

NOV 23

Bedrock: Building Confidence in God Block By Block

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

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:

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Markers

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask the kids about their week to build connection!
- Lay the butcher paper out and gather the group around it.
- Set out the markers.
- Ask: "If you were the king or queen of your own kingdom, what would you name it?"
- Give the kids a few minutes to come up with a kingdom name.
- Write the name of the kingdoms in large block letters in the center of the butcher paper.
- Around the name they chose for their kingdom, encourage the kids to draw what would be in their kingdom: castles, ice cream shops, pet parks, unicorns—anything goes!
- Gather the kids to discuss.
- **What You Say:**

"In today's true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a real Persian king named Xerxes—and one brave queen named Esther. She didn't become queen just to live in a palace; God had a bigger plan. God knew what was coming, and He chose Esther to help! Let's head to Large Group and find out what happened!"

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Build It Story Review

What You Need:

- ☐ Prepared cardstock squares and triangles – * (please re-bag and pass to next service)
- ☐ "Story Image Cards" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Give each pair 15 cardstock pieces.
- Say, "Today we're going to build parts of the Bible Story using these shapes! Make your shapes into pictures as you hear each part of the story. I will show you a picture of what to make!"
- Read each Story Prompt slowly and clearly (they're listed below), while displaying the card from the "Story Image Cards" Activity Page that matches.
- Give the kids time to arrange their shapes after each Story Prompt.

* (please re-bag and pass to next service)

Story Prompts

- "King Xerxes was a powerful king. When his queen didn't listen, he decided to find a new one!" (*Hold up the Story Image of the crown. Invite kids to build a crown.*)
- "A girl named Esther lived with her cousin Mordecai. She was kind and beautiful—and the king chose her to be queen!" (*Hold up the Story Image of the house. Invite kids to build a house.*)
- "Haman was an evil man who worked for the king. He got really mad at Mordecai for not bowing to him and made a plan to get rid of all the Jewish people." (*Hold up the Story Image of the letter "H." Invite kids to build an "H."*)
- "Mordecai asked Esther for help. She was scared but brave! She said yes, and planned a way to help her people." (*Hold up the Story Image of a checkmark. Invite kids to build a checkmark.*)
- "Esther had two feasts with the king and Haman, and at the second one, she told them everything. She asked the king, 'Please save my people!' (*Hold up the Story Image of the banquet table. Invite kids to build a table.*)

K-ONE CURRICULUM

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- “The king made a new law that the Jewish people could stay safe! Haman was punished, and Esther saved her people!” (*Hold up the Story Image of the trumpet. Invite kids to build a trumpet.*)

What You Say:

“Amazing job building, friends! God made Esther queen, and He made her queen at the exact right time. Her people needed help! So Queen Esther trusted that God had a plan and stood up for her people!

“You know what? God has put you in the exact time and place to help people too! You’re in your class for that reason. You’re on your team for a reason. You’re in your family for a reason. You’re in your church for a reason! There are people you will see in your life who need you to stick up for them.

“You probably won’t have to go before a powerful king ... but there are going to be times when God wants you to help, to stand up for others. When it feels scary, ask God to help you. He loves to! **God can help you stand up for others!**”

2. Isaiah 40:31 Crowns*

What You Need:

- Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31
- “Isaiah 40:31 Paper Crowns” Activity Page -precut
- Clear tape
- Jewel stickers
- Markers

What You Do:

- Open the Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31.
- Read the verse aloud to the group.
- Demonstrate the following motions to the kids and repeat the verse together several times.
- These are the motions for the NIV:
 - *Those who hope (Hold palms open and up to the sky.)*
 - *in the LORD (Point both hands up toward heaven.)*
 - *will renew their strength. (Show your muscles—flex both arms with a strong face.)*

- *They will soar on wings like eagles; (Flap your arms slowly and gracefully like wings.)*
- *they will run (Run in place.)*
- *and not grow weary, (Cross your arms in front of you in an “X.”)*
- *they will walk (Take slow, steady walking steps in place.)*
- *and not be faint. (Cross your arms again in an “X.”)*
- *Isaiah 40:31 (Open palms together like a Bible.)*

Create Together:

- Give every kid an “Isaiah 40:31 Paper Crown” Activity Page.
- Set out the markers and jewel stickers for the group to share.
- Point out the words from the verse printed on the crown.
- Direct them to:
 - Use coloring supplies and jewel stickers to decorate it.
 - Tape the pieces together so the crowns fit.
- Help the kids write their name on their crown.

What You Say:

“Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that everything we need comes from God. When we trust in God, He gives us strength just like Isaiah 40:31 says. He helps us keep going, even when it’s hard.

“Esther wore a real crown because she was queen, but you’re like a royal too because God has appointed you to live in this exact time and in this exact place just like her!

“Just like Esther was chosen to be queen, God calls YOU chosen too! He made you on purpose for a purpose. God will give you the strength you need to stand up for the people in your life! So remember: **God can help you stand up for others.**”

3. Pray With Your Group