

Today's Suggested Schedule—November 2025, Week 4

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)

Supplies Not Included in the Activity Bags

Bible Story Review: What If?

Application Activity: For Such a Time as This

- Bible marked at Esther 4:14
- Write "For Such a Time as This" across the top of whiteboard or butcher paper
- Two colors of sticky notes
- Pencils
- Masking tape

Memory Verse Activity: Built It!

- Bibles
- Masking tape
- butcher paper

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- Coloring supplies

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that He places people in the right place at the right time for His purpose. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when God gave you courage to speak up for someone else or do what was right to help them. Ask God to help each kid realize that their voice matters and that He can use them, even now! Ask God to help the kids learn how to hear and listen to His voice as He leads them through the places He's put them for such a time as this!

1. Bible Story Review- What If?

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of 2-3.
- Say, "Today you'll help me tell Esther's story, but with a twist!"
- One by one, read a real moment from Esther's story—they are listed below—then pause and ask the "What if?" question that corresponds to the real moment.
- After reading "What If?" question, invite the groups to act it out.
- For each round, select a group to share their skit, acting out the "What If" question.
- Before going through Esther's story, discuss the questions below.

Talk Together:

- Ask: What gave Esther the confidence to stand up for her people even when it was hard?
 - *Esther trusted and believed God put her there at that time for a reason! (Esther 4:14b)*
- Ask: Why can we have confidence in God?
 - *Because He is good and He is always working for good.*

"What If?" Scenarios:

1. Real: Haman made a plan to hurt God's people.
What if: Mordecai had just stayed quiet and not told Esther anything about Haman's awful plan?
2. Real: Esther was afraid, but chose to go to the king.
What if: Esther had stayed quiet and done nothing to help?
3. Real: Esther prepared two banquets to build up courage and timing.
What if: Esther had rushed in without a plan?
4. Real: Esther trusted that God had put her where she was for that time, and stood up for her people.
What if: Esther only looked out for herself and ignored people in danger?

What You Say:

"Wow—so many 'what if' moments! Esther had a choice, just like we do! Think about it: she could've backed away or stayed quiet. But she put aside her own fears and trusted that God had a plan and chose to do the right thing. How incredible is it that God puts us all in the right places for a purpose to carry out His plans!

"We are just like Esther! Just like her, God has put us in this exact time and this exact place. You are to go through your life, with God's guidance, and help people see and feel God's love and goodness.

"God is fair and just. So when you're fair, when you stand up for someone who is being picked on, you're not only being like God, you're showing the world who God is! God is kind, so when you sit with a kid who is alone, you're not only being like God, you're showing the world who God is! God loves people who don't seem to fit in, so when you show kindness to someone who is different than you, you're not only being like God, you're showing the world who God is!

“And God has put you just where you are to show your world what He is like!

“As you go throughout your days showing who God is, God goes with you every step of the way, and He will help you. **God can help you stand up for others!**”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- For an option with less movement, have the kids share answers to the “what if” statements from a seated position.

2. Application Activity- For Such a Time as This

What You Need:

- Bible marked at Esther 4:14
- “Perfectly Placed” Activity Page- next page
- Prepared whiteboard or butcher paper
- Two colors of sticky notes
- Pencils
- Masking tape

What You Do:

- Write *“For Such a Time as This”* across the top of whiteboard or butcher paper, which ever one you use
- Gather the kids several feet away from the poster board.
- Read Esther 4:14 aloud to the group.
- Give every kid at least five sticky notes in each color and a pencil.
- Encourage the kids to write their initials on their sticky notes.
- Gesture to the prepared poster board and ask: “In today’s Bible Story, Esther and her people were going to be killed. Esther’s people were in danger! She could have done nothing, but she realized that God put her where she was to help. So she got involved and helped! She stood up for others.”

Imagine Together:

- Say, “We’re going to look at different situations we may face in our own lives where we face a choice too—we can either stand up for others, or we can choose not to get involved. On the left side of this poster board, we’ll place sticky notes of one color for choices that show what it looks like not to get involved. On the right side, we’ll put sticky notes of the other color that show that the hard thing was done and we stood up for others.”
- Read the “Perfectly Placed” Activity Page scenarios one at a time and ask:
 - “Does this show someone standing up for others or not?”
- Invite every kid to respond by placing the corresponding sticky note color with their initials on the side they want to choose.
- Continue until all of the scenarios have been read and voted on.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time God helped you stand up for others.)***

What You Say:

“You may not be standing in a palace or talking to a king, but you are just like Esther in that God has put you *exactly in the time and place you are*—in your family, in your class, on your team, in your church group. God wants you to go through your life and show His love, goodness, kindness, justice, and truthfulness!

