



## Story of Esther – God Rescues

Esther

### God Statement: God is With Us

**KEY VERSE:** "You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you. You will pass through the rivers. But their waters will not sweep over you. You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned. The flames will not harm you."

(Isaiah 43:2, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### DISCUSS: God rescues!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God rescues!

**SAY:** Have you ever had a big problem before? What was it? **Let kids respond.** Have you ever been in an emergency or needed someone to "rescue" you? **Let a few kids respond.** What does it mean to "rescue"? **Let a few kids respond.**

Rescue means to save or redeem. Do you know who rescued us? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** That's right! What did God rescue us from? **Let kids respond** Our sins! That's

right! God sent His son Jesus to rescue us from our sins. Did you know that God rescued people in the Bible too? Today we get to learn about how God rescued His people through a person named Esther! Before we learn more, let's do a craft!

### **MAKE: Esther Spinning Wheel**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

**Supplies:** 1 paper spinning wheel per child, markers/crayons

**Directions:** Pass out one spinning wheel per child. Have them color their pages and look at the different pictures. Discuss what they think the pictures might mean.

**SAY:** I wonder what we are learning about today! We get to learn about someone named Esther! Have you heard about her before? We get to make a special spinning wheel to prepare us for the story. As we color, let's talk about what we see in the pictures. What do you think this story is about?



# LARGE GROUP

**(25 minutes)**

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

## WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

### *Worship Leader & Host*

### WORSHIP

*While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!*

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

#### TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- God is With Me
- Rescuer

### LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

*\*\*\* After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. \*\*\**

### MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

#### *Host*

#### MAIL TIME!

*Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.*

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

*\*\*\*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.\*\*\**

***“You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you. You will pass through the rivers. But their waters will not sweep over you. You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned. The flames will not harm you.”  
(Isaiah 43:2, NIRV)***

## **WARDROBE OF WONDER**

*The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.*

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

### **What’s It: Castle**

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. Retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

**SAY:** What do you guys see? It’s a castle! Has anyone here ever seen a castle before? Do you guys know who usually lives in a castle? **Let kids respond.** That’s right! Usually a king or a queen, or a prince or princess. People of royalty usually live in a castle. Today we are going to learn about someone who became the queen and her name was Esther. Esther was used by God to rescue people. But how and why was she used? I know where we can figure that out...through God’s word. So, let’s dive into His word today to discover how Esther was used as a part of God’s plan.

**\*\*\* After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\***

## **BIBLE STORY**

### **Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

### **THIS WEEK’S LESSON: *Story of Esther – God Rescues***

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

**\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\***

**WORSHIP RESPONSE****Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

**DO:** chalkboard/whiteboard expression, God Rescues Card

**Supplies:** chalk, dry erase markers, God Rescues card

**SAY:** Did you know that God wants you to be a part of His story? He has a plan for each of you, just like He did for Esther. In our story today we saw how God had a plan to rescue His people.

Esther was a very unlikely person to become queen, but God was working every step of the way. Through Esther we see God working quietly and using ordinary people to fulfill His plan to rescue His people.

God made Esther queen so that she could change the king's mind and save all the Israelites. Remember that there are times when God might want you to do something. Try to think about what God wants you to do and when He gives you an opportunity to serve Him, do it!

**Pass out the God Rescues cards to each child.**

**SAY:** Today we are going to think about how God used Esther to save His people, the Israelites. Think about something that God may want you to do to serve Him.

**DIRECTIONS:** Think about the card in your hand and how Esther was part of God's plan. Go to the chalkboard or whiteboard to draw or write about a way God can use you as part of His plan. What can you do to serve God?

**SAY:** Esther was a brave woman. She stepped out in faith to serve God so that God's people could be saved. God was with Esther just like He is with you.

Let's take a moment and thank God for making Esther the queen to save the Israelites.

**Close time in prayer.**

**\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.\*\*\***

**OFFERING****Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.***

***\*\*\*After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\****

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Feeding Families****Host**

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

**SAY:** Can anyone tell me what our current mission focus is? ***Let the kids respond.***  
Feeding Families. That’s right! What is Feeding Families? ***Let the kids respond.***

**SAY:** Did you know that we are always collecting donations for Feeding Families? ***Pause.*** Sometimes when someone does something a lot or becomes too familiar with something they may not always bring the same amount of excellence to it or bring the same energy and effort as they did the first time. Sometimes they may forget about it all together. That’s what sometimes happens with Feeding Families. Because we are always collecting donations and we often have so many other things going on, we forget that Feeding Families is just as important...*Is it just me?*

That’s why we decided to have a Feeding Families Competition to see if we as a Kids Ministry can bring in a total of 4,000 lbs of food in support of Feeding Families’ mission to help individuals who may not have the food they need.

So far, we have collected \_\_\_\_\_lbs towards our campus goal of \_\_\_\_\_ lbs for Feeding Families. I wonder what animal weighs this much?!? Any idea? ***Let the kids respond.*** Each week, as we collect food items, we will add a different animal to our scale to represent the number of lbs we have collected. This week we will be adding a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Choose someone to add the animal to the scale and to pray that we will not only meet but exceed our goal for feeding families.**

***Have a child come up and pray for Feeding Families.***

***\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\****

## BLESSING

### *Host*

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

**SAY:** *May you know what opportunities God is giving you. May you know that God is with you always and has a plan for you.*

## SMALL GROUP

*Classroom Teachers*

**(10inutes)**

### **Younger Kids 4-K:**

*The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper. If children need a quick break before doing questions, have them do some jumping jacks or exercises before doing small group questions to help them refocus.*

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God Rescues.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Esther 4:12-16**
  - **What was the name of Esther's cousin who was taking care of her?** (Mordecai.)
  - **What did Mordecai want Esther to do?** (To help save the Jewish people.)
  - **Who was trying to harm the Jewish people?** (Haman.)
3. **Esther was someone unexpected that God used in His plan to help rescue His people. How do you see God using you in your life? How is God at work? Has God used someone in your life?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group. Be vulnerable with your students and share how God is at work in your life.

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*



## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(10 minutes)**

### **DISCUSS:**

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

### **PLAY: Follow the Leader (Crown)**

**Supplies:** Crown

**Directions:** Have children play follow the leader. Pick one child to be “it” and allow them to do a few different motions for the rest of the class to follow as they wear the crown. Then have another child be the leader.

**SAY:** Today we got to learn about Esther and how God was with Esther and the Jews. Esther followed God and trusted Him. He made her into a queen and she was able to help her people by being brave and trusting God! Let’s play a special follow the leader game to help us remember our lesson.

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*