Preschool–Grade 6

Queen Esther

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Esther was brave. God can help me be brave too!
Bible passage: Esther 1–8. Read Esther 1–10 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "for such a time as this" *Esther 4:14 (KJV)*. It means "for right now."
You need: a Bible, a paper towel tube with a yellow paper circle taped on top (the golden sceptre), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Esther 5. Hide the sceptre somewhere in the room.

1. Opening game: Find the Golden Sceptre (5 minutes)

Say: "I hid the king's golden sceptre! Can you find it?" Kids look for it. Give hints: "warmer" when they get close, "colder" when they move away. Hide it again a few times. Say: "A sceptre is a gold stick that a king holds. Today's true story is about a brave queen and the king's golden sceptre."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Esther 5. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A king ruled a very big land (Esther 1:1). *(Spread your arms wide.)*
Esther lived with Mordecai. He took care of her (2:7). *(Hug yourself.)*
The king made Esther the queen (2:17). *(Put a pretend crown on your head.)*
A bad man named Haman wanted to hurt all of Esther's people (3:6). *(Make a sad face.)*
Mordecai sent word to Esther to go to the king and ask him for help (4:8). *(Point ahead.)*
But no one could go to the king unless he held out his golden sceptre (4:11). *(Hold up a pretend stick.)*
Esther and her people fasted for three days (4:16). *(Hold up three fingers.)*
Say it with me: "Esther was brave!"
Esther went in to see the king (5:1). *(Walk in place, slowly.)*
The king held out the golden sceptre! (5:2) *(Stretch your arm out.)*
Esther touched the top of it (5:2). *(Touch one fingertip.)*
Esther told the king about Haman's bad plan (7:6). *(Point your finger.)*
The king helped Esther's people. They were safe and glad (8:11, 8:16). *(Clap and cheer!)*
Say it with me: "God can help me be brave!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who became the queen? *(Esther, Esther 2:17)*
2. What did the king hold out? *(His golden sceptre, 5:2)*
3. Who did Esther help? *(Her people, 7:3, 8:11)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Mordecai told Esther that maybe she was queen 'for such a time as this.' That means for right now, to help her people." Teach the motion: on "for such a time," tap your wrist like a watch; on "as this," point down at the floor, right here. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Esther 4:14" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: Touch the Sceptre (5–10 minutes)

Sit on a chair and be the king. Each child takes a turn walking slowly up to you. Hold out the sceptre, and the child touches the top of it, like Esther did (Esther 5:2). Everyone cheers, "Esther was brave!" Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a crown and the king's golden sceptre and color them yellow. While they color, ask: "What did the king hold out? Who did Esther help?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for loving me.
Help me be brave like Esther. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, play Touch the Sceptre again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Left out on purpose: this lesson does not tell how Haman died (Esther 7:10) or about the fighting in chapter 9. If a child asks what happened to Haman, say: "The king stopped Haman, and he could not hurt Esther's people." You don't need to say more for this age.

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