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 DON'T LET THE CROWNS DROP! *(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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DON'T LET THE CROWNS DROP

- **Supplies:** 12 gold balloons, stopwatch

- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 6 contestants to join me on stage. You will be divided into 2 teams of 3. This game is called DON'T LET THE CROWNS DROP! These 12 gold balloons represent royal crowns, and your job is to keep every crown in the air! Team 1 will go first. When I say GO, we'll start the stopwatch, and all 3 players must work together to keep all 12 balloons in the air. You can hit the balloons with your hands, but you cannot hold them. As soon as one balloon touches the floor, STOP! We'll stop the stopwatch and record your time. Then we'll reset all 12 balloons, and Team 2 will take their turn using the same rules. The team that keeps all 12 crowns in the air for the longest amount of time wins, and each player receives 2 Bible Bucks!

  Victory Kids, let's see which team can keep the crowns from falling the longest! Team 1, are you ready? Ready, set, GO!

HELPING HAND

- **Supplies:** 2 pairs of oven mitts or oversized gloves, 20 plastic cups (10 per contestant), 4 plastic bins or baskets (2 per contestant)

- **Live Host**: Alright, Victory Kids, I need 2 contestants to join me on stage! This game is called HELPING HANDS! Each contestant will put on a pair of oven mitts or oversized gloves. In front of you is a bin with 10 plastic cups. On the other side is an empty bin. When I say GO, you will race to move your cups one at a time from the first bin to the empty bin using only your gloved hands. You cannot take off your gloves, and you can only carry one cup at a time. If you drop a cup, you must pick it up with your gloved hands before you continue. The first contestant to get all 10 cups into their empty bin wins and receives 1 Bible Buck! Contestants, are you ready? Ready, set, GO!

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: Victory Kids, hear ye, hear ye! Welcome to our series, **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 be Ready When the King Calls, through the life of Esther. There were three main points: 1. God Has a Purpose For Where You Are; 2. God Can Use You Right Where You Are; 3. God Can Use Your Yes. 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 that God had a purpose for where Esther was, and when the opportunity came, she said yes and went before King Xerxes. But Esther's mission wasn't finished. She still needed to tell the king why she had come and use her position to help her people. Living for the King means we don't only think about ourselves. God can use our words, actions, and opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. Today, we'll see how Esther waited for the right time, spoke up for her people, and continued helping until something was done.

So, Victory Kids, get ready to enter Heaven's Kingdom and discover how we can **LIVE FOR THE KING BY HELPING OTHERS!**

Key Scripture: Today's key scripture is Proverbs 31:8, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Defend the rights of all those who have nothing."

LESSON VIDEO

2-3 MINS

(Found in the media file)

MINISTRY LESSON

10 MINS

Supplies: A card that says, "I need a chair." and one chair placed off to the side

Live Host Hook: I need two volunteers! *(Bring two children on stage.)* Volunteer #1, I am going to show you a card, but there is one rule: you cannot talk. You have to get Volunteer #2 to understand what you need without using your voice.

(Show Volunteer #1 the card: "I need a chair." Give them a few moments to try to communicate the message.)

Okay, freeze! Victory Kids, was it easy for our volunteer to tell someone what they needed without using their voice? *(Allow responses.)* No! It was much harder when they could not speak.

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Now, Volunteer #1, you can tell Volunteer #2 what you need. *(Allow them to say, "I need a chair," and have Volunteer #2 get the chair.)*

Look how much changed when our volunteer was able to use their voice!

Victory Kids, God gives each of us different opportunities, abilities, and ways to make a difference. Esther had been given an important position as queen, and she had a voice that could help protect her people. Last week, Esther chose to step into the opportunity God had given her. Today, we are going to see what happened next and discover what it looks like to **LIVE FOR THE KING BY HELPING OTHERS!**

- **Keep Doing What is Right**

Victory Kids, if you had something really important to say, would you say it right away or think about the best time to say it? (Allow responses.) Esther had an important message for King Xerxes. The king asked Esther what she wanted and told her he was willing to grant her request. This was Esther's opportunity! But instead of immediately telling the king about Haman's plan, Esther invited King Xerxes and Haman to a banquet she had prepared.

At the banquet, the king asked Esther again, "What is your request?" Esther still waited. She invited the king and Haman to another banquet the next day and told the king she would answer his question then. Esther knew what she needed to say, but she also understood that the right thing was not always about saying something quickly. Sometimes living for the King means slowing down, praying, and thinking about the right way to respond. Victory Kids, we can do this too. Before we speak, we can pray and ask God for wisdom. We can think about our words and choose a way to respond that honors God. Living for the King means choosing God's way, even in the way we use our words.

