

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Heroes always help others.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that a hero serves and helps other people.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Esther 2:19-23, 4:1-17, Mordecai

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NIV)*

**SUMMARY:**

First Mordecai acted to save the life of the king. Next Mordecai worked with Esther to save the lives of all the Jewish people.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Open our eyes to see people who need our help.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## MEMORY VERSE

*"So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NirV)*

*"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NIV)*

*"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NLT)*

*"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Matthew 20:16 (KJV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

As a group, see if the kids can recite the memory verse without seeing it on screen. Then put the verse on screen and read it once more together.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

## SKIT

### HELPFUL HERO

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

A “BibleCon” sign (see description below)  
A table and chair set up for autographs  
An autograph book  
A cell phone

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

#### CHARACTERS:

Ernie - A Bible fan  
Mordecai - A helpful hero

*Mordecai sits at the autograph table. A sign in front says “BibleCon welcomes Mordecai.” As Ernie enters with his autograph book, a cell phone rings.*

ERNIE: Excuse me, are you Mordecai from—

MORDECAI: One moment, young man. *(answers the phone)* Hello, Esther? Yes, it’s Uncle Morty... I just wanted to see if you were okay down there... I know, you’ve had a long line all day... One of the longest in the building... I’m sure you are having a good time. Do you need anything?... You sure?... No water? No snacks?... Who is there beside you?... No kidding! Does he need anything?... Are you sure?... Yes, I know, but you know how I am... Okay, I’ll try. I love you.

*Mordecai hangs up.*

MORDECAI: My apologies, my friend. I just wanted to check on my niece.

ERNIE: Your niece? You mean Queen Esther?

MORDECAI: Oh yes. She’s the one who has the long line down there. Did you know she’s sitting beside King David?

# SKIT

ERNIE: No, I haven't been down that way. I've been making the rounds with lesser known heroes, like you.

MORDECAI: Please, I am no hero.

ERNIE: No hero? First you save the life of the king. Then after hearing of a plot to murder your own people, you convince Esther to do something.

MORDECAI: No, no, that's Esther's story, not mine.

ERNIE: How can you be so humble about that?

MORDECAI: Why should I brag? I did not do these things for fortune and glory. I am here to serve.

ERNIE: So that was Esther on the phone.

MORDECAI: Yes it was. I wanted to make sure she was comfortable. "Can I get you some water? Or some food?" "No, no, Uncle Mordecai," she said. "You relax and have a good time."

ERNIE: That's the most amazing thing ever.

MORDECAI: What is, me wanting to take care of Esther, or me, a Bible hero, knowing how to use a phone?

ERNIE: The first one. Well, both, actually, but the first is, believe it or not, even more amazing.

MORDECAI: Listen, my friend. What's your name?

ERNIE: Ernie.

MORDECAI: Ernie, we were put on this Earth to serve. When we serve others, we serve the Lord. If that makes me a hero, okay, I am a hero. All I ever wanted to do was serve and help others.

ERNIE: That definitely makes you a hero in my book. Would you sign it for me?

MORDECAI: It would be my pleasure!

*Mordecai signs the book.*

# SKIT

ERNIE: Thanks for the hero lesson, Mordecai. I hope I can help others like you do. You certainly helped me.

MORDECAI: Any time, my friend.

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

A bag of Chick-Fil-A food

Okay, I know it's a bit unkind of me to bring this on a Sunday, but I promise, I didn't bring this food in on a Sunday to make you crave it. I brought it because I want to ask you Chick-Fil-A fans a question. When you get your food at Chick-Fil-A and say, "Thank you," what do the people at Chick-Fil-A say back? Anyone know?

Chick-Fil-A employees are taught not to say, "You're welcome." They say, "My pleasure." Chick-Fil-A wants to be the number one fast food restaurant for service, and they do that by putting a heavy emphasis on serving others. They want their employees to have a mindset that it is their pleasure to serve others. It's a winning strategy that has made them one of the most popular and profitable restaurant chains in America.

