

CITY LG – November 22nd- 23rd, 2025

Bible Story: Esther • *Esther*

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)

WORSHIP

Chasing Me

We are Royals

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! I'm so glad that you're here with us today. All month, we're exploring what it means to build on a firm foundation with Bedrock: Building confidence in God, block by block. You've got to be on solid ground if you want to be able to stand tall and strong, as we'll see in today's story. And speaking of standing, are you all ready to play a game?

Okay, I'm going to need everyone for this game! I'm going to say something, and if you agree with it, I want you to stand up. So if I say: 'I like pizza!'—then everyone who likes pizza will stand up.

If you don't agree with something, that's okay! Just stay sitting down. Then I'll move on to the next statement. If you're standing up and you don't agree with the next thing I say, just sit down. Everybody ready to take a stand? Okay, here goes!

Share some of the following statements—or create your own that are more unique to your environment.

1. I like ketchup on French fries.
2. I like ketchup on green beans.
3. I like to wake up early in the morning.
4. My favorite color is yellow.
5. My favorite color is blue.
6. My favorite color is red.
7. I can do a cartwheel.
8. My favorite holiday is Christmas.
9. My birthday is in the summer.
10. I've eaten a s'more this fall.
11. I have a pet at home.
12. I would have a pet (or another pet) if my mom let me.
13. I can say something in a different language.
14. I have a brother or sister.
15. I like telling jokes.
16. I've written someone a letter and sent it in the actual mail.
17. I like salt and vinegar potato chips.
18. I like dark chocolate more than milk chocolate.
19. I've played on a sports team.
20. I probably have more stuffed animals than anyone.

Wow! Way to take a stand. I feel like I know so much more about you all! This week, our true story from the Bible is also about someone who took a stand for something much bigger. Our story is about a woman named Esther. She learned that God had put her exactly where she was to take a stand for her people—and she did!

Hey, friends! Today, we have a story that covers the ENTIRE book of Esther! (*Hold up Bible.*)

Let me tell you about something amazing we are doing this year! We're going to go cover to cover through the Bible and learn the key stories!

You see, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him. He wants us to be His friends! We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible to get to know Him! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Let me bring you up to speed on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything, even us people! But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! It was so sad.

God didn't want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. Many of the prophets delivered the same message from God: 'Come back to Me!'

But many of the kings didn't listen. They turned their hearts away from God, and as a result, the northern kingdom of Israel was totally destroyed and never heard from again. The southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive by other nations. God's people were taken from the Promised Land! It was sad, but God was preserving a remnant mostly from the nation of Judah.

After some time in captivity, God worked through a foreign king to allow His people to come home to the land of Judah, which is part of the Promised Land. Many of God's people came back home! But

some stayed in foreign lands—like Esther and her family. But even there, God was still in charge, protecting His people and His promise to rescue us!

And that's where we are in God's Big Story. Let's check out the story of Esther.

VIDEO: Bible Story

In Esther's story, we see that **God can help you stand up for others**. And that's our bottom line for today!

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

So what does Esther's story mean for us? Well, Esther saw that God had placed her exactly where she was to help her people!

And while you may not be in a palace, you are exactly where God wants you—on your team, in your family, in your class, at your church—to show your world His ways. God might want you to stand up for others, like Esther did!

And you don't have to stand up for others on your own! God wants to help you! When you choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside you. God's very Spirit will help you to live like Jesus and help you remember that God is always right there with you.

Let's ask God to help us show the people in our worlds His goodness and love right now!

Dear God, thank You so much for the story of Esther and how she stood up for others. Please help us see when people in our lives need us to stand up for them, and help us know what to do. We need Your help and Your strength to show the world Your goodness and love. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

We started supporting a new organization with our offering last month. We are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! Our mission is Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. Their mission is to give kids and adults the same kind of camp experience that kids without disabilities can enjoy.

SLIDES: Shady Oaks 5-8

I'm so excited that we are raising money to help Shady Oaks provide summer camps for people with disabilities!