

Today's Suggested Schedule— October 2025, Week 1

Today's Bible Story: Esther • *Esther 2:2-8:17*

I can pray and be brave.

Key Question: Who can help you be brave?

Bottom Line: God can help me be brave.

Memory Verse: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid ... for the LORD your God goes with you" (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV).*

Supplies NOT included in the Activity Bags:

Table Time/Before Large Group

Esther Sensory Bin

- Purple shredded paper

Esther Play Doh Mat (**NOT AT WALKERTOWN due to allergies**)

- playdoh

Super Kids to the Rescue

- Little People Figurines
- floor/wall tape

After Large Group

Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Story Review- Story Crown

- Stapler
- Permanent marker
- Dot markers
- gluesticks

Application Activity-King May I

Craft- Bravery Badge

- crayons

Journal and Prayer

Table Activities before Large Group

1. Esther Sensory Bin

What You Need:

- Purple shredded paper

What You Do:

Combine the shredded paper and the Esther Sensory Box together in the big sensory bin.

What You Say:

- Talk about the pictures using the story sequence above.
- Mordecai was Esther's cousin. Would you take care of your cousin?
- Why was Haman angry?
- What did Haman convince the king to do?
- How do you think Esther felt when she went to the king?
- What happened to Esther's people?
- Talk about a time when you were brave and God helped you.

2. Esther Play Doh Mat (NOT AT WALKERTOWN due to allergies)

What You Need:

- Playdoh
- Esther Play Doh Mat

What You Do:

Use the playdoh mat as a talking point to talk about the story of Esther. Use the questions listed on the top of the bin.

3. Super Kids to the Rescue



What You Need:

- Little People®
- Painter's tape
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What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the Little People around on the table and place a strip or two of tape over each one.

During the Activity: Encourage children to be super kids and rescue the people by carefully removing the tape. Tell children to be brave and work together as they free all the people.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come to the table, Super Friends!"

During the Activity: "Look at all these people stuck on the table. Let's be Super Kids and rescue them! You'll need to be brave and carefully remove the tape to set them free! Are you ready? Let's go Super Kids! (Pause.) Wow! You're working really hard to rescue the people! Hooray! [Child's name], you freed a person! Way to go! Let's keep working until all the people are rescued! (Continue encouraging all kids until all the Little People are rescued.) What amazing Super Kids you are!"

After the Activity: "You were so brave to rescue all these people! Today, we are going to hear a true story from the Bible about a brave Queen named Esther and how she was brave and helped keep God's people safe!"

After Large Group

1. Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this. ‘Be strong and courageous. *(Muscle arms)* Do not be afraid . . . *(cross and uncross hands)* for the Lord your God *(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)* goes with you,’ *(march in place)* Deuteronomy 31:6.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

During the Activity: “Now, let’s learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: ‘Be strong and courageous.’ *(Muscle arms.)* Put both arms up and show me your muscles like this *(both arms out to the side, bent at the elbow and flex)* and say, ‘Be strong and courageous.’ *(Repeat with children.)* Great job!

“The next part of our verse says: ‘Do not be afraid . . .’ *(Cross and uncross hands.)* Put your arms out in front of you, elbows bent, and one arm over the other. *(Pause.)* Now move your arms out to the side like this *(arms in front of you, stacked one over the other then swiftly move them out to your side)* and say, ‘Do not be afraid . . .’ *(Repeat with children.)* Wonderful! Now let’s put that together. ‘Be strong and courageous. *(Muscle arms)* Do not be afraid . . . *(cross and uncross hands)* Great job!

“The next part of our verse says: ‘for the Lord your God.’ *(Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.)* Put one hand up straight in front of you with your thumb almost touching your forehead like this. *(Straight, flat hand with thumb at your forehead.)* Then you move your hand straight down in front of you like this, *(pull down)* and say, ‘for the Lord your God.’ *(Repeat with children.)* Nice job! Now let’s put that together. ‘Be strong and courageous. *(Muscle arms)* Do not be afraid ... *(cross and uncross hands)* for the Lord your God.’ *(Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.)*

