

# **ESTHER**

## **ART WORKSHOP**

### **PASSAGE**

**Story:** Book of Esther

**Memory Verse:** Esther 4:14b

### **PURPOSE**

See Bible Background

### **Objectives**

God chooses ordinary people to do His work. God gives us strength to do things that seem too hard. God calls each and every one of us to spread His message.

### **Objectives for Art Workshop**

- Children will locate the story of Esther in the Bible.
- Children will identify the main characters in the story: Esther, Haman, Mordecai, King Xerxes and Queen Vashti.
- Children will identify characteristics of these Biblical people.
- Children will recognize that God often uses ordinary people to accomplish His will.
- Children will create masks which symbolize the characters and make groggers (noisemakers) for the Drama workshop.
- Children will memorize Esther 4:14.

### **ADVANCE PREPARATION**

In order to read the story of Esther, a scroll will be made with a paraphrase of Esther on it. This is used for all rotations. Materials are as follows:

Copy of story – nicely written if possible, perhaps calligraphied

Dowel rods

Markers

Paper

Ribbon – 1 1/2" wide, red is best

Glue or staple paper onto dowels, glue a copy of the story onto the paper. Roll up and secure with ribbon.

## **PREPARATION**

### **Materials List**

- Bibles, Scroll (Megillah Esther) for leader
- Markers
- Flip chart
- Decorative items such as fabric scraps, glue-on jewels, ribbon, sequins, and sewing trims
- Glue -- liquid and sticks
- Metallic gold/silver paper, yarn, tissue paper scraps
- Scissors
- Paper plates

For the groggers:

crepe paper streamers, dried beans, markers, paper plates, scissors, stapler and staples

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Open - Introduction**

Welcome the children and do introductions. Gather the children around the table with their Bibles.

Open with prayer: Dear God, Thank You for this day and for everyone who is here today. We ask You to help us now as we learn more about You through this story. Be with us this hour and always. Amen.

Ask: What is a hero? Who is a hero you know about? What is a villain (or bad guy)?

Say: The Bible is full of amazing stories of heroes and villains. What is most unusual about these people is that they seem like just regular, ordinary people. But God uses them in extraordinary ways! Today's story is about a woman named Esther who was a heroine to her people, the Jews. Everyone thought she was just an ordinary, not-too-special Jewish girl. But God knew better! God had big plans for Esther. Esther lived about 500 years before Jesus was born.

Ask: Would we find the story of Esther in the New Testament or the Old Testament? (Old) Remind the children that stories of people who lived before Jesus are found in the Old Testament. Have the children open their Bibles and locate the book of Esther. If there are special Bible notes or introduction pages in their Bibles, review those. Have the children locate the Bible memory verse, Esther 4:14 and read it together.

Say: It sounds like Esther has a choice to make. Let's see what happens in the story. Because the story is so long, once the children have located it in their Bible, plan to paraphrase the story, using the scroll.

Note: As the Rotation progresses, children will become more familiar with the story.

Allow the children to tell what they recall of the story before beginning. Then add to their retelling, fill in the gaps, and add extra details or information from the background notes.

### **Dig - Main Content.**

Say: Let's think about some of the people we just read about in the story. What were these people like? What do we know about them? List character traits or descriptions of each of the four characters in the appropriate place on the board or chart.

If the children get stuck, get them started with some of these ideas.

Esther: brave, Jewish, orphan, beautiful, afraid at first, smart, became Queen, saved her people.

Mordecai: Jewish, took care of Esther, honest, good citizen (told about the plot to kill the king), caring, humble, Esther's cousin.

Haman: Proud, mean, selfish, hated the Jewish people, official of the king's court.

Xerxes: King, powerful, loved Esther.

### **Activity: Character Masks**

Have the children make masks for the four individual characters. Depending on the size of the group, have the children work in pairs or do individual masks. Be sure all the characters are covered, but consider including multiple Esthers, Hamans and so forth.

After the masks are completed, gather the children together. Have each group take turns telling about their character masks -- who the character is, what they were like, what role they played in the story.

### **Activity: Groggers**

Groggers are traditional noise-makers used for Purim celebrations. Listeners shake them to drown out Haman's name during the story (drama workshop).

Make a simple grogger by folding a paper plate in half. Put some dried beans in the center. Place crepe paper streamers in the plate so they are hanging out, then staple the plate closed. Decorate with markers/stickers. You can make extra for those who are absent so that you have enough on hand for the drama workshop.

### **Reflect - Closure**

Discuss some of the following thoughts/questions with the children:

Mordecai knew that God had a plan. He trusted God to take care of his people. He believed that God would use Esther to make a difference. What did Mordecai do to try to convince Esther to act? Have you ever tried to convince someone to do what was right?

What did you do?

How did Esther respond at first? Why was she afraid? Even though Esther was afraid, she did the right thing. What do you think gave Esther the courage to face the king even though she knew she could be killed? What gives you courage?

Closing Prayer: Gather the children together. Ask for prayer requests. Pray together: Dear God, We thank You for the stories You have given us of Your people. We thank You for showing us that no matter what happens You have a plan and You want what is best for us. Thank You for being with us always. Give us courage to do the right things this week. Amen.

Clean up: Have the children help clean up and put away all supplies.