise God that He is always at work in your life. [Psalm 9:2]

B. **Flashcard 5-2** (Esther 7:5-7)
1. The king was horrified and asked who was doing this.
2. When Esther told the king that Haman was the one, the king was furious and stormed out.

C. **Flashcard 5-3** (Esther 7:8—8:1)
1. Haman fell down at Esther's feet on her couch and begged her to save his life.
2. The king came in, saw Haman, thought he was attacking Esther, and ordered him to be killed in the place Haman had prepared to kill Mordecai.
3. The king gave all of Haman's property to Queen Esther.

D. **Flashcard 5-4** (Esther 8:2)
1. The king honored Mordecai again.
2. Esther was still worried about her people because the law couldn't be changed.

E. **Flashcard 5-5** (Esther 8:3-10a)
1. Esther went to the king again and asked him to write another law to defeat the law of Haman.

You can praise God that He is always at work in your life. [Romans 8:28]

2. The king told Esther that she and Mordecai could write a new law.
3. Mordecai wrote a new law that would save his people from death.

F. **Flashcard 5-6** (Esther 8:10b-17)
1. The new law gave the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies.

God had made a way to save His people. He has made a way to save you too. [Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8]

2. The message was carried into every province in the kingdom and the people rejoiced.

III. CLIMAX (Esther 9:1)
When the day came, the Jews were victorious against their enemies.

IV. CONCLUSION
The Feast of Purim was established so the Jews would remember how God had taken care of them.

Each day will you look for ways God is at work and praise Him? [Romans 8:28]

You can belong to God today by believing on His Son as your Savior. [John 3:36a]

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 05