“The next part of our verse says: ‘goes with you.’ *(March in place.)* March in place like this, *(stand in one spot and alternate lifting one knee up at a time)* and say, ‘goes with you.’ *(Repeat with children.)* Nice job! Now let’s put that together. ‘Be strong and courageous. *(Muscle arms)* Do not be afraid . . . *(cross and uncross hands)* for the Lord your God *(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)* goes with you,” *(march in place)*

“Now the last part is: Deuteronomy 31:6. *(Open hands like a book.)* Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book *(open hands like a book)* and say: Deuteronomy 31:6. *(Repeat with children.)* Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? ‘Be strong and courageous. *(Muscle arms)* Do not be afraid . . . *(cross and uncross hands)* for the Lord your God *(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)* goes with you,” *(march in place)* Deuteronomy 31:6. *(Open hands like a book.)* Nice job. Let’s do it again!” *(Repeat several times.)*

After the Activity: “The Bible teaches us that we don’t need to be afraid, that we can be strong and courageous because God is with us! **[Bottom Line] God can help me be brave. Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave.**”



**"Be strong and
courageous.**



Do not be afraid . . .



for the Lord your God



goes with you."



Deuteronomy 31:6

2. Bible Story Review- Story Crown



What You Need:

- “Story Crown” Activity Page
- “Story Crown Stickers” Activity Page
- Dot markers
- Sentence strips
- Stapler
- Heart stickers
- Permanent marker
- gluesticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write each child’s name on their crown.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate their crown with dot markers. As you review the Bible Story, glue the circles in the order that goes along with that part of the story. Ask children to glue their crown to the middle of their sentence strip. Measure each child’s sentence strip around their head and staple the ends together with the staple closures facing outward. Ask children to add a heart sticker over each of the staples. Encourage children to wear their crowns home.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Super friends! Come join me at the table, I have a super creative way for us to review today’s Bible Story about Queen Esther!”

During the Activity: “I have this crown cutout for you to decorate with dot markers, then we’ll add story stickers to each one of these circles for the jewels in our crown. (*Point.*) Let’s get started. Our true story from the Bible begins with a beautiful queen named Esther, who was a part of God’s people. That’s our very first story sticker, and our first jewel to add to the crown. (*Hand each child an Esther sticker and point to the first circle.*)

“Esther was married to a very powerful king. He was tricked and made a decision that would hurt God’s people. But he didn’t know that Esther was a part of God’s people, oh no! Esther knew she needed to talk to the king, but the king had a rule that you couldn’t talk to him unless you were invited. Esther asked God’s people to pray and talk to God with her. That’s our next story sticker and our second jewel to add to the crown. (*Hand each child a praying sticker and point to the middle circle.*) They prayed together for three days. Esther trusted that God could help her be brave, so she asked the king to keep God’s people safe. The king said yes, and everyone celebrated! That’s our very last story sticker, and

our last jewel to add to the crown. *(Hand each child a Queen and King celebrating sticker and point to the last circle.)*

“Let’s make this crown cutout into a crown for you to wear. Rub some glue on the back of your cutout and add it to your sentence strip. *(Pause.)* Now let’s measure it to your head and secure the ends. *(Measure and staple the ends with the closures facing out.)* Here are heart stickers for you to cover those staples. *(Pause.)* Put your crowns on your head and we’ll finish up.”

After the Activity: “Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. You can pray and God can help you be brave too! **Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave.**”

3. Application Activity- King May I

What You Need:

- No supplies needed
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What You Do:

Before the Activity: Ask children to line up along the wall on one side of the room and explain how to play the “King, May I” game.

During the Activity: Call children one at a time to ask “King, May I” and give them directions on how to move to you. Continue until each child makes it to you. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I am so excited to play this game with you. Everyone, come line up on this wall. This is where you’ll stand when our game starts and I’ll stand across the room. We’re going to play a game called “King May I,” and I am going to be the king. When it is your turn, you will ask me, “King, may I move?” and I will either say yes or no, and then I will give you instructions on how to move to me.”

During the Activity: “Let’s play! [Child’s name], you go first! Ask me, King, may I move? *(Pause and let the child ask.)* Yes, you may take five big steps, then freeze. *(Pause.)* Great job! [Child’s name], your turn. Say, King, may I move? *(Continue with each child offering different movements such as one tiny step, three hops, one big leap, etc. Repeat as desired.)* That was so much fun!”

