

Lesson 5: I Will Be Brave like Esther and Mordecai

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that we need to stand up and take responsibility.
- 2) Learn that we can be brave like Esther and Mordecai from the Book of Esther.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class
- The Bible Story of the Book of Esther – one copy for teacher to read from
- Esther Visual Aids – one copy for class to share
- Be Responsible Activity Sheet – one per student (The back side will be used for drawing activity)

Optional:

- Just in Time Esther (Arch Books) – purchase online or get from library if available
- Small Pieces of Paper with different chores/responsible situations listed – one per student
- Cup/Container – one to put strips of paper inside

Snack:

- No Snack to show importance of fasting
- Water/Cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at the picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.



Lesson 1: We should stay focused on Jesus. We do so by 1) getting rid of things that stop us from focusing 2) we work in all things with Jesus in mind, and 3) we think of Jesus throughout the day.

Lesson 2: We need to put God first by loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Lesson 3: We need to seek God and we can do so like Jesus by taking some quiet time every day to pray.

Lesson 4: We are to love others as ourselves. Meaning we need to go out of our way to show love to others by our words, thoughts, prayers and actions.

2) We Can Be Brave and Responsible

15 minutes

For the next few lessons we will look at different people in the Bible who were brave. They were true heroes. Not the pretend ones we see on T.V. but real heroes who had to make real tough decisions.

Being a true hero has nothing to do with the superheroes we see in the movies. What makes a true hero special is their character. Who they choose to be, even when it is tough to do so, or even when it is uncool, hard, or lonely. All the heroes we will study about were truly brave. They had such a deep faith and firm understanding of God and Jesus. This gave them the faith, belief, strength and power to be courageous, determined, daring, and loving.

3) I Can Take on Responsibility Drawing and Discussion

10 minutes

Tell the students: **I am going to mention 3 different situations, raise your hands and tell me how you would be responsible in the situation.**

Situation 1: Your parents have told you to always ask for permission before you use the computer. One day, your friend comes over and wants to play computer games. Your parents are not home. She tells you it does not matter, because they will never know. You think about how your friend might not like you anymore if you don't do it. What do you do? *(You tell your friend that you and him/her can do something else more fun than being on the computer anyway, and that even though your parents aren't home you love and respect them and wouldn't do something that would upset them.)*

Situation 2: You're watching TV and your little brother comes in the room. You've been told that when your little brother comes in you cannot watch anything other than the kids shows that are suitable for his age. You are watching something that is too mature for him to see. What do you do? *(Change the channel to something appropriate, or better yet, turn off the TV and play a game with your little brother.)*

Situation 3: Your minister has told you that he will come to your house this week and study the Bible with you on a topic that you have asked him for help with. It is Friday and you haven't heard from him so you get upset and tell your friends in the church that the minister doesn't do what he says and is not helpful. Later in the afternoon he calls you to meet in the evening. You meet with him and feel bad for saying those mean things about him. What should you do to be brave and responsible? *(Admit and apologize to the minister and tell your friends you were wrong and admit what you said was hurtful and not right).*

After going through the three situations, hand out one blank piece of paper (use the blank side of the Be Responsible Activity Sheet, crayons/pencil crayons or markers to each student. Say to students:

We are going to draw a responsibility page. We will do the other activities on the other side later. Now we are focusing on drawing. Think about some responsibilities you have at home or that you believe you can ask mom or dad to become responsible for, as well as situations you have had to be responsible and then draw them on the paper. Try to fill up the paper with as many different responsibilities and responsible situations as you can. At least five.

Help as needed. Some ideas to mention might be: feeding the dog, taking out the garbage, setting the table, helping a friend who has had trouble with a bully, etc.

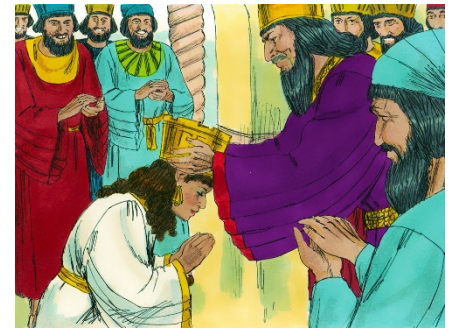
4) The Story of Esther – How to be Brave and Responsible

10 minutes

*Have visual aids of Esther and the Bible Story Book of Esther Sheet ready.

Take the “Bible Story Book of Esther” Sheet and read from it, explaining to the students that: **We are going to read from the Bible of two brave people – Esther and Mordecai. And, that to be brave, meant they had to be very responsible.**

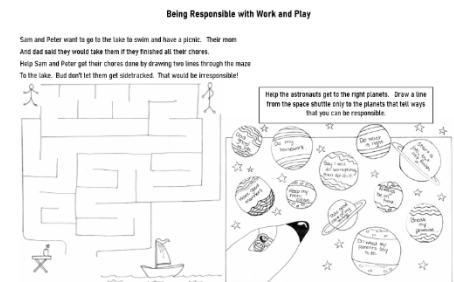
*This story is condensed as it is too long to read the entire book of Esther. It is taken from the NKJV version. Read instructions from attached Bible story of Esther sheet, then read the story and ask questions from the sheet. While you are reading have a student or yourself show visual aids.



5) Be Responsible Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student, or have them flip drawing page if they kept the pages on the table. Hand out a pencil. Read the directions and help as needed. When done go through the maze and planets to read through different ways we can and should be responsible.



6) A Good Job Story and Questions

15 minutes

Read the following story

Mr. and Mrs. Baker lived next door to Sarah. One day, the Bakers saw Sarah playing, and they called her to come to the fence. They asked her if she would like to have a job. “We are going on vacation for two weeks and we need a responsible person to take care of our dog, Scruffy, while we are gone. Would you be interested in the job? We will pay you when we get back, if you do a good job.”

