

# Esther

**Bible Story:** Esther • *The Book of Esther*

**Memory Verse:** "I have come so they may have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way." *John 10:10b, NIV*

**Bottom Line:** Live like God has a plan for you.

## Opening activity (10-15 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences through **AMPED!** rock-climbing-inspired activities and discussion questions.

### 1. Follow the Lead

[Talk about God| Bible Story Review| Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** prepared "climbing wall," "Follow the Lead" (Activity Pages), tape

#### **What You Do:**

- Guide kids to work together to recall the Bible story by sequencing the "Follow the Lead" (Activity Page) pictures.
- Invite volunteers to tape the pictures to the "Climbing Wall" in order. (Keep the wall on the floor so kids can access it and pretend to "climb" it later.)
- As kids sequence the story, get them going by asking questions such as:
  - How do you think Esther felt? Why? How do you think Mordecai felt? Why?
  - How would you feel if you had to go before a king, even if it was dangerous?
  - What do you think would have happened if Esther hadn't gone before King Xerxes?
- Finally, lead kids to "climb" the rock wall on their hands and feet, progressing through the Bible story "climbing holds" in order.
- As they "climb," another Small Group Leader can take pictures from above to make it look like they're actually climbing the wall.
- As time allows, guide kids to "climb" again.
- Add variety by directing them to maneuver the wall from left to right, from right to left, using only 3 colors of "climbing holds" or using only two colors of "climbing holds."

#### **What You Say:**

"Did God have a plan for Esther? (Yes!) What was God's plan? (*For Esther to become queen so that she could help save her people.*) Like Mordecai said, 'It's possible you became queen for a time just like this.'"

"Does God have a plan for you? (*Pause.*) Yes! God has an amazing and *wonderful* plan for each of you. Who your family is, where you live, the things you like, and the things you're good at are all part of God's plan for you! What else about your life could be part of God's special plan for you? (*Pause.*) So remember: **live like God has a plan for you**, because God DOES have a plan for you, and His plan is VERY special."

## **Catch on activity (10-15 Minutes)**

### **2. Climb the Route**

#### **[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** marked Bible, “Bible Verse” stickers (Activity Page), climbing wall from “Follow the Lead” (above), balls of yarn

*Before the game, sequentially attach the “Bible Verse” stickers to the holds on the “Follow the Lead” climbing wall (from activity above). Place the words along a zigzag path from bottom to top. If you have fewer than 8 kids, place more than one word per hold so that the number of holds with words matches your number of kids.*

#### **What You Do:**

- Guide each child to sit on or near the “climbing wall” beside a word (or words) of the verse.
- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to John 10. Read the verse aloud, inviting kids to say it with you.
- Give the first child a ball of yarn.
- Direct him to say “I,” holding the loose end of the string of yarn, and then roll the ball to the next child.
- That child catches the ball, says the second word of the verse, holds the loose end of yarn, and rolls the ball to the next child.
- Continue until the yarn path reaches the top of the “wall.”
- Play multiple rounds, guiding kids to switch places for each round.
- As kids get the hang of the game, challenge them to “climb” the wall faster each time.

#### **What You Say:**

“Jesus said that He wants us to have life in the fullest possible way. One way that we can have a full life is by trusting that God loves us and that He has a plan for us. Another way that we can have a full life is by following God’s Word, the Bible. So remember: **live like God has a plan for you**, because God DOES have a plan for you, and His plan is VERY special.”

## **Pray and Dismiss**