

LESSON 2  
**ESTHER**

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Is Working Even When We Can't See It

**SCRIPTURE:** Esther 1–5; 8

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Because God is always working, a young Jewish woman named Esther becomes queen of Persia and prevents an evil plan to kill all the Jewish people in the kingdom.

**WORD OF WONDER:** God will never leave us. —from Hebrews 13:5b

**CURIOSITY****BELIEF****FAITH**

- Play Stations:
  - Royal Dress-Up
  - Royal Feast
  - Esther Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Hebrews 13:5b
- God's Big Story // Snack
- Circle Time: Pass the Scepter
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Worship through Color
- Closing Game: King and Queen Musical Chairs



God With Us Preschool Spotify playlist



## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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“That was a total God thing.” I heard that phrase as a woman told a story about her granddaughter, who had run into an old friend from church at a coffee shop and now is considering coming back to church. I could have told her it was just a coincidence that the two teenage girls happened to go to the same coffee shop, but as a believer in the providence of God, I see it too. Running into a girl who would point her granddaughter back to her roots in the church at the perfect time in her life would indeed appear to be “a God thing.”

As Christ followers, we can see God’s providential hand in each and every interaction throughout our days. We praise Him for the little things, like a close parking spot on a rainy day, and the big things, like a friend being healed of cancer after years of treatment. We do this because we know God is working even when we cannot see it.

Read the book of Esther and look for God to be named—you won’t find it. If you were to read it without context, you could say each event was random, complete coincidence, without divine intervention. But the author would have us search and find where God is working, and in doing so, consider our own lives and how God might be working, creating “God things” in every moment.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children’s Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Esther is a Persian name meaning “star,” derived from the name of the Babylonian deity, Ishtar. Esther’s Hebrew name is *Hadassah*, which refers to the myrtle plant. Her parents died when she was young, and she was adopted and raised by her cousin Mordecai.

**WHAT?**

The narrative of Esther offers a peek into God’s work behind the scenes in the days of Israel’s exile. Esther rises to the level of queen during a vital moment. A man named Haman tries to eliminate all the Jews in the land. However, Queen Esther intervenes by asking the king to save her people.

**WHERE?**

Susa was one of the oldest cities in the world. It was the ancient capital of Elam and later, Persia. It was situated on a plain near the Zagros mountains and had a temperate climate. Many Jews, including Esther and Nehemiah, lived there and became prominent during exile.

**WHEN?**

King Xerxes reigned 486–465 BC. The events of the book of Esther probably took place during 483–474 BC. During this period, King Xerxes and the Persians were involved in multiple campaigns against the Greeks, including at Thermopylae and Athens.

**CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY**

Purim is a Jewish festival celebrating the story of Esther. It is joyous time of remembering when God worked behind the scenes through Esther to overturn Haman’s plot to destroy the Jews. In the same way, God has worked through Jesus to overturn Satan’s plot to destroy all humankind.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** royal dress-up items such as robes, crowns, jewels, scepters, etc.; toy food; toy plates; toy cups; toy silverware; coloring utensils; large cardboard box (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Esther Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"**

#### Play Station: Royal Dress-Up

**Set-up:** Set out royal dress-up items such as robes, crowns, jewels, scepters, etc. Consider cutting a door in a large cardboard box and letting kids decorate it to look like a castle.

**Play:** Encourage kids to pretend they're queens and kings by dressing up in robes and crowns. If you prepared a cardboard castle, allow kids to play in it. They could also use coloring utensils to decorate the castle.

#### Play Station: Royal Feast

**Set-up:** Set out toy food, plates, cups, and silverware on a table.

**Play:** Kids can set the table with the plates, cups, and silverware and take turns serving each other a royal feast.

#### Play Station: Esther Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a crown.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, white printer paper, flashlight, glue (optional)

**RESOURCES:** Bible Sheet

### WORD OF WONDER

God will never leave us.  
—from Hebrews 13:5b

Ahead of time, print the Bible Sheet and place it under a white sheet of printer paper. Similar to the Curiosity Activity, you might want to glue the edges of the pages together, so they don't slip apart as you're doing the activity.

Introduce kids to the Word of Wonder.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD WILL**—Point up.
- **NEVER LEAVE US.**—Shake your head.
- **HEBREWS 13:5**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

"Let's play a game to help us learn our Word of Wonder! The paper here has a hidden picture in it.