After the Activity: “In today’s true story from the Bible, we learned that you couldn’t talk to the king unless you were invited! That’s why Queen Esther had to be brave to talk to the king. She prayed with God’s people and trusted that God could help her be brave. Queen Esther asked the king to keep God’s people safe, and the king said yes! Hooray! Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. That means you can pray, and God can help you be brave, too! **Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave.**”

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Simplify the movement for a child's needs. Or allow children to sit and ask “King, May I” and move to them.

4. Craft- Bravery Badge



What You Need:

- “Bravery Badge” Activity Page,
- dot markers or crayons
- Yarn
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write each child’s name on their badge and punch a hole at the top. Cut yarn into 36-inch lengths, one per child, and run through the hole of each badge.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their badges. Ask them to put them on and wear them as you review the Bible Story. (*Assist as needed.*)

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come to the table with me. Today, we heard the story of how God helped Queen Esther be brave. I have a bravery badge for you to decorate and wear today.”

During the Activity: “Your badge says, ‘I am a Super Kid because **[Bottom Line] God can help me be brave.**’ Use the markers, crayons, and stickers to decorate your badge. (*Pause.*) Wow! Great job, friends. Put your badges on and get ready to help me review today’s Bible Story about brave Queen Esther.”

After the Activity: “All right, my brave Super Kids! Today, our true story from the Bible begins with a beautiful queen named Esther. Esther knew she needed to be brave and talk to the king. She needed the king to help keep God’s people safe! Esther asked God’s people to pray and talk to God with her. They prayed together for three days, and Esther trusted that God could help her be brave. So Esther went and asked the king to keep God’s people safe, and the king said yes! Everyone celebrated. Let’s celebrate too! “HOORAY!” Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. You can pray and God can help you be brave, too! **Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave.** That’s right, Super Kids! God can help you be brave!”

5. Journal and Prayer

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Encourage children to make a super kid pose as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of things they need to be brave to do.

After the Activity: Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It’s Small Group time! Today, we are going to make a super kid pose while we walk to our Small Group spot! Do what I do and close your fists, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Now put one fist on each hip. (*Demonstrate.*) You got it! Keep making your super kid pose and follow me! (*Make the super kid pose as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are, super kids! Let’s sit down so we can talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!”

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) “In our Bible Story today, Queen Esther had to be brave to go talk to the king, so she asked God’s people to do something for her. Do you remember what Queen Esther asked them to do? (*Pause.*) Queen Esther asked God’s people to pray for her. And they did! Then brave Queen Esther went to the king and asked for his help, and God’s people were saved! God helped Queen Esther be brave, and God can help you be brave, too. That’s why when I ask you, **who can help you be brave**, everyone will say, [**Bottom Line**] **God can help me be brave!** Stand up and make a super kid pose and let me hear you say it! **Who can help you be brave? [**Bottom Line**] God can help me be brave!** That was SUPER! You can sit back down now.

“Another word for brave is courageous. Can you say, ‘courageous?’ (*With children.*) Courageous! Yes! Courageous! God helped Queen Esther be strong and courageous, just like it says in the new Bible verse we are learning today! It says, ‘Be strong and courageous. (*Muscle arms*) Do not be afraid . . . (*cross and uncross hands*) for the Lord your God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) goes with you,’ (*march in place*) Deuteronomy 31:6. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let’s stand up again and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! ‘Be strong and courageous. (*Muscle arms*) Do not be afraid . . . (*cross and uncross hands*) for the Lord your God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) goes with you,’ (*march in place*) Deuteronomy 31:6. (*Open hands like a book.*)

“You did it! (*fist bumps*) Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) When Queen Esther needed to be brave to talk to the king, she asked her family to pray. We all need help being brave. Let’s make a list of things we need to be brave to do in our prayer journal. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need to be brave to do, and I will write it in our journal. (*Suggestions: Go to the dentist/doctor; walk in a classroom; make a new friend; ride a bike; sleep by yourself. Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)”

After the Activity: “Look at our list. (*Hold up journal.*) We all need help being brave. Let’s pray, like Queen Esther and God’s people did, and ask God to help us be brave. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, no one is more powerful than You! We pray to You because only You can help us be brave. Please help [child’s name] be brave and (*say what they listed*). Please help [child’s name] be brave and (*say what they listed*). Please help... (*read each child’s name and what they listed*). You are the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”