Chick-Fil-A was founded on Christian values. Just like Mordecai, the company's founder understood the importance of serving others. When we serve others and help them in their time of need, that's one more way we can share the love of God with them. Let's ask God to give us the heart of a servant. Let's ask him to look for people we can serve this week. We don't have to say, "My pleasure," when they say thank you, but hey... it wouldn't hurt!

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### **DON'T DROP THE DOG!**

#### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

Large bed sheets

A stuffed dog

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Pick two groups of kids, enough so that they can spread around and hold the outer edges of a large, flat bed sheet. Have them hold the sheets like a fireman's net. The two teams will toss the dog back and forth until one team or the other drops the dog. Best two out of three wins.

#### **VARIATION:**

You can add more teams to this game if desired and if space allows.

Also, any stuffed animal will do, or a large beach ball. Doesn't have to be a dog toy.

#### **WHAT'S THE POINT?**

Heroes always help where they are needed.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Heroes always help others.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that a hero serves and helps other people.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Esther 2:19-23, 4:1-17, Mordecai

### **INTRO:**

A few years ago, Stan Lee, the legendary Marvel Comics creator, hosted a reality show in which people created their own super hero identities. The ultimate winner of this competition would go on to have their super hero made into a comic book. On the first episode of the series, Lee took the would-be heroes to a busy downtown area and gave them a task. The person who completed the task the fastest would win.

What Lee didn't tell the heroes was that he was testing them. In the middle of this crowded downtown area was a little girl, an actress, who pretended to be a lost child. The girl was stationed along a route the heroes had to travel to complete their challenge, and she stood there crying, "Where's my mom?" Some of the heroes ignored the little girl, racing right past her as they tried to beat the clock and finish the challenge. Other heroes heard the little girl and stopped. They asked the little girl what was wrong, and they helped her to find someone who could assist her.

Stan Lee did not care who could complete the challenge he had given them the fastest because that's not the kind of hero he wanted to discover. Lee wanted to see who would sacrifice their time in the middle of this speed challenge to stop and help the lost child. True heroes help others, and Lee learned right away that some of his contestants were real heroes by how they responded to the little girl.

Today's unknown hero is a man who was always ready to drop what he was doing and lend a hand. He lived during a time when the children of Israel were held captive in a foreign country, yet he was willing to help anyone – even the king who ruled over his captive people. His name was Mordecai, and while his story was greatly overshadowed by his niece, Queen Esther,

Mordecai is a perfect example of how heroes help others.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

**READ ESTHER 2:19-23, 4:1-17**

## **MAIN POINT:**

Mordecai's first act of heroism was when he saved the king's life. Mordecai could have turned a deaf ear to the conspiracy he overheard. After all, he and his people were captives living under King Xerxes. But Mordecai knew he was in the right place at the right time to save the king's life. Mordecai reported the conspiracy to Esther, who told the king, and the king's life was spared.

Mordecai then uncovered an even more sinister plot, one against him and his own people. It was ultimately up to Esther to do something and speak to the king, but it was Mordecai who urged her to take action. Mordecai set an example that Esther followed. He put others and their needs first, and he served where he was needed. Mordecai's life reminds us that we need to be about serving others so they can see God's love in our actions.

## **DRIVE IT HOME:**

Let's go back to Stan Lee's super hero test for a moment. Each hero on that show had worked hard creating a costume, a cool name and super powers. Truth be told, when we think of super heroes, those are the things we think of first. We want to know how strong they are, how fast they are, and how powerful they are.

But Stan Lee was wise enough to know that powers alone can't make you a hero. It's what you do with them. To quote Spider-Man's Uncle Ben, "With great power comes great responsibility." A real hero is defined not by his or her powers, but by how they use those gifts to serve others. Stan Lee taught his would-be heroes this lesson right away by showing them that a real hero is not the one with the most powers but the one who helps people in need.

