Esther 5:1-8; 8

06/08/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- <u>Read:</u> Esther 5:1-8; 8
- In This Passage: Esther is a Jew who has to marry King Xerxes. But Haman, the king's most powerful official, is trying to kill the Jews! Esther bravely asks the king to have dinner with her and then tells him about Haman's plot. The king makes a rule that allows the Jews to defend themselves, and many lives are saved. Esther didn't ask to become queen, but <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>.
- <u>Bible Point:</u> God puts us where we need to be.
- <u>Summary Verse:</u> "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Dig Deeper

- <u>You'll Be Teaching:</u> God puts us where we need to be. All of us have places we have to be or things we have to do that we'd rather not. Esther might not have wanted to be queen—she certainly didn't ask to be! But God put her in that place to save lives. Help kids see that wherever God puts them, they can serve him.
- <u>Think About:</u> What are some roles God has given you? What can you do for him in those roles?

Dig In to Prayer

• Pray that God would show kids how he wants to use them everywhere they go.

Quick Tip

 God has put you where you need to be—teaching Sunday school! Your own experiences in faith may shape the way you teach. You may teach with your own preferences, such as a desire for order, a quiet environment, or visual learning. It's great to be comfortable teaching! Just make sure you're in tune with your kids and focus on what's best for God to work in their hearts. God has put *you* in these kids' lives for such a time as this.

This Lesson at a Glance (CLICK ON EACH HEADING TO GO TO EACH ACTIVITY)

OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

• Bible (click here)

OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers build Potato Pals.

Supplies

- Mr. or Mrs. Potato Head sets (at least 1 for every 3 kids)
- "Potato Pal" handout (1 per child) (download <u>here</u>) (optional)
- crayons (optional)
- paper (optional)
- Glue Dots (optional)



Preschoolers try on a royal robe, pray for worries, play a game, have a feast, and celebrate.

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- red bulletin board paper
- dress-up cape or robe, purple or red towel, or purple or red blanket (1-3 for whole group)
- special snack (1 small portion for each child)
- 3-foot, 1-inch-thick dowel rod
- small ball
- red tissue paper
- yellow duct tape

Easy Prep

- Make a "Royal Runway" with the red bulletin board paper.
- If you have more than 10 kids, you may want to have 3 robes, so the robes can be rotated as kids walk down the Royal Runway.
- Make King Xerxes' scepter by covering the small ball with red tissue paper and taping it onto the end of the dowel rod with thin pieces of yellow duct tape.



Q DEEPER BIBLE

Preschoolers do a sorting activity.

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- 4 containers or baskets
- "Sorting" handout (download <u>here</u>)
- variety of clothes, such as dress-up clothes, scarves, and shoes

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the handout, and tape each picture to 1 of the 4 containers.
- Set out the 4 containers next to each other, and place all the objects in a large pile nearby.

- variety of round objects, such as balls, round toy fruit, yo-yos, and Frisbees
- variety of soft, comforting objects, such as stuffed animals, blankets, and small pillows
- variety of classroom toys, such as dolls, trucks, and building blocks
- tape

D TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Recommended for elementary kids.

Supplies

 "Buccaneer Adventure Island" teaching video (watch or download <u>here</u>)

A MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- "Wherever You Go" (Joshua
 1:9) (watch or download <u>here</u>)
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (watch or download <u>here</u>)
- "Great Things!" (watch or download <u>here</u>)

CRAFT

Preschoolers make organization containers.

Supplies

- paper lunch bags (at least 4 per child)
- markers
- child-safe scissors
- Glue Dots

LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a game like Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

Supplies

- "Playground" handout
 (download <u>here</u>)
- transparent tape
- masking tape
- blindfold (optional)

Easy Prep

• Make a sample craft to show kids.

Easy Prep

- Piece together the pages of the "Playground" handout to make a large picture of a playground. Tape the scene to the wall.
- Cut out the pictures of children from the handout, and put a piece of rolled-up tape on the back of each picture.
- Place a piece of masking tape on the floor about 3 feet away from the playground picture.

HIGH-ENERGY GAME

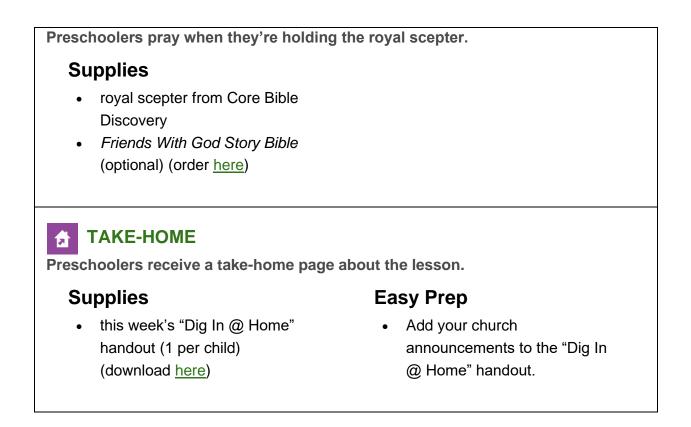
Preschoolers use a parachute to launch objects.

