

### 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.

**Activity: What Can You Find?**

**Activity: Decorate a Crown**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Hop to the Heart**

**Wonder@Home™**

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

## Activity: What Can You Find?

**SUPPLIES:** large bowl; paper; scissors (prep only); plastic balls, beanbags, or blocks (several)

Before the kids arrive, cut out a heart from a sheet of paper and place it in the bottom of a bowl. Cover the heart with plastic balls, beanbags, or blocks.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! There is something hidden in the bottom of this bowl! Can you help me find it?**

Encourage kids to help you remove the plastic balls, beanbags, or blocks from the bowl until they can see the heart hidden in the bottom of the bowl.

**Look what is hiding in the bottom of our bowl! It's a heart! It was there even when we couldn't see it.**

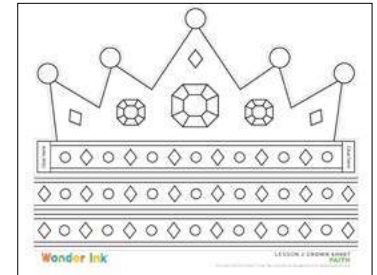
## Activity: Decorate a Crown

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock (1 sheet per kid), scissors (prep only), tape, coloring utensils, jewel stickers (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Crown Sheet (1 per kid)

Before the kids arrive, print a copy of the Crown Sheet on cardstock for each kid and cut out the crown shape and the strips. Tape one of the extra strips to each side of the crown. Set out coloring utensils nearby.

**In our story today, we're going to hear about a king and queen. Kings and queens wear crowns on their heads. Let's make crowns we can wear while we hear our story!**



Give each kid a Crown Sheet that you previously prepared and allow them to color their crown. For added fun, you could let kids add jewel stickers to the crowns.

When the kids finish decorating their crowns, use tape to attach the two narrow strips to the sides of the crown. Then secure the two narrow strip ends together with tape so that the crowns can be placed on kids' heads.

Encourage kids to wear their crowns. **You have a crown on your head, but you can't see it! Did you know that God works in our lives even we can't see it?**

**Our Wonder Truth today is GOD IS WORKING EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE IT.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD IS WORKING**—Point up.

**EVEN WHEN WE**—Point at yourself.

**CAN'T SEE IT**—Cover your eyes.

## Worship

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

Today we're learning that God is working even when we can't see it.

We'll learn in God's big story how God saved His people through a brave queen!

Play songs from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [God's Big Story Video](#)

**God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Esther.** Encourage the kids to say, "Esther." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Esther!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the script provided.

Have one of the kids stand up next to you and wear a crown. If you had kids make crowns earlier, you can have him wear the crown he created.

**The book of Esther tells a story about how God helped His people. A king named Xerxes was looking for a new wife. King Xerxes chose a woman named Esther to be queen.**

Choose another kid to stand up next to you and wear a crown as Queen Esther.

**One day, the king made a man named Haman the most important worker. The king told everyone to kneel down to Haman, but a man named Mordecai said he wouldn't do it because God was the most important. Haman got so mad that he planned to kill Mordecai and all his people. Mordecai's people were God's people—the Jews! Queen Esther was a Jew! Let me see your mad faces.** Invite kids to look mad.

**Mordecai found out about Haman's plan. Mordecai was sad and afraid. Can you all look sad and afraid?** Invite kids to look sad and afraid. **When Esther heard about it, she was also sad. Queen Esther, can you look sad too?** Encourage the kid playing Queen Esther to look sad. **Mordecai asked Esther to go to the king and ask him to save her people.**

**Esther told Mordecai and all the Jews to pray because she needed God's help when she talked to the king. Let's all pretend we are praying just like Esther did.** Invite kids to make a praying action.

**Esther prayed and got ready. Esther, can you pretend to pray too?** Invite the kid playing Esther to make a praying action. **Then she went to talk to the king.** Encourage the kid playing Esther to walk over to the kid playing King Xerxes. **She made a nice meal for the king and then she told him about Haman's plan to kill Mordecai and the Jews, which included her! The king was very mad and got rid of Haman.** Have the kid playing King Xerxes pretend to get really mad. **The king said the Jews would be saved! God made Esther queen to help protect God's people. God is working even when we can't see it.**

## Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

**Thank You, God, for working in our lives even we can't see it. Help us always do the right thing. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May God make your faith bigger as He works, even when you can't see it. God will never leave you! May this truth give you peace.

## Activity: Hop to the Heart

**SUPPLIES:** various colors of paper (1 sheet per kid), marker, tape (optional)

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

Ahead of time, draw a heart on one sheet of paper. Place several sheets of paper on the floor in a circle, making sure to include the sheet that has the heart drawn on it. You should have enough sheets of paper for each kid to stand on one. Place papers close enough together so kids can walk from one paper to the other. If your floor is slick, secure the papers to the floor with tape so they won't slide when stepped on.

**One of these sheets of paper has a heart on it. We are going to play a game and the person that is standing on the heart when the music stops, gets to be the queen or king! When the music stops, you are going to freeze!**

Have kids each stand on a sheet of paper and play some music from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). As the music plays, encourage the kids to walk around the circle from paper to paper. Stop the music and encourage kids to freeze. Place a crown on the head of the kid standing on the paper with the heart. (If the kids made the crowns earlier, you could place the kid's own crown on his head). Kids can wear their crown for the next round. Repeat as time allows