None of us can fly. None of us have super strength. But just like the heroes on Stan Lee's reality show, we have the ability to see and hear someone in need. We can pause our busy day to stop and listen to someone in need. We can serve those who need it. We can help those who need a hand. We can be heroes just by getting someone a glass of water, saying a prayer with them, or even just being the friend they need in that moment.

A real hero is someone like Mordecai. They help when they are needed. They take action immediately. They serve others, knowing that by serving, they are sharing the love of God with someone in need. Let's ask God not for super powers, but super awareness. Let's open our eyes and ears this week to the people around us so we can spring into action when we are needed. Real heroes lend a hand when it is needed. Let's be ready to put our hands in action and help others every chance we get.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Open our eyes to see people who need our help.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

Who is the most helpful person in your house?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Matthew 20:16**

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Toss a beach ball or balloon in the air in your small group and see how long you can keep it bouncing in the air.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Esther 2:19-23, 4:1-17**

Who was Mordecai?

What did Mordecai do to help the king?

What did Mordecai do when he heard about the plot to kill the Jews?

What makes Mordecai a hero?

What are some things we can do to help others at home and school?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the example of a hero like Mordecai.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

Who is the most helpful person in your house?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Matthew 20:16**

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Toss a beach ball or balloon in the air in your small group and see how long you can keep it bouncing in the air.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Esther 2:19-23, 4:1-17**

How did Mordecai save the king?

Why did Mordecai go to Esther when he heard about the plot to kill the Jews?

What makes Mordecai a hero?

What are some things we can do to help others at school?

How can we be better helpers at home?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the example of a hero like Mordecai.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### WORD SCRAMBLE

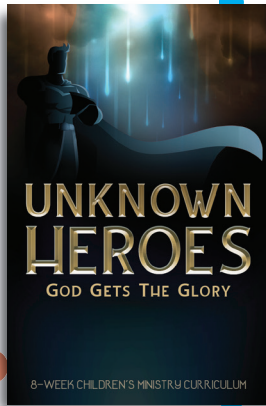
RDOCIAEM was a man who always helped people.  
MORDECAI

Mordecai uncovered a plot to kill King EEXRXS.  
XERXES

Mordecai uncovered another plot to kill the WHEJIS people.  
JEWISH

Mordecai went to see his niece ERHEST to warn her of that plot.  
ESTHER

Mordecai is a hero who EESRDV other people.  
SERVED



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Unknown Heroes Lesson 5

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: MORDECAI



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

First Mordecai acted to save the life of the king. Next Mordecai worked with Esther to save the lives of all the Jewish people. Esther 2:19-23, 4:1-17, Mordecai



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Have a challenge at home this week to see which kid or parent can do the most to help others around the house and outside the home.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who was Mordecai?
- Why is Mordecai a hero?
- Why does God want us to help others?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 NIV*



#### PARENT TIME:

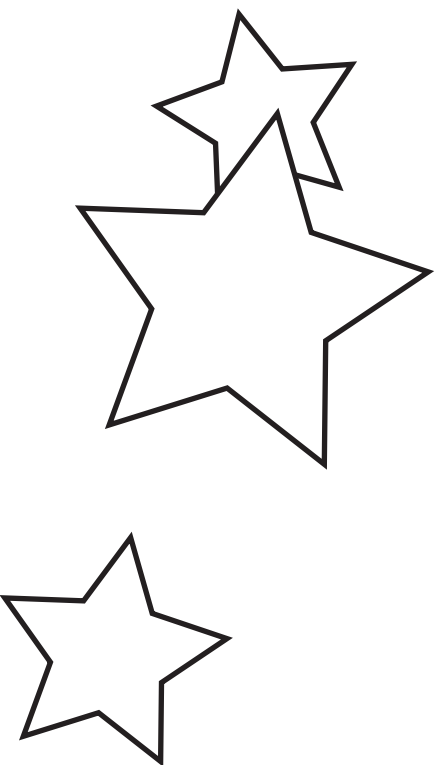
What you need to know:

Jesus said the greatest in His kingdom are the people who become the servant of all. God wants us to follow the example of men like Mordecai so that we can do good for people who need us.

