

K-2 | November 23

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)

1. Opening Activity

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!

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle or around a table in chairs.

Play Together:

- Introduce a game called “Stand Up If!”
 - Say: “When I call out something that might be true for you, stand up! Then sit back down so we can go to the next one.”
- Read the “Stand Up If” prompts below one by one.
- Pause periodically to call on any kids who want to explain why they chose to stand.
 - *NOTE: If time allows, invite kids to share their own “Stand Up If” prompts with the group!*
- Continue until all the prompts have been answered.

“Stand Up If” Prompts

- Stand up if you've ever eaten pizza.
- Stand up if you've ever asked God for help.
- Stand up if you've ever felt nervous before a big moment.
- Stand up if you like rainy days.
- Stand up if you like cheering for your friends.
- Stand up if ice cream is your favorite dessert.
- Stand up if you've ever stood up for someone else.
- Stand up if you like celebrating your birthday.

What You Say:

“Wow! So many of us like some of the same things, or have been through the same kinds of things. One thing is for sure—we've all had moments when we needed to be confident, even if it felt scary!”

“Today, in our true story from the Bible, we’ll follow the story of Esther. Esther did something pretty bold and brave, even when it wasn’t easy. She stood up for others! God wants to give you the confidence to stand up for others too! Let’s go find out how!”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- For an option with less movement, invite the kids to raise their hands from a seated position or use a thumbs-up to answer the prompts.

[Lead your group to do worship and watch today’s video lesson]

2. Isaiah 40:31 Crowns*

What You Need:

- Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31
- “Isaiah 40:31 Paper Crowns” Activity Page
- Safety scissors
- Clear tape
- Jewel stickers
- Markers

Inclusive Supplies:

- *Prepared paper crown pieces for younger ones who have difficulty cutting with scissors.*

What You Do:

- Open the Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31.
- Read the verse aloud to the group.
- Demonstrate the following motions to the kids and repeat the verse together several times.
- These are the motions for the NIV:
 - *Those who trust (Hold palms open and up to the sky.)*
 - *in the LORD (Point both hands up toward heaven.)*
 - *will receive (Pull your hands in toward your chest like you're reeling something in.)*
 - *new strength. (Show your muscles—flex both arms with a strong face.)*
 - *They will fly as high as eagles. (Flap your arms slowly and gracefully like wings.)*
 - *They will run (Run in place.)*
 - *and not get tired. (Cross your arms in front of you in an “X.”)*
 - *They will walk (Take slow, steady walking steps in place.)*
 - *and not grow weak. (Cross your arms again in an “X.”)*
 - *Isaiah 40:31 (Open palms together like a Bible.)*
- These are the motions for the NIV:
 - *Those who hope (Hold palms open and up to the sky.)*
 - *in the LORD (Point both hands up toward heaven.)*
 - *will renew their strength. (Show your muscles—flex both arms with a strong face.)*

- *They will soar on wings like eagles; (Flap your arms slowly and gracefully like wings.)*
- *they will run (Run in place.)*
- *and not grow weary, (Cross your arms in front of you in an "X.")*
- *they will walk (Take slow, steady walking steps in place.)*
- *and not be faint. (Cross your arms again in an "X.")*
- *Isaiah 40:31 (Open palms together like a Bible.)*

Create Together:

- Give every kid an "Isaiah 40:31 Paper Crown" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Set out the markers and jewel stickers for the group to share.
- Point out the words from the verse printed on the crown.
- Direct them to:
 - Cut out the crown pieces.
 - Use coloring supplies and jewel stickers to decorate it.
 - Tape the pieces together so the crowns fit.
- Help the kids write their names on their crown.

What You Say:

"Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that everything we need comes from God. When we trust in God, He gives us strength just like Isaiah 40:31 says. He helps us keep going, even when it's hard.

"Esther wore a real crown because she was queen, but you're like a royal too because God has appointed you to live in this exact time and in this exact place just like her!

"Just like Esther was chosen to be queen, God calls YOU chosen too! He made you on purpose for a purpose. God will give you the strength you need to stand up for the people in your life! So whenever you wear this crown, remember: **God can help you stand up for others.**"

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Use prepared, pre-cut crown pieces for kids who may need extra support with scissors or fine motor skills.

3. Pray

Prayer:

"God, thank You for the story of Esther. We want to stand up for others too! Help us treat others the way we want to be treated. When we feel nervous or unsure, remind us that we can come to You for help. Thank You for giving each of us a special purpose. Show us how to help the people in our lives. We want to show the world how good You are! We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."