Teaching Guide - Preschool & VSN

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)

Lesson - Living for the King means saying YES!

Welcome back to Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King! Victory Kids, let me hear you say, "YES!" (Have children shout, "YES!") Sometimes we have a chance to help someone, do what is right, or choose God's way. Living for the King means being ready to say yes to God's way!

SAY IT: I can say YES!

DO IT: Nod your head yes.

Today, we're going to learn about a queen named Esther. Can you say, "Esther"? (Have them repeat Esther.) Esther was a young Jewish woman. Her parents had died, so her older cousin Mordecai took care of her. Later, Esther was chosen to become queen! She lived in the palace and was married to King Xerxes. But the king did not know that Esther was Jewish.

One day, something happened that put Esther's people in danger. A powerful man named Haman became angry with Mordecai and made a terrible plan against the Jewish people. When Mordecai learned about the plan, he sent a message to Esther and asked her to help. Esther was now in a special place where she could make a difference. She was the queen! Mordecai helped Esther understand that God had a purpose for where she was and that she could use her position to help people. Victory Kids, God can use you right where you are too!

SAY IT: God can use me!

DO IT: Point both thumbs toward yourself.

But Esther had a big choice to make. Esther wanted to help, but she was not allowed to go see King Xerxes without his permission. If she went without being invited, she could be in big trouble unless the king held out his special golden staff, called a scepter. That meant Esther was welcome and safe. What would Esther do? Would she stay quiet, or would she say YES and try to help her people? Esther decided to say YES!

SAY IT: I can say YES to God's way!

DO IT: Nod your head yes.

After three days, Esther put on her royal clothes and walked into the king's courtyard. King Xerxes saw Esther and held out his golden scepter. Esther was safe! She walked forward, touched the scepter, and the king asked her what she wanted. Esther knew God could use her right where she was, and she chose to act. Victory Kids, living for the King means saying yes to God's way and using the opportunities He gives us to do what is right.

SAY IT: I say YES to God's way!

DO IT: Nod your head and give two thumbs up.

But Esther's story isn't finished! She is standing before the king, and he is ready to hear what she has to say. What will Esther do next?

SAY IT: Come back next week and find out!

DO IT: Point to someone and say, "See you next week!"

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, open our eyes to see people who need kindness and help. Show us ways we can make a difference, even though we are young. When You give us a chance to do something good, help us be ready to say, "Yes!" and do it. We want our choices to please You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lesson Questions - 10 Mins

2 & 3Yr Olds

1. What was the woman's name in our Bible story? **(Esther)**
2. Did Esther stay quiet and do nothing? **(No)**
3. Did Esther's people need help? **(Yes)**
4. Can we say yes to doing what is right? **(Yes)**

4Yrs - 1st Grade

1. Who raised Esther when her parents died? **(Mordecai)**
2. Who made a bad plan against Esther's people? (**Haman)**
3. What did Mordecai ask Esther to do? (**Go to the king for help)**
4. Why was Esther worried about going to see the king? **(She had not been invited to see him, and going without being invited was dangerous.)**

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Activity 1: Gold Scepter Relay

Items Needed: 2 Yellow Pool Noodles, Starting Line, Finish Line

Connection: Esther needed courage to go before King Xerxes.

Step 1: Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up behind the starting line.
Step 2: Place one gold pool noodle at the finish line for each team.
Step 3: When you say, "GO!" the first child from each team races to the finish line and touches the golden scepter.
Step 4: After touching the scepter, the child races back to the starting line and tags the next person on their team.
Step 5: The next child races to the finish line, touches the scepter, and returns to tag the next child.
Step 6: Continue until everyone has had a turn. The first team to finish the relay wins!

Activity 2: Find the YES!

Items Needed: Paper "YES" Cutouts, Basket

Connection: Esther chose to say YES and do what was right. Living for the King means saying yes to God's way when we have an opportunity to help or make a good choice!

Step 1: Before class, hide the YES cutouts around the room.
Step 2: Tell the children, "Esther said YES to God's way! Let's see if we can find all the YESes hidden around the room."
Step 3: Have the children search for the YES cutouts. Each time a child finds one, have them bring it back and place it in the basket.
Step 4: When all the YES cutouts have been found, gather the children around the basket and shout together, "I can say YES to God's way!"

Activity 3: Bubble Party OR Story Time

Items Needed: Bubbles and music OR book basket

We've got some extra time today, so let's spend it worshipping and dancing with bubbles or reading a book to the class (please show the pictures on each page).

Craft or Coloring Sheet (use 1 or 2 options depending on class age & time)

Craft 1: Queen Esther Bible Story Wheel Craft

Items Needed: Queen Esther Bible Story template, scissors, hole punch, crayons, and paper fasteners

Connection: Esther learned that her people needed help and had courage to say yes to doing what was right.

Step 1: Give each child a pre-cut and pre-hole-punched Queen Esther Bible Story Wheel template and have them color the pictures.
Step 2: Help the children put the story wheel together with paper fasteners.
Step 3: Help children write their name on the back.

Craft 2: Say Yes Coloring Sheet

Items Needed: Coloring sheet and crayons.

Connection: Esther says yes to doing what is right.

Step 1: Distribute the coloring sheets and allow time to color.


LIVING FOR THE KING
MEANS
SAYING YES!