



## R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

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| <b>LESSON TITLE</b><br>Bible stories – Esther                                                                                                                                   | <b>LEARNING STAGE</b><br>KS1                                                                                                                              | <b>WST TEACHER/DATE</b><br>Mrs Tricia Bastable/ Mrs Johanna Jordan/ Mrs Fiona Penny                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AIM:</b><br>To learn the Bible story of Esther<br><br><b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b><br>To understand what Christians believe about God using the old Testament story of Esther. | <b>MAIN AREA/S OF LEARNING</b><br>(Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22)<br><br>Beliefs and practices<br>Sources of wisdom<br><br><b>Other AOL covered:</b> | <b>LESSON RESOURCES</b><br><b>WST will bring:</b><br>PowerPoint (USB)<br>Story<br>Bibles - adult and children's copies<br>Worksheets to photocopy<br>Jewel stickers to decorate Esther's crown on worksheet<br>Song: <a href="https://youtu.be/w5qca3aJ_sl?si=laemNxi0afGinR-j">https://youtu.be/w5qca3aJ_sl?si=laemNxi0afGinR-j</a><br><b>School to provide:</b><br>Photocopies of worksheet<br>Colouring pencils |

### Introduction

Introduce the idea of the Bible as a special book to Christians because it tells them what God is like.(show Bible) It doesn't describe what God looks like but it does tell us what his character is like; that he is caring and kind and loves everyone.

The Bible is in two parts, the Old Testament about God and his followers and the New part which tells us about Jesus and the people who followed him. Today we're going to look at an Old Testament story. It's a story about a woman called Esther.  
Esther was an ordinary girl who lived with her cousin Mordecai. But one day her life changed forever, because God had a special plan for her. Christians believe that God always has a plan. His big plan for the whole world was to show us how much he loves us and that he forgives us even when we mess up. Sometimes it can be difficult to see God's big picture when bad things happen. Christians read the Bible to remind them that God always has a plan for good.

Look at close-up pictures on the screen. Ask children whether they can recognize the items. Make the point that it can be hard to see what something is if we don't see the whole picture.

### Main content:

Introduce the main characters in the story, including king Xerxes, Mordecai, Haman and Esther. Tell the story of Esther using an interactive story and pictures from "Esther and the very brave plan" by Tim Thornborough (Good Book Company).

Discuss what happened to Esther and why?

Ask:-

- I wonder how Esther felt when she was chosen to be the Queen?
- I wonder how Esther felt when she heard about Haman's evil plan?

- I wonder how Esther felt when she decided to go to the King to tell him about Haman's evil plan?
- I wonder how Esther felt when Haman's evil plan was stopped and her people were saved?
- What does this story tell us about God?
- What other things can we learn from the story?

In the story Mordecai tells Esther that perhaps she was made queen for a reason. To save her people! He believed that all along, God had a plan. Christians believe that God always has a plan and even when bad things happen, they trust in God.

Esther chose to be brave and speak up for justice and save her people. She prayed and fasted for 3 days and trusted that God would answer her prayers. Christians believe that God always hears us when we pray and it helps them to be brave.

Discuss whether the children have ever had to be brave? What helped them to be brave?

Esther was willing to give her life to save her people. Can you think of someone else who gave his life for people? At Easter we remembered that Jesus gave his life on the cross. Every story in the Bible points a little bit to Jesus who helps people to be friends with God.

Watch "Be brave, be strong" song and join in with actions:  Be brave, be strong

### Activity

On the worksheet draw a picture of Esther approaching king Xerxes. Add a crown and decorate her dress and crown. Think of something that makes you special and write or draw it in the heart. Add a sentence to explain God's plan for Esther and why she became queen.

### Plenary

This story reminds Christians that God always has a plan. It helps them to have hope even when things seem to go wrong.

### Extension/enrichment activities

Explore the Jewish festival of Purim and links between Christianity and Judaism.

### Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

What helps us to be brave?

### Class teacher's notes

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit  
[www.watfordschoolstrust.org](http://www.watfordschoolstrust.org) or email [info@watfordschoolstrust.org](mailto:info@watfordschoolstrust.org)

