Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King

Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go. Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

After Worship:

Bible Presentation:

Live Host:
"Alright Victory Kids — now I need everyone's attention, because this moment is super special!" *(Pauses for effect)* "Here at Victory Kids, we love when friends come to visit… but we REALLY love when they come back again… and again… and again!"*(Smiles big)*

"So today, if this is your **third time** hanging out with us here at Victory Kids, we've got something AWESOME just for you!" "If that's you — go ahead and **raise your hand nice and high** so our team can spot you. Come to the stage because we want to celebrate you BIG TIME!" We have something really special that we want to give you…"*(Team members hand out Bibles)* "A brand-new **Bible** just for YOU! Because we believe God's Word is the best gift ever — it's full of hope, adventure, truth, and it reminds us every day who we are and how much God loves us!"

Can we clap it up and make some noise for our third-time friends getting their Bibles today?!"*(Claps hands, and waits for applause, celebrates big)*. And if you're sitting there thinking, 'Hey, I want a Bible like that!' — no worries! Keep coming, keep learning, and we'll have something for you too!"

Connect: Check In / Pre Service Games

10 Mins

(This is optional, if it isn't needed. Please feel free not to use it)

Pre Service Game Stations: As students are being checked in, use this time to get to know each student. Help them get comfortable in the classroom and find a friend or group to play games with. If you have enough volunteers in the room, get involved with the games. Fun builds trust with kids, so don't be afraid to have fun with them! Make sure everyone helps put away preservice games before large groups start.

Game Stations

20 Mins

Live Host: Let's have our leaders come down to the front to get ready for games!

Are you ready for a game? Shout YES! I can't hear you! Let's get ready to play THE ROYAL SCEPTER RELAY! *(Note for Live Host: make sure to give commentary during the game, and encourage the audience to cheer throughout the game).*

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THE ROYAL SCEPTER RELAY

- **Supplies:** 2 toy scepters, 2 crowns, 2 robes, one table at the starting line
- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 2 contestants to join me on stage. This game is called The Royal Scepter Relay! When I say go, the contestants will put on the robe and crown and grab the scepter and race to the finish line. The contestant who reaches the finish line first wins and receives 2 Bible Bucks!

CROWN STACK CHALLENGE

- **Supplies:** Plastic cups and 2 toy crowns
- **Live Host**: Alright, Victory Kids, I need 2 contestants to join me on stage. Get ready because this game is called Crown Stack Challenge! The two contestants each have a stack of cups. They have 30 seconds to build the tallest palace tower they can and place a crown on top. If the tower falls, they can rebuild. The tallest standing tower with its crown still up top when the time is up wins and receives 1 Bible Buck!

FLOW: WELCOME, FIRST-TIME VISITORS, WORSHIP & OFFERING

25 MINS

Live Host: *(Note: invite a child up to pray for offering and today's service)*. We want to welcome our first-time visitors in a big way! If this is your first time visiting with us, we are so excited that you are here!

INTRO: MEMORY VERSE

5 MINS

Live Host: Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King! This month, we're learning what it looks like to live for God, our King. Living for the King means trusting Him, following His ways, and having courage to do what is right, even when it feels hard or scary. Our memory verse reminds us why we can live with courage. We don't have to be afraid because God, our King, is with us wherever we go. *(Pick a student to come and say the MV.)*

Now, if you're ready to trust God and live for the King, shout, "Be strong and courageous!" ...Cue the memory verse video!

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LESSON RECAP VIDEO

1 MIN

Script for video: Our theme for the month is Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King. Last week we learned to live A Life That Honors The King through the life of Daniel. There were three main points: 1. Keep Living God's Way; 2. Keep Following God Every Day; 3. Keep Letting Your Life Point to God. This month's memory verse is from Joshua 1:9, "Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go." Victory Kids, let's get ready for today's lesson.

LIVE HOST'S INTRO TO LESSON

5-7 MINS

Live Host: Victory Kids, hear ye, hear ye! Welcome back to **Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King!** Last week, we learned from Daniel that living for the King is something we do every day. This week, we're learning that God can use us right where He has placed us to make a difference and help others. Have you ever wondered how God could use you at school, at home, at church, or even with your friends? You don't have to be older, have a special job, or wait until someday for God to use you. Today, we'll meet Queen Esther and discover how the place she was in gave her an opportunity to do something important for God's people.

So, Victory Kids, get ready to enter Heaven's Kingdom and discover what it means to be **READY WHEN THE KING CALLS!**

Key Scripture: Today's key scripture is James 4:17, "And when a person knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, then he is sinning."

