

First Look | October 5

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).*

1. Story Crown

What You Need:

- ☐ "Story Crown" Activity Page
- ☐ "Story Crown Stickers" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent
- ☐ Various holographic and foam stickers
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Sentence strips
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Stapler
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Story Crown" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy "Story Crown Stickers" on label paper, one set per child. Write each child's name on their crown.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate their crown. As you review the Bible Story, add the sticker that goes along with that part of the story. Help 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 (to cover the prongs). 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, 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.**"

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Create an example for children to follow

2. Pray

Dear God, no one is more powerful than You! We pray to You because only You can help us be brave. Please help each child here be brave especially when things get tough or we feel afraid. You are the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."