Supplies

0

- parachute or large bedsheet
- several plush objects (stuffed animals or balls work well)

LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP



*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

• Bible (click here)

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have preschoolers make a silly animal noise at two different friends.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say "yadhtrib yppah" ("happy birthday" backward).

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Today we'll learn that <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. That means we're at this church for a reason. Maybe the reason is that God wants us to learn something important at church. We also live in our neighborhood for a reason. Maybe the reason is so we can be friends with someone in our neighborhood. Today we'll hear about a girl who God put in a palace for a reason. A palace seems like a pretty special place. Let's talk about special places we like to go.

Share

Share about a special place you like to go and why.

In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about places *they* like to go and why.

After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: We all have special places we like to go. In the Bible, God put a young woman named Esther in a palace and made her queen. God put her where she needed to be so she could help his friends. <u>God puts us where we</u> <u>need to be</u>, too. The Bible tells about lots of different people he put in special places for a reason. God talks to us through the Bible. Let's listen to God as we hear from the Bible today.

Pray, thanking God for putting us where we need to be.



Supplies

- Mr. or Mrs. Potato Head sets (at least 1 for every 3 kids)
- "Potato Pal" handout (1 per child) (download here) (optional)
- crayons (optional)
- paper (optional)
- Glue Dots (optional)

<u>Tip</u>

• If you don't have Mr. or Mrs. Potato Head sets, cut out the parts from the "Potato Pal" handout, and have kids draw a big oval on a piece of paper to make the potato. Each child can create his or her own potato pal using parts from the handout and Glue Dots.

Make a Silly Potato Pal

Form groups of three, and give each group a set to make a potato pal. Say: Let's start by making a silly potato pal. In your group, take turns putting shoes, ears, and other parts where they don't belong. You could put the eyes on top of the head or the arm where the nose should be! Encourage groups to be creative and silly as they place the different parts on the potato.

Put Parts Where They Need to Be

Say: Your potato pals look so silly. But how will they walk or see? Their parts aren't where they need to be. Encourage kids to remove the parts and start over, this time placing each part where it needs to be to make a complete potato pal.

Say: **Our pals need shoes! Let's find shoes and put them where they need to be.** Encourage one group member to place shoes at the bottom of the potato.

Say: Our pals need eyes! Let's choose eyes and put them where they need to be. Have another group member give the potato eyes. Continue directing kids to place ears, a mouth, a nose, arms, and a hat where each part needs to be.

Talk About It

Say: Our potato pals look much better now that each part is where it needs to be. In our Bible story, God put Esther where she needed to be—in a palace! The palace was the right place for Esther, just like being in your house with your family is the right place for you! <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. Being in this

class today is the right place for all of us, and I'm glad our potato pals are here, too. Let's put them in a special place so they can watch the rest of our class time. Have kids carefully place their potato pals somewhere out of the way before moving on to another activity.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Esther: God Sends Esther to Save the Jews (Esther 5:1-8; 8)

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- red bulletin board paper
- dress-up cape or robe, purple or red towel, or purple or red blanket (1-3 for whole group)
- special snack (1 small portion for each child)
- 3-foot, 1-inch-thick dowel rod
- small ball
- red tissue paper
- yellow duct tape

Easy Prep

- Make a "Royal Runway" with the red bulletin board paper.
- If you have more than 10 kids, you may want to have 3 robes, so the robes can be rotated as kids walk down the Royal Runway.
- Make King Xerxes' scepter by covering the small ball with red tissue paper and taping it onto the end of the dowel rod with thin pieces of yellow duct tape.



Walk the Royal Runway

Have the children sit alongside the Royal Runway. Say: **Today we're learning** about a young woman named Esther. We'll hear how God put her right where she needed to be. God made Esther a queen, and God used her to save his friends. But Esther isn't the only one God uses to do important things. <u>God puts us where</u> we need to be, too. God put you in your neighborhood for a reason. He put you in

your family. God even put you in this church for a reason. We'll learn more about what that means today.

Place a Royal Robe (dress-up cape or robe, purple or red towel, or purple or red blanket) over your shoulders. As you walk from one end of the Royal Runway to the other, say: **The Bible tells us about a king named Xerxes** (ZERK-sees)**who was looking for a woman to marry and make his queen. King Xerxes had many young women to choose from, and he had them all spend time with him. After spending time with all the young women, King Xerxes chose Esther to be his wife.**

God put Esther where she needed to be, and <u>God puts us where we need</u> <u>to be</u>, too. It would be fun to live in a palace like Esther did. Let's pretend you're royal princes and princesses, walking along a fancy royal runway.

Have each child take a turn walking down the Royal Runway wearing the Royal Robe. As each child approaches the end, tell him or her, "[Name], God puts you where you need to be." If you have more than 10 kids, have additional adult or teen helpers stand at the end and give affirmations to some of the kids to speed up the process. You can also have adult or teen helpers running the robes from one end of the runway to the other and getting kids ready to walk using extra Royal Robes.

Pray Like Esther's Friends

Say: Esther was good friends with God, and so was her family. God put Esther where she needed to be. God planned to use Esther's job as queen to help God's people. One day, Esther's cousin learned something scary: A mean man wanted to hurt God's people, