

FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

Nov 23

Bedrock: Building Confidence in God Block By Block

Today's Bible Story: Esther • *Esther 1-10*

Conversation Starter: When has someone stood up for you?

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you stand up for others.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIRV)

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Opening Activity

What You Need:

Floor tape

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Before you begin:
 - Create a large circle or square with floor tape.
- Divide the kids into two teams (or more, depending on your group's size).
- Explain: "Each team will choose a kid whom they'll protect. That kid's identity must stay a secret!"
- Direct the teams to secretly choose a kid to protect, and then stand on opposite sides of the tape zone you created.
- On your "go!" the teams will walk (no running!) toward the zone, trying to get as many teammates—including the selected kid—inside as possible.
- In the zone, the teams must try to protect their selected kid from being tagged by the other team.
- Each opposing team can try to gently tag three people from the other team.
- If they tag a regular player, that player steps out for one round. If they tag the real VIP, the round is over!

- Play several rounds, switching selected kids each time.

What You Say:

"That was so fun! How did it feel to be protected by your team? (*Invite responses.*)"

"Standing up for others can feel hard and complex. Sometimes we don't know who needs us to stand up for them, or what will happen if we do."

"Today, in our true story from the Bible, we'll discover a woman named Esther who stood up for others even though it was risky for her. Let's go hear more and discover how God can help us stand up for others too!"

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY:

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- ☐ Floor tape

What You Do:

- Mark a start line in your group area.
- Invite the kids to stand behind it.
- Stand a few feet away.
- Explain that you will read scenarios one at a time.
 - Everyone who thinks they could do that challenge for someone with God's help will take a step forward.
- The kids will continue to take steps forward after you read each scenario.
- Frequently ask kids to share why they would or wouldn't do it, and how God could help.

Challenge Scenarios:

- Invite a new kid to sit with you at lunch.
- Stand up and say something when someone is being teased.
- Share something important about your faith with someone.
- Say "I'm sorry" first, even when it's hard.
- Include someone who is often left out.
- Pray for a friend, out loud.
- Start a lemonade stand to raise money for a good cause.

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- Help a kid on your basketball team who is having trouble with their free throws.
- Join someone who is eating lunch alone in the cafeteria.
- Pause your game to go check on a classmate who is upset at recess.

Talk Together

- How does it make you feel when someone stands up for you?
- Explain that we aren't meant to do life alone, which means we are to help each other when we need help. God wants to help us live confidently in Him so we can stand up for others—so that more people will come to know Him!
- Explain that we don't have to stand up for people alone. When we choose to follow Jesus, God's very Spirit moves inside of us. Throughout the day, He will say to our heart, "Hey, do you see that lonely kid over there? Let's go sit with him." God will show us what to do and help us do it!

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- "Block Sort" Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Instruct each team to sit together in a circle.
- Give each group a set of cards from the "Block Sort" Activity Page.
- Say, "You'll work as a team to sort these cards! Think about which words describe someone who is putting their confidence in God, like Esther from our Bible Story. As your team chooses a word, use it as a 'block' to help build a castle or tower in the middle of your team!"
- Remind the kids that some words describe someone whose confidence is in God, and some don't.
- As they finish, review the chosen words and discuss why each one fits (or doesn't).
- Discuss why the other words do not fit.

- ***[Make It Personal]*** (Share about a time you stood up for someone, or for a group of people who needed help, even when it felt tough. Explain how God helped you do it!)

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed

What You Do:

- When has someone stood up for you?
- Why do you think it's important to stand up for others, even if it's risky or uncomfortable?
 - What might happen if no one stands up for someone who needs help?
- Just like Esther, God has placed you to live exactly where you are at this exact time—in your family, in your class, on your team, in your church. Since He has placed you exactly where you are to help, who do you think He wants you to help? What do you think He wants you to do?
- What do you think it sounds like or feels like when God is guiding you to help or stand up for someone?

4. Pray With Your Group