

CITY SG – November 22nd- 23rd, 2025

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)

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Nothing

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.
- 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.

Say, "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!"

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. What If?

Bible Story Review

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into 4 groups.
- Say, "Today you'll help me tell Esther's story, but with a twist!"
- One by one, read a real moment from Esther's story—they are listed below—then pause and ask the "What if?" question that corresponds to the real moment.
- After reading a "What If?" question, invite the groups to act it out.
- For each round, select a group to share their skit, acting out the "What If" question.
- Before going through Esther's story, discuss the questions below.
- Ask: What gave Esther the confidence to stand up for her people even when it was hard?
 - *Esther trusted and believed God put her there at that time for a reason! (Esther 4:14b)*
- Ask: Why can we have confidence in God?
 - *Because He is good and He is always working for good.*

"What If?" Scenarios:

1. Real: Haman made a plan to hurt God's people.
What if: Mordecai had just stayed quiet and not told Esther anything about Haman's awful plan?
 2. Real: Esther was afraid, but chose to go to the king.
What if: Esther had stayed quiet and done nothing to help?
 3. Real: Esther prepared two banquets to build up courage and timing.
What if: Esther had rushed in without a plan?
 4. Real: Esther trusted that God had put her where she was for that time, and stood up for her people.
What if: Esther only looked out for herself and ignored people in danger?
- Say, "We are just like Esther! Just like her, God has put us in this exact time and this exact place. You are to go through your life, with God's guidance, and help people see and feel God's love and goodness. As you go throughout your days showing who God is, God goes with you every step of the way, and He will help you. **God can help you stand up for others!**"

2. For Such a Time as This

Application Activity

What You Need:

Bible marked at Esther 4:14, "Perfectly Placed" Activity Page (one per group), butcher paper, two colors of sticky notes (5 per kid of each color), Pens

What You Do:

- Take a piece of butcher paper and write "For such a time as this" on the top.
- Place the paper in the center of your group.
- Read Esther 4:14 aloud to the group.
- Give every kid five sticky notes in each color and a pencil.
- Encourage the kids to write their initials on their sticky notes.
- Gesture to the butcher paper and ask: "In today's Bible Story, Esther and her people were going to be killed. Esther's people were in danger! She could have done nothing, but she realized that God put her where she was to help. So she got involved and helped! She stood up for others."

- Say, “We’re going to look at different situations we may face in our own lives where we face a choice too—we can either stand up for others, or we can choose not to get involved. On the left side of the butcher paper, we’ll place sticky notes of one color for choices that show what it looks like not to get involved. On the right side, we’ll put sticky notes of the other color that show that the hard thing was done and we stood up for others.”
- Read the “Perfectly Placed” Activity Page scenarios one at a time and ask:
 - “Does this show someone standing up for others or not?”
- Invite every kid to respond by placing the corresponding sticky note color with their initials on the side they want to choose.
- Continue until all of the scenarios have been read and voted on.
- Say, “You may not be standing in a palace or talking to a king, but you are just like Esther in that God has put you *exactly in the time and place you are*—in your family, in your class, on your team, in your church group. God wants you to go through your life and show His love, goodness, kindness, justice, and truthfulness! You are not alone as you go and show God’s heart to others. **God can help you stand up for others!**”

3. Build It!

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, “Verse Blocks” Activity Page (One set pre group), Large piece of brown paper (one per group)

What You Do:

- Shuffle the “Verse Blocks” Activity Page cards and place them face down on one end of your group space.
- Lay out the brown paper on the other end of your group space.
- Gather everyone around the brown paper.
- If time: Give every group a Bible and invite them to look up Isaiah 40:31.
- Review the verse together: *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)
- Say, “Today you’ll be ‘mining’ for the Memory Verse, Isaiah 40:31! We’ll work to build the verse back together on this bedrock platform (*point to brown paper*) in the correct order.”
- One at a time, instruct the kids to run to grab a “verse block” and bring it back to build the verse.
- The kids may only place a block if it comes next in the verse. If it’s out of order, it must be ‘returned to the mine.’
- Let the kids continue to take turns to find the next part of the verse until the verse is complete.
- **Say**, “Remember this verse, let it be a reminder to you that God loves you SO much, and as you put your trust in Him, He will give you what you need. God is cheering you on and wants to renew your strength so you can go through

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*”
- “Dear God, thank You for all of my friends here today! Thank You for reminding us through Esther’s story that You put us in our worlds for such a time as this. Please help us listen to Your Spirit and see the people around us whom You are calling us to help. Remind us that You are always right there with us in everything You ask us to do! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share who God is calling them to look out for this week?