LESSON VIDEO

2-3 MINS

(Found in the media file)

MINISTRY LESSON

10 MINS

Supplies: 1 Bible Bucks, 1 challenge card

Live Host Hook: Victory Kids, I need one contestant who is willing to make a choice! *(Choose a volunteer.)* I have a mystery challenge right here. I'm not going to tell you what it is yet. You have two choices. You can say NO and go back to your seat, or you can say YES and accept the challenge before you know exactly what you'll have to do. What will you choose? *(Allow the contestant to decide.)*

(If the contestant says YES) You said YES to the opportunity! Now let's see what you agreed to do.

Challenge Card: Do 15 jumping jacks while shouting, "I'M LIVING FOR THE KING!"
(Allow the contestant to complete the challenge and award them 1 Bible Buck.)

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Great job! You didn't know exactly what would happen when you said yes, but you chose to take the opportunity.

Victory Kids, sometimes opportunities to do something important come when we don't expect them. We have to decide what we will do. Today, we're going to meet someone who was given an opportunity to help others. Her choice was much more serious than our game, but she had to decide: Would she say yes and use the opportunity she had been given?

Let's find out!

- **God Has a Purpose For Where You Are**

Esther lived many years after God's people had been taken away from their homeland. Esther was a young Jewish woman who lived in a place called Persia. After her parents died, her older cousin Mordecai took care of her. Later, King Xerxes chose Esther to become queen, but the king did not know that Esther was Jewish. One day, a powerful man named Haman became angry with Mordecai because Mordecai would not bow down to him. Haman made a terrible plan. He convinced the king to make a law that would allow the Jewish people to be killed. When Mordecai heard about the plan, he was very upset. He sent a message to Esther and asked her to help.

Victory Kids, imagine finding out that someone you care about was in serious trouble and you had a chance to help. What would you do? (Allow responses.) Esther was now in a position where she could make a difference. She had a choice to make. Would she stay quiet and do nothing, or would she choose to live for the King and do what was right?

- **God Can Use You Right Where You Are**

Mordecai wanted Esther to go to King Xerxes, but there was a problem. Even the queen could not approach the king without being invited. Anyone who did could be put to death unless the king held out his golden scepter. Esther had not been invited to see the king for 30 days. Esther knew going to the king could cost her life, but she also knew her people were in danger. She had a choice to make. Would she protect herself, or would she choose to do what was right?

Then Mordecai helped Esther see that her position as queen gave her an opportunity to help God's people. In Esther 4:14, he asked whether she might have become queen "for such a time as this." Esther could have stayed quiet, but she chose to use the position God had given her to make a difference. Victory Kids, living for the King means looking beyond ourselves and choosing God's way. Sometimes that means helping someone who is being left out, standing up for someone who is being mistreated, or doing what is right when it would be easier to stay quiet. Esther had an important choice to make, and she chose to live for the King.

- **God Can Use Your Yes**

Esther made her decision. She told Mordecai to gather the Jewish people in Susa and have them fast for three days. Esther and the young women with her would fast too. Then she would go before the king, even though it was against the law. Esther knew what it could cost her. In Esther 4:16, she said, "If I die, I die." Esther had decided to say yes! After three days, Esther put on her royal clothes and entered the king's courtyard. King Xerxes was sitting on his throne. Imagine what Esther was feeling as she took those steps toward the king. The king saw Esther and held out his golden scepter. She was safe! Esther walked forward and touched the end of the scepter. Then the king asked what she wanted.

Victory Kids, Esther did not just recognize that she had an opportunity. She chose to follow God and put her faith into action. Living for God means we do not just know what is right.

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We choose to do what is right, even when it is difficult or costs us something. Maybe you need to admit when you are wrong, give up something you want, or make a choice your friends do not understand. We can choose God's way because we know He has called us to live for Him. Esther saw the opportunity God had given her, and she chose to act. That is what it means to LIVE FOR THE KING! But Esther's mission is not finished. She is standing before the king, and he is ready to hear what she has to say. What will Esther do next? Come back next week and find out!

MINISTRY MOMENT

10 MINS

Raise your hand and tell me something you learned today. I am giving away Bible bucks!

Today, we learned to be **READY WHEN THE KING CALLS!**

- **God Has a Purpose For Where You Are**
- **God Can Use You Right Where You Are**
- **God Can Use Your Yes**

Esther learned that her people were in danger and realized God had placed her in a position where she could make a difference. She chose to live for the King by using the opportunity God gave her and saying yes to what was right, even when it was difficult.

Call to Action

Ask God, Then Act

For your call to action this week:

This week do not wait for a big opportunity. Look for one small way to live for the King right where you are. Each morning, pray, God, use me this week to _____. Ask God to help you fill in the blank.

Don't forget we will share next week and receive Bible Bucks!

