Preschool–Grade 5

Queen Esther Craft

The golden sceptre · Esther 4:11–5:2 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



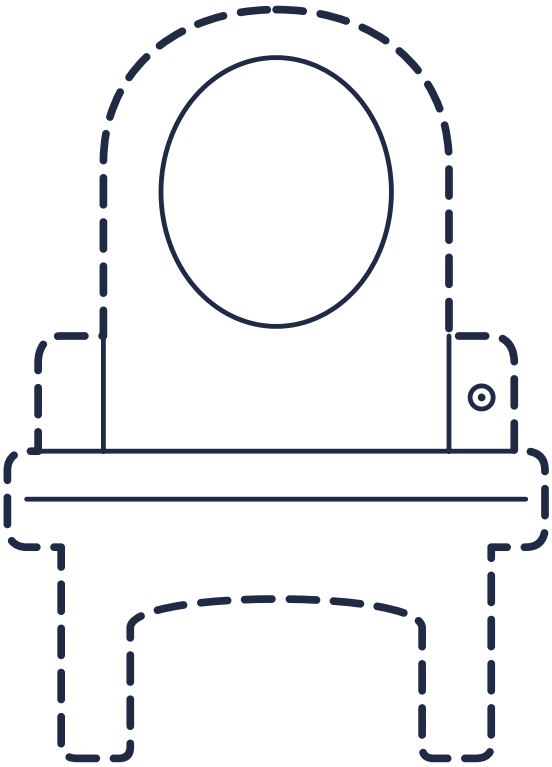
Harder

Both levels have the king's brown throne on blue paper, with a yellow golden sceptre on a brad that swings out until its top touches Queen Esther's window, because "the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre… So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre" (Esther 5:2). Medium (left): the throne, sceptre and window from page 2. Harder (right): also a rolled scroll from page 3, closed with a red seal (8:10).

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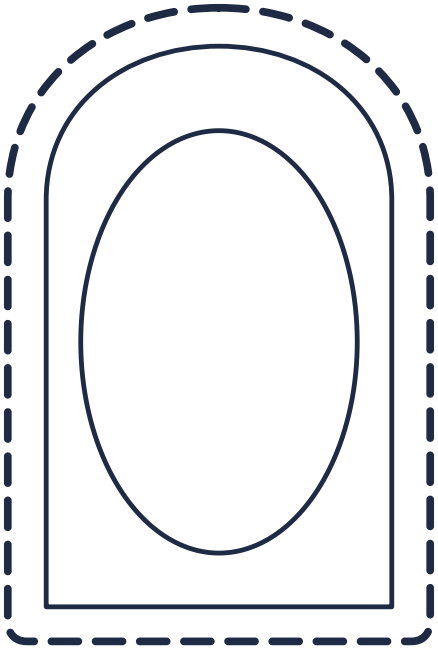
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Throne: color it brown

Draw King Ahasuerus in the window.
The brad goes through the dot.



Esther's window

frame: purple
Draw Queen Esther: long hair,
a long royal dress and a crown.



Sceptre

yellow

For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14 (KJV)

Color the throne brown, the window frame purple and the sceptre yellow. Draw the king and Queen Esther in the windows. Cut out every piece. A grown-up pokes the brad holes through the two dots.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

The king's letter (harder level)

Write on the lines, cut on the dashed lines, roll it up and seal it.

Copy Esther 8:16 here. Leave the scroll white.



King's seal: color it red

It holds the rolled scroll closed.

Use the throne, sceptre, Esther's window and verse strip from page 2.

How to make the king's letter

1. Color the seal red. Leave the scroll white.
2. On the lines, copy what happened when the new letters came: "The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour." Esther 8:16
3. Cut out the scroll and the seal on the dashed lines.
4. Turn the scroll so the words face up. Roll it from the bottom edge up, around a pencil, so the words end up inside. Slide the pencil out.
5. Glue the seal over the loose top edge, so the scroll stays rolled up. The new letters were sealed "with the king's ring" (Esther 8:10).
6. Make the throne, sceptre and Esther's window from page 2. Glue the rolled scroll along the bottom of the blue paper, under the throne and the window.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/esther-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one sheet of blue construction paper per child (9 by 12 inches), one brass paper fastener (brad) per child, brown, purple and yellow crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks and a sharp pencil. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a red crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the pieces. Keep the brads with you: they are small, so a grown-up handles them for little ones.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's throne, sceptre, Esther's window and verse strip. Kids color the pieces and draw (or scribble) a king and a queen in the windows. Help them glue the throne on the left and Esther's window on the right of the blue paper. You attach the sceptre with the brad and glue the verse strip on the back. Read the verse together, or just "for such a time as this."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut out the pieces, glue the throne, attach the sceptre with the brad (a grown-up pokes the hole) and glue Esther's window where the sceptre's top touches it. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the throne, sceptre and window like the medium level, then make the king's letter from page 3: copy Esther 8:16 on the scroll, roll it up, close it with the red seal (Esther 8:10) and glue it along the bottom of the paper. Kids say Esther 4:14 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the throne brown, the frame of Esther's window purple and the sceptre yellow, because it is the golden sceptre (Esther 4:11).
2. **Draw:** in the throne's oval window, draw King Ahasuerus. In Esther's window, draw Queen Esther in her royal clothes (5:1), with long hair, a long dress and a crown (2:17).
3. **Cut:** cut out the throne, the sceptre, Esther's window and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Throne:** hold the blue paper the wide way. Glue the throne on the left half.
5. **Sceptre:** lay the sceptre's dot on top of the dot on the throne's arm. A grown-up pokes a small hole through both dots and the blue paper with a sharp pencil. Push the brad through from the front and open its legs flat on the back.
6. **Esther's window:** swing the sceptre out to the right. Lay Esther's window on the right half, so the round top of the sceptre just touches its left edge. Glue it down there.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back, below the brad, and read it together.
8. **Act it out:** swing the sceptre up beside the throne. Then the king holds out the golden sceptre, and it swings down until its top touches Esther's window: "So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre" (5:2).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the sceptre. What was the law about going in to the king without being called? *(Anyone who came in uncalled would be put to death, unless the king held out the golden sceptre, Esther 4:11)*
- What did Esther and her people do for three days before she went in? *(They fasted, 4:16)* What did she say? *("If I perish, I perish," 4:16)*
- Swing the sceptre out. What did the king do when he saw Esther, and what did she touch? *(He held out the golden sceptre, and she touched the top of it, 5:2)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** holdest thy peace = stay quiet; enlargement and deliverance = help and rescue; thy father's house = your family; who knoweth = who knows; art come to the kingdom = became queen; sceptre = a rod a king holds.
- **What the Bible says:** the sceptre was golden (Esther 4:11, 5:2), and the king sat on his royal throne (5:1). The Bible doesn't describe the throne, so the craft shows a simple one. The craft draws no people: kids draw the king and Queen Esther in the windows. Show Esther as the Bible tells it, in her royal clothes (5:1) and the royal crown (2:17), with long hair and a long, modest dress.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and keep the brads yourself. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Brads:** poke the hole after the throne glue is dry, or the paper tears. If you have no brads, glue the sceptre so its top touches Esther's window.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Esther Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/esther.

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