- **Keep Using Your Influence for The Kingdom**

The next day, Esther held the second banquet for King Xerxes and Haman. Once again, the king asked Esther what she wanted. This time, Esther spoke. She told the king that she and her people had been marked to be killed. But there was something the king did not know. Esther was Jewish too! Esther could have stayed quiet, but she chose to use her position and her voice to help God's people. God had given Esther influence. Influence means having the ability to affect what someone thinks, says, or does. Esther used the influence God had given her to speak up and make a difference for others.

Victory Kids, God has given you influence too. You have influence with your friends, classmates, siblings, teammates, and even your family. People watch what you do, listen to what you say, and sometimes follow your example. When we live for the King, we use the influence God has given us to point people toward Him and make a difference for His Kingdom. What could you do if you saw someone being bullied at school? (Allow responses.) You could tell a teacher or another trusted adult. What if a friend told you something was happening that made them feel unsafe? You could help them tell an adult who can help. You can use your voice, your kindness, your ability to encourage someone, and the way you include others to influence people in a way that honors God.

- **Keep Living For the King**

Esther had finally exposed Haman's plan, and Haman was no longer a threat. It might seem like the story should be over. But there was still a problem! The law Haman had created had already been sent throughout the Persian Empire. Haman was gone, but the day set for attacking the Jewish people was still coming. Esther could have thought, "I already went before the king. I already told him the truth. I have done my part." But Esther knew her people still needed help. So she went before King Xerxes again. She cried and begged him to stop Haman's plan against the Jewish people.

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The king gave Esther and Mordecai authority to write another law that allowed the Jewish people to defend themselves.

Victory Kids, Esther did not stop after one good choice. She kept using the opportunities God gave her to help His people. Sometimes living for the King means continuing to do what is right even after we have already done something hard. Maybe you told an adult that someone was being bullied, but the problem continued. Keep speaking up to a trusted adult. Maybe you helped someone who was left out, but they still need a friend. Keep showing kindness. Living for the King means we keep choosing God's way and looking for ways to help others. Esther did not have the power to solve everything herself, but she used the position, voice, and opportunities God had given her to make a difference. And Victory Kids, God can use you too! Wherever you are, whatever you have, and whatever opportunities come your way, you can choose to **LIVE FOR THE KING!**

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 **Live for the King by Helping Others!**

- **Keep Doing What is Right**
- **Keep Using Your Influence for The Kingdom**
- **Keep Living for the King**

Esther chose to keep doing what was right, use the influence God had given her, and keep helping until something was done. Like Esther, we can live for the King by using our voices, actions, and influence to help others and point people toward God. God has given you influence too. The question is, how will you use it for the Kingdom?

Call to Action

Put Their Name in Your Prayers

For your call to action this week:

Choose one person you know who needs encouragement or help. Pray for them by name every day this week. Ask God to help them and to show you if there is a way you can encourage them. 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 did Esther need to speak to about her people? **King Xerxes.**
2. Why didn't Esther tell the king everything right away? **She was preparing for the right moment.**
3. What did Esther finally tell the king? **That she and her people were in danger.**
4. What did Esther use her influence to do? **Speak up for her people.**
5. How can prayer help you when you're afraid to speak up? **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 You, our King, by helping others. Help us notice when someone needs help and give us wisdom to know what to do. Teach us to pray for others, use our voices to speak up, and keep helping when we can. Help our words and actions show that we are living for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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)

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 continued to live for the King by using her position and her voice to help her people. What did Esther teach us about living for the King by helping others? (Allow responses.) That's right! We can pray for others, speak up when someone needs help, and use our actions to make a difference.

Is Esther in the Old Testament or New Testament? (Allow responses.) That's right, the Old Testament! Grab your Bible and see who can find **Esther 7:3** first 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 did Esther need to speak to about her people? **King Xerxes.**
2. Why didn't Esther tell the king everything right away? **She was preparing for the right moment.**
3. What did Esther finally tell the king? **That she and her people were in danger.**
4. What did Esther use her influence to do? **Speak up for her people.**
5. How can prayer help you when you're afraid to speak up? **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: Ask God, Then Act

For your call to action 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. 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 to **Live for the King By Helping Others!**

Put Their Name in Your Prayers

For your call to action this week:

Choose one person you know who needs encouragement or help. Pray for them by name every day this week. Ask God to help them and to show you if there is a way you can encourage them. 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 how to have courage to help others. Help us notice when someone needs help and give us wisdom to know what to do. Remind us to pray for others, give us courage to speak up, and help us keep helping when we can. Use our words and actions to show Your love to others. 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

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Defend the rights of all those who have nothing."

Proverbs 31:8

Name:	Grade:	Date:

S.O.A.P

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Defend the rights of all those who have nothing.”
Proverbs 31:8

SCRIPTURE

What did you read?

OBSERVATION

What is God saying?

What does this look like in my life?

APPLICATION

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)