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WRAP-UP & CLOSING PRAYER

5 MINS

(If your campus begins with small groups, please ask review questions before closing prayer. If your campus ends with small group, move directly to closing prayer (these questions will be asked and answered in small group)

1. Who was the main person in today's Bible lesson? **Esther.**
2. Who raised Esther after her parents died? **Mordecai**
3. What position did Esther have in the kingdom? **She was the queen.**
4. Who made a plan against the Jewish people? **Haman.**
5. What does living for the king mean? **Various Answers**

Before we move to small group, let us take a moment to pray.

Closing Prayer *(Please feel free to encourage the children to lead)*

Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us through Esther what it means to live for the King. Help us choose Your way, use what You have given us, and say yes when You give us an opportunity to do what is right. Help us remember that You can use us right where we are to make a difference. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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SMALL GROUP OPTION ONE - (There are TWO options provided for small group the second one is for the campuses that does small group first)

Intro

Live Host: Good morning, everyone! I hope you enjoyed today's lesson. Can anyone tell me what you learned today? *(wait for students' responses)*

Lesson Recap: Today, we learned how Esther chose to live for the King when she discovered that her people were in danger. Esther learned that God had a purpose for where she was, that He could use her right there in the palace, and that her yes could make a difference. Even though going before King Xerxes could cost her life, Esther chose to act. Let's see what you remember! What are the three things we learned from Esther today? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! God has a purpose for where you are, God can use you right where you are, and God can use your yes. Great job, Victory Kids! Esther showed us what it looks like to LIVE FOR THE KING!

Our story today came from the book of Esther. Is Esther in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (Pause for responses.) That's right, the Old Testament! Now grab your Bible and see who can be the first to find **Esther 4:14** for a Bible Buck!

Icebreaker

(this icebreaker has two parts: questions from today's lesson and the call to action from last week)

1. Who was the main person in today's Bible lesson? **Esther.**
2. Who raised Esther after her parents died? **Mordecai**
3. What position did Esther have in the kingdom? **She was the queen.**
4. Who made a plan against the Jewish people? **Haman.**
5. What does living for the king mean? **Various Answers**

Before we move to small group, let us take a moment to pray.

Great job answering the questions. Does anybody remember what we were supposed to do last week for our call to action? Wait for responses...

Our Call to Action for last week: The 7-Day Prayer Challenge

Choose one time each day this week to stop and pray. It could be when you wake up, before school, at dinner, or before bed. Daniel made prayer part of his everyday life, and you can too. Your challenge is to talk to God every day this week. Remember, whoever shares receives Bible Bucks!

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Prayer Requests

Tell students we're starting prayer, remain with eyes closed, and focus attention on God. Ask for any prayer requests they would like to share. If your small group needs a little encouragement, give them categories like **family, school, or friends** to get them thinking about areas they need prayer in. After students share, lead the group in prayer, covering each prayer request, using the name of each student that asks for prayer.

Recap Call to Action

5 Mins

Today, we learned about **A LIFE THAT HONORS THE KING!**

The 7-Day Prayer Challenge

For your call to action this week:

Choose one time each day this week to stop and pray. It could be when you wake up, before school, at dinner, or before bed. Daniel made prayer part of his everyday life, and you can too. Your challenge is to talk to God every day this week. Don't forget we will share next week and receive Bible Bucks!

S.O.A.P

10 Mins

Please use the S.O.A.P sheet.

Activity: (Optional)

This activity can be taken from the game station section if needed.

Closing Prayer

(Optional - you can invite a child to pray)

Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us through Esther what it means to live for the King. Help us choose Your way, use what You have given us, and say yes when You give us an opportunity to do what is right. Help us remember that You can use us right where we are to make a difference. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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S.O.A.P

S.O.A.P is a simple but helpful way to study the Bible and apply it to our own lives.

S.O.A.P stands for, **SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATIN, APPLICATIN AND PRAYER** and involves four simple steps.

S: SCRIPTURE

You physically write out the scripture. You'll be amazed what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and actually write out what you are reading!

O: OBSERVATIN

What do you notice about the verses? What do you think the main message is? What verses, words or ideas jump out to you? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words?

A: APPLICATIN

Ask God how He wants you to apply the verse to your own life. This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?

P: PRAYER

Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

LET'S S.O.A.P TOGETHER

"And when a person knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, then he is sinning."

James 4:17

Name:	Grade:	Date:

S.O.A.P

"And when a person knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, then he is sinning."
James 4:17

SCRIPTURE

What did you read?

OBSERVATION

What is God saying?

APPLICATION

What does this look like in my life?

PRAYER

Dear God...

SCAN ME

Check out this month's Memory Verse Song!

"Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go."
Joshua 1:9 (ICB)