“Wow! I would love to! Let me ask my mom if it is okay,” said Sarah.

Sarah’s mom told her it is was a big responsibility to take care of someone else’s property, especially a dog. She asked Sarah if she was sure she wanted to do it. Sarah was very sure!

The day before they left, Mr. Baker showed Sarah where the food was kept and how much to give Scruffy each day. He said, “Be sure he has enough water since it is so hot. The way a dog keeps cool in the summer is by drinking lots of water, so that is very important. You will also need to use this leash and take him for a walk three times every day. Can you handle that?”

“Yes sir,” Sarah replied. She reached down and patted Scruffy on the head. “Ok then,” Mr. Baker said, “we are leaving tonight. You can start tomorrow.”

The next day, Sarah felt important as she did her job. Every day for a week and a half, Sarah fed and watered Scruffy and took him for his walks.

Just three days before the Bakers were supposed to come back home, something terrible happened! Just as she opened the gate, Scruffy took off running – out the gate and down the street! Sarah shouted, “Scruffy, Scruffy! Come back here!”

Sarah ran down the street chasing Scruffy, thinking, "Oh, no, what will Mr. and Mrs. Baker say if something happens to Scruffy? What if he gets away and I can't find him? It is my job to take care of him!" Sarah ran and ran, calling, "Scruffy, Scruffy!"

Scruffy saw a cat in Miss Johnson's yard. He chased it around and around the yard until it climbed high up in a tree. Sarah had almost caught up with Scruffy, when he took off again. He ran through flower beds, over a big rock and under a parked car.

Then Scruffy finally stopped...right in a big mud puddle! When Sarah caught him, she was so out of breath and Scruffy was covered in mud from top to bottom - what a mess!

Sarah carried him home, bathed him, and dried him off. He looked as good as new, but now Sarah was dirty all over.

On Saturday, when the Bakers came home, they were so glad to see Scruffy. They called Sarah to come over and get her money. Mrs. Baker said, "You must have done a great job with Scruffy! He looks clean and healthy and happy! Thank you, Sarah. I hope he was no trouble."

"Not much at all," giggled Sarah.

Questions:

What did Sarah do that was responsible?

What did she do that was super responsible?

What might have happened if Sarah hadn't been responsible?

What is an important responsibility you have? What could happen if you aren't responsible?

7) Optional: What if Questions

10-15 minutes

Being responsible means doing your job well. How would the world be different if people didn't do their jobs well? What if everyone was irresponsible? We will read a "What if" question. Think about it. Then we will discuss what could happen if these people were irresponsible.

1. What if a doctor prescribed the wrong medicine?
2. What if a babysitter was watching TV while the baby crawled out the front door?
3. What if a teacher never taught reading?
4. What if an ambulance driver forgot to put gas in the ambulance?
5. What if a mail carrier lost a box of letters?
6. What if it was your job to take out the trash, but you never did?
7. What if it was your job to feed the fish, but you never did?
8. What are ways we can be more responsible at home?
9. What are ways we can be more responsible at school?
10. What are ways we can set the example at home?
11. What are ways we can set the example at school?

8) Optional: Responsibility Charades

10-15 minutes

Before class write down a list of chores on different pieces of paper (for example: doing dishes, making bed, feeding the dog, helping someone who fell, going to bed on time, brushing teeth, sharing toys with siblings, etc.) Make sure there is one per student. Put them in a cup.

Have the students take turns picking a piece of paper and acting out the responsibility that students have. The others can guess what kind of responsibility is being acted out.

9) Lesson Review**5 minutes**

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer.

We all have responsibilities. Some are planned and we know in advance, like going to bed on time or helping a brother or sister. But some are not planned. Like Esther and Mordecai, sometimes responsibility comes upon us and we just need to do it. That takes bravery to stand up and be responsible.

What was Esther responsible for? Saving her people by going to the king even though she could be killed for doing so.

What was Mordecai responsible for? Standing up to Haman and revealing issues to Esther and the King.

How can we be responsible and brave like Esther and Mordecai? Let students answer.

Optional questions to ask:

What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

10) I Will Follow Songs**5-10 minutes**

If time choose songs that relate to this lesson from the "I Will Follow Songs" sheets.

11) Optional: Memory Verse**2-5 minutes**

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **John 14:6** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "*I am the way*" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point ahead when you say "the way", point to their Bibles when they say "truth", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

12) Optional - Snack: No snack**5 minutes**

Say: **Normally we have a snack at this time. But today we are not. Do you know why? When Esther and Mordecai were faced with a serious problem, they went to God in prayer and they also fasted (meaning they had no food) for three days so they could focus all their energy on God and show how serious this situation was for them. To help us remember the story of Esther and the seriousness of it, we too are going to "fast" by not having our snack today. We will instead focus on God and any issues we are facing through prayer.**

13) Close in prayer

Esther prayed for guidance to know what to do. She also got others involved to help her pray. Are there any thoughts or concerns on your mind today that you would like us to pray for?

It is so nice that we can rely on God through prayer to help us be brave like Esther and Mordecai!

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who died so we can live for eternity with You in Heaven. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words by looking in the Bible. Thank you that we can spend time with You in prayer, getting to know You better and finding peace and joy in the quiet time we spend with You.

Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, with all our mind, soul, heart and strength. For You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve and love others and You, even now at our young age. Help us be brave and responsible. To take joy in working hard for You. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. Help us to stay focused on Jesus and make the right choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.