## CRAFT ACTIVITY

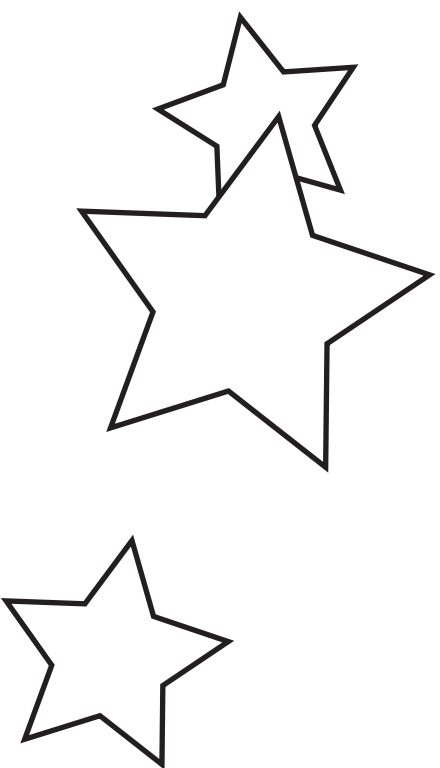
Have the kids draw and color Mordecai as a super hero. You can give them templates of a human shape to start with, or let them do it freehanded.

As an option to weekly drawings, you can have the kids work on one piece of artwork for eight weeks, in which they will draw all 8 heroes onto a comic book cover of their own design.



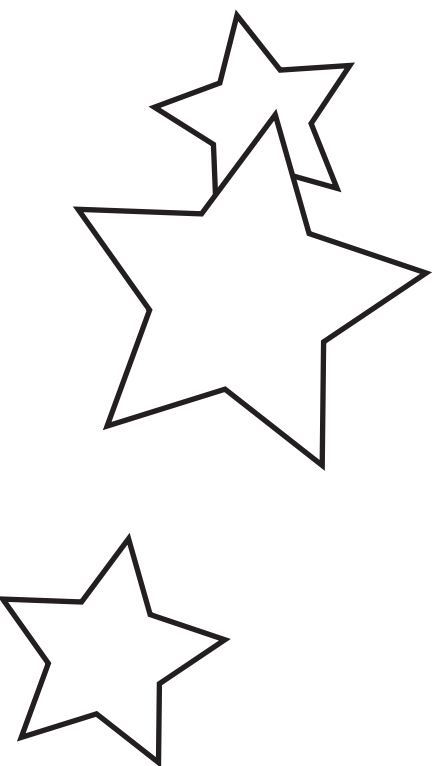
"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

- Matthew 20:16 (NIV)



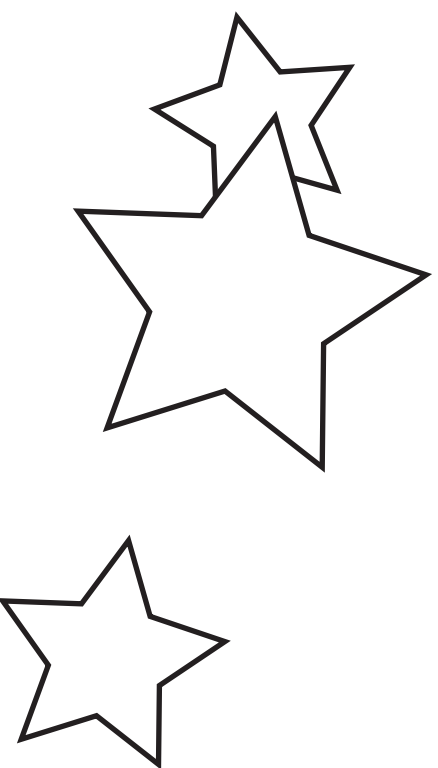
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- Matthew 20:16 (NIV)



"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

- Matthew 20:16 (NIV)



"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

- Matthew 20:16 (NIV)