“Maybe it’s someone being made fun of. Or maybe it’s someone who just needs to know they matter. Remember that you’re not going through this alone. When you choose to follow Jesus, God’s very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, moves inside of you. He will go with you throughout your life and say things to your heart like: ‘Hey, do you see that kid over there who is all alone? He needs someone to be kind to him. Go do that!’

“You are not alone as you go and show God’s heart to others. **God can help you stand up for others!**”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Before you begin, provide a visual of what to do with the sticky notes by placing a sticky note on each side and explaining the color meanings.

Scenarios

- I’m not kind to a kid in my class who is different from me because no one else is.
- I encouraged a kid who was really sad by telling them that God loves them.
- I invited the new kid to join me on the playground.
- I help out at my church’s clothes drive every year to provide clothes for people who need them.
- I ignored someone who was being picked on because I didn’t want to get involved.
- I told a friend I would pray for them when they were having a tough day.
- I chose to forgive someone because I know that’s what Jesus would want me to do.
- I shared my lunch with a kid who didn’t have one.

3. Memory Verse Activity- Build It!

What You Need:

- Bibles
- “Verse Blocks” Activity Page
- Masking tape
- butcher paper
- *Optional: Timer*

What You Do:

- Before you begin, tape the “Verse Blocks” Activity Page cards in random order around your group space.
 - *NOTE: You can tape them on the floor or on the wall*
- Lay out the brown or green butcher paper on one end of your group space.
- Divide the kids into groups of 3-4.
- Give every group a Bible and invite them to look up Isaiah 40:31.

Finding verses for 2-3rd graders:

Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

Play Together:

- Gather the entire group around the butcher paper.
- Say, “Today you’ll be ‘mining’ for the Memory Verse, Isaiah 40:31! We’ll work to build the verse back together on this bedrock platform (*point to butcher paper*) in the correct order.”
- One at a time, instruct the kids to run to grab a “verse block” and bring it back to build the verse.
- The kids may only place a block if it comes next in the verse. If it’s out of order, it must be ‘returned to the mine.’
- Let the kids continue to take turns to find the next part of the verse until the verse is complete.
- *Optional: Use a timer to challenge the kids to race to beat the clock!*

What You Say:

“Today we didn’t mine for diamonds, or shiny artifacts—we mined for God’s Word! The words in Isaiah 40:31 remind us where real strength comes from: The Lord! It tells us that God is strong—stronger than any person or problem. When we trust in the Lord, He gives us strength too. Not just once, but over and over again.