**When we see the picture of the Bible appear, let's say our Word of Wonder together. If you don't see the Bible, sit quietly and wait for it to appear."**

If your printer paper is thin or your room is very bright, try dimming the lights so the kids won't be able to see the hidden picture behind the blank paper. Use the flashlight to shine light from behind the papers so that the picture of the Bible is visible. Encourage kids to say the Word of Wonder with you when the Bible is visible. Once they complete the verse, shut the flashlight off so the picture of the Bible disappears. Repeat as time allows.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Has there been a time when you felt like God was not with you?**
- **How do we know God is with us even we can't see Him?**



## God's Big Story / Snack

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Esther in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

**"Let's read part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Esther in the Bible."**

**Read pages 172–177 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.**

**\*Leader Tip \* Kids can color their Coloring Pages while you read to help with the wiggles!**

## Circle Time: Pass the Scepter

**SUPPLIES:** toy scepter, dowel rod (optional), foam ball (optional), aluminum foil (optional), jewels (optional)

**RESOURCES:** songs from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

**Leader Tip:** You can make your own royal scepter by using a dowel rod with a foam ball on top wrapped in foil. Add jewels to make it fancier. Or if you have a toy crown, you could pass it around the circle instead.

Have kids sit together in a circle on the floor. Show the kids the toy scepter. **"This is called a royal scepter! Kings have one of these, so everyone knows that they are in charge and that they are royal. A queen might have one too. It reminds people that the person holding the scepter is powerful. We're going to play a review game with this scepter. I'm going to turn on some music, and we're going to pass the scepter around the circle. Whoever has the scepter when the music stops will have the power to answer a question."**

Play music from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) as kids pass the scepter carefully around the circle. Periodically stop the music and ask whoever is holding the scepter to answer one of the questions below.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Whom did King Xerxes choose to be queen?** (*Esther*)
- **What did King Xerxes say that all the people in the kingdom had to do to Haman?** (*kneel down to him*)
- **What brave thing did Esther do?** (*She spoke to King Xerxes and asked him to save her people.*)
- **Have you ever had to be brave to do the right thing?**
- **Can you think of a time when God has worked in your life, even if you didn't know it at the time?**
- **What would you like to see God do in your life?**

**Sometimes doing the right thing can be hard or scary. However, the story of Esther shows us that God is always working, and we can trust that He is with us when we need to be brave. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for always working in their lives even when they can't see it.

## Head to Large Group!

**When you return from LG, continue with these activities until parents arrive.**

### Responding in Worship: Worship through Color

**SUPPLIES:** thick paper towels (6), black permanent marker, washable markers (3 colors), tray of water

Ahead of time, stack two paper towels, one on top of the other. Make sure the paper towels are lined up exactly. A sheet of paper underneath can help protect your table from marker transfer. Draw a heart on the top sheet with a black permanent marker. The black ink should soak through the top paper towel lightly onto the bottom paper towel. On the bottom paper towel, use one of the colored washable markers to color inside the heart outline that transferred over from the top sheet. Stack the towels back on top of one another so that only the black outline heart on the top sheet is visible. The hearts should line up. Repeat with two more sets of paper towels and different colors of washable markers. Set a tray of water out nearby.

**Today we're learning how God is working even when we can't see it. Let's spend some time thinking about what God might want to do in our hearts and lives.** Hold up one stack of paper towels so that only the white heart with a black outline is visible. Ask the kids what color the heart is. **This heart is white, but I think it has some hidden colors inside! I'm going to put it in this tray of water. When you see the color of the heart, think about how God wants to help others through you, just like God worked through Esther to help her people.**

Let the kids help you place the stacked paper towels in the tray of water. The colorful ink on the bottom sheet should begin to soak through and fill in color inside the heart on the top sheet. Encourage kids to think about how God wants to work through them to help others. After the kids have time to think, tell them that you're going to repeat the experiment again.



**This time, when the colors appear, we're going to think about how God can give us courage to do the right thing even when it's hard.** Repeat the experiment again and encourage kids to think about how God gives us courage to do the right thing. **We're going to discover color on one more heart! This time, when the color appears, pray and thank God for working even when we can't see it.** Repeat the steps one more time and encourage kids to pray and thank God for working even when we can't see it.

**Leader Tip:** If you have extra time and supplies, you could create a set of hearts for each kid and let them place their own hearts in water for each prompt.

## Closing Game: King and Queen Musical Chairs

**SUPPLIES:** chairs (1 per kid minus 1)

**RESOURCES:** songs from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Set up a circle of chairs. Have kids stand around the edge of the circle. **"We're going to play a game of King and Queen Musical Chairs! I'm going to play some music and when the music stops, you will need to find a seat on a royal throne (a chair). The person who does not find a seat is out and will sit down nearby."**

Play music from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#), stopping periodically and encouraging kids to find a seat. Each time a kid gets out, remove another chair from the circle until only one chair and two kids remain. The kid who gets in the last seat is crowned king or queen for that round. Repeat as time allows.