

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).*

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Helping People

- ☐ Little People Figurines
- ☐ Butcher paper

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Story Review-Thumbs up, Thumbs down

- ☐ Floor tape

Application Activity- Royal Parachute

- ☐ Parachute

Craft- Brave Queen Esther

- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ crayons

Social Activities

1. Helping People

What You Need:

- Butcher paper
- Little People® figures
- Circle stickers in a variety of colors
- Masking tape
- Plastic bin

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cover a table with butcher paper and tape to secure. Place dot stickers all over the table. Put the Little People figures in the bin and place them on the table.

During the Activity: Point out the dots on the table. Encourage children to cover each dot with a Little People figure. Count the number of people figures that were added to the table. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello friends! Gather around the table!"

During the Activity: "Do you see all these dots on the table? (*Pause for responses.*) Each dot is a spot for a Little People figure. (*Pick up one people figure and put it on one dot.*) Let's work together to cover all the dots with the Little People. (*Pause.*) Wow! Look at all these people. Let's put them back in the bin and we can do it again! (*Repeat as desired.*) You helped fill all the dots with lots of people."

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about a queen who was brave and helped a lot of people! Let's go hear all about this brave queen!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by pointing out all the people you pass as you travel to your designated area.

Lesson Activities

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.**”

2. Bible Story Review- Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

What You Need:

- ☐ Painter’s tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Create a long line on the floor with tape.

During the Activity: Encourage children to listen to different parts of the story and move to the left or right of the tape depending on their answer is a thumbs up or thumbs down as you review.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: (Stand at one end of the tape line.) “Friends, come stand on this tape line and face me. *(Pause.)* We’re going to play a thumbs up *(hold up your right hand with a thumbs up)*, thumbs down *(hold up your left hand with a thumbs down)* game today. I’m so excited!”

During the Activity: “As I review today’s true story from the Bible, I’ll stop and ask thumbs up *(hold up your right hand with a thumbs up)* or thumbs down *(hold up your left hand with a thumbs down)*. If you think it happened in the story, you will put a thumbs up and move to this side *(point to the right)* of the tape line. Let’s practice. Thumbs up and move to this side. *(Pause.)* Great job! Go back to the line. If it didn’t happen in the story, you’ll put a thumbs down and move to that side *(point to the left)* of the line. Ready to try? Thumbs down and move to that side. *(Pause.)* You got it! Everyone back on the tape line and we’ll get started. Okay! Our story begins with a bird named Esther. Thumbs up *(hold up your right hand with a thumbs up)* or thumbs down *(hold up your left hand with a thumbs down)*? Thumbs down! Was Esther a bird? No, Esther was a beautiful queen. Everyone back on the line. Esther was a part of God’s people. Thumbs up *(hold up your right hand with a thumbs up)* or thumbs down *(hold up your left hand with a thumbs down)*? Thumbs up! Yes! Esther was part of God’s people! Back on the line! Esther was married to a very powerful king, and one day he was tricked into making a decision to hurt God’s people. But the king didn’t know Esther was a part of God’s people! Esther knew she needed to talk to the king but she couldn’t without being invited. So Esther used a... walkie-talkie. Thumbs up *(hold up your right hand with a thumbs up)* or thumbs down *(hold up your left hand with a thumbs down)*? Thumbs down! No, Esther didn’t use a walkie-talkie! She needed to be brave, so she asked God’s people to pray and talk to God with her. Back on the line! The people prayed for three days! Esther was brave and went to the king. Did she get to talk to the king? Thumbs up *(hold up your right hand with a thumbs up)* or thumbs down *(hold up your left hand with a thumbs down)*? Thumbs up! Yes! Esther was brave and asked the king to keep God’s people safe, and the king said yes! Everyone celebrated. We can celebrate too! Hooray!”

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

3. Application Activity- Royal Parachute

What You Need:

- ☐ Parachute

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the parachute on the floor in an open area of your room.

During the Activity: Ask one child to sit in the center of the parachute while the other children stand around the edge and hold the handles. When you say “Queen” ask children to walk the parachute up to the queen, say “God can help you be brave!” Then ask children to carefully walk back and place the parachute flat on the floor. Have the child in the middle move to the outer edge and a new child come sit in the center. Continue with each child.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come over and let’s play a parachute game!”

During the Activity: “Everyone, come stand around the parachute, and I need [child’s name] to come sit in the center of the parachute. They will be our king/queen. *(Pause.)* Okay, now everyone standing around the parachute, pick up the handle and when I count to three, slowly walk the parachute in towards the middle where [child’s name] is sitting. Ready? One, two, three. Everyone freeze and say this after me. God can help you be brave. *(With children.)* God can help you be brave. Great job friends! Now slowly and carefully walk backwards to where we started. *(Pause.)* Place the parachute down on the ground and [child’s name] will come out and [child’s name] will be our new king/queen. *(Continue until each child has a turn.)* That was fun getting to take turns being kings and queens!”

After the Activity: “Today in our Bible Story, we learned about a King and his queen, named Esther. Esther was one of God’s people. One day, the king was tricked and made a decision that was going to hurt God’s people. But the king didn’t know Esther was a part of God’s people. Esther asked God’s people to pray and talk to God with her. Esther trusted that God could help her be brave, so she went and asked the king to keep God’s people safe, and the king said yes! Everyone celebrated. Esther prayed, and God helped her be brave. And do you know what? 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.**”

4. Craft- Brave Queen Esther



What You Need:

- “Brave Queen Esther” Activity Page
- Crayons
- Clear tape

What You Do:

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

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their picture then help bend the ends around and tape to secure as you review the Bible Story.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Come to the table and let’s make a story picture of brave Queen Esther. We learned that being brave means doing the right thing...even when you feel afraid.”

During the Activity: “Color your picture while I talk about today’s Bible Story. Today we learned about a beautiful queen named Esther, and she was married to a very powerful king. Esther was a part of God’s people, but the king didn’t know that. One day, the king was tricked and made a decision that was going to hurt God’s people. Esther needed to talk to the king, but no one could talk to the king unless he invited them. Esther needed to be brave, so she asked God’s people to pray and talk to God with her. The people prayed together for three days. Esther trusted that God could help her be brave, so she went to the king and asked the king to keep God’s people safe. The king said yes and everyone celebrated. Now that you’ve finished your picture, let’s bend the sides backwards and tape the edges together. (*Help as needed.*) Now your story picture can stand. Every time you look at your story picture of brave queen Esther, you can remember to be brave too!”

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