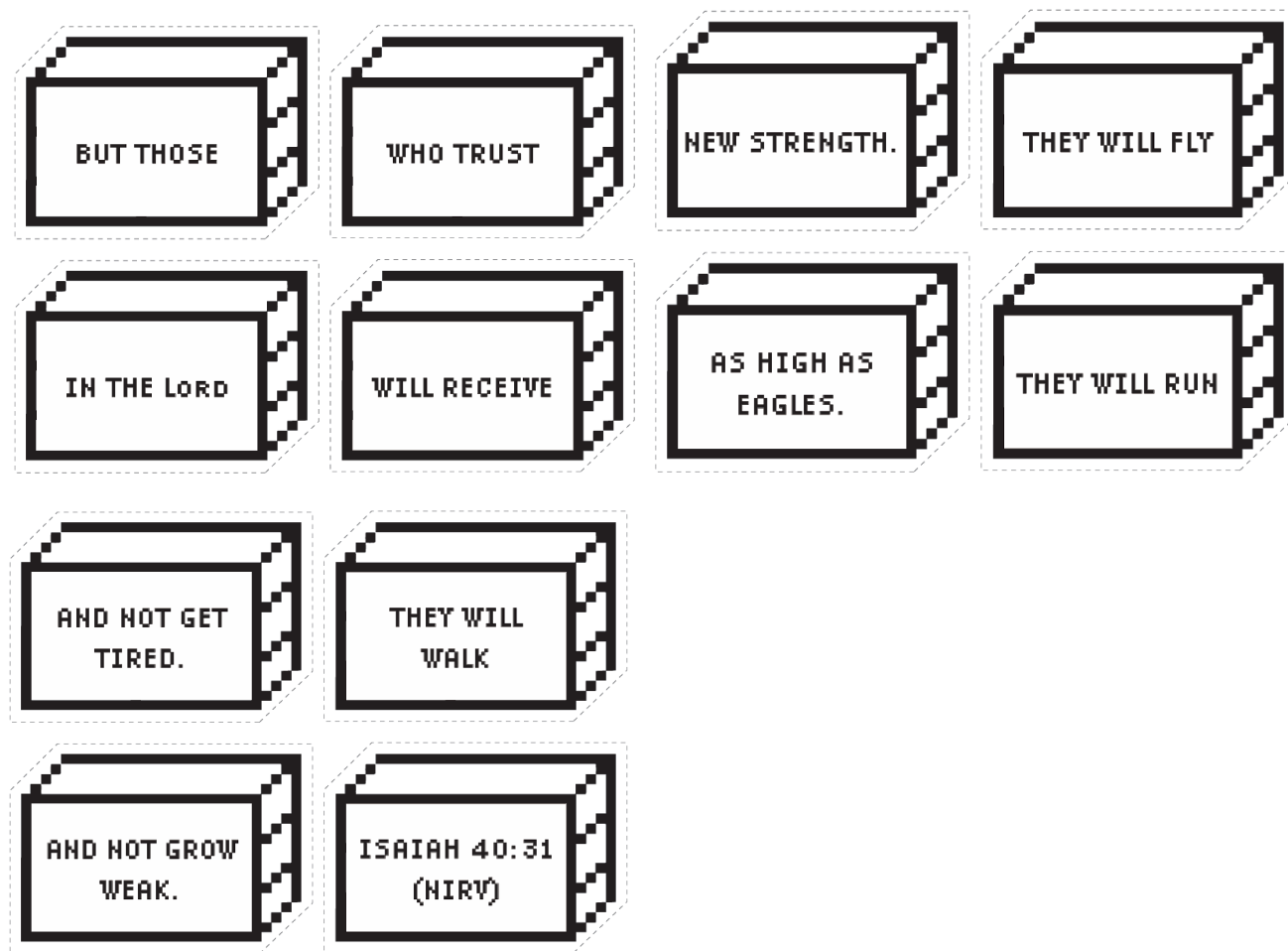
“Trusting God means, when you’re tired, remembering, ‘Oh, God can do that!’ It means when you need help, remembering, ‘God will help me get through that!’ Trusting God means giving God the weight so you can soar like an eagle! Trusting God is letting yourself be carried by God’s strength, like an eagle rides the wind!

“And that trust in God gives you strength! It’s not just physical strength like lifting something heavy. It’s strength in your heart and mind—like the courage to do what’s right, the willingness to forgive, or the confidence to speak up.

“Remember this verse, let it be a reminder to you that God loves you SO much, and as you put your trust in Him, He will give you what you need. God is cheering you on and wants to renew your strength so you can go through your life stronger! How incredible!”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- For an option with less movement, lay the butcher paper on a table and let your group place the “Verse Blocks” in order on it.



4. Pray and Dismiss*

What You Need:

- “Brick Prayers” Activity Page
- Coloring supplies

What To Do:

- Gather the kids in a seated circle.
- Give every kid a prayer card (a brick) from the “Brick Prayers” Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Say, “Esther showed real courage when she stood up for others.”
- Ask the kids to quietly think of a person they know who might need someone to look out for them.
 - Give examples like a new kid at school, someone who’s been left out, or a friend going through a hard time.
- On the prayer card, encourage kids to:
 - Write that person’s name or draw a picture of them.
 - Write a short prayer for them.
- If time allows, let the kids decorate their prayer card.
- Encourage them to take their prayer card home and continue praying to God about that person!
- Close in prayer.

Prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for all of my friends here today! Thank You for reminding us through Esther’s story that You put us in our worlds for such a time as this. Please help us listen to Your Spirit and see the people around us whom You are calling us to help. Remind us that You are always right there with us in everything You ask us to do! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

[As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share their “Brick Prayers.” Who did they choose to pray for today? Why? How is God calling them to look out for that person this week?]

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Give the kids various ways to complete their prayer card. Some kids may focus better while standing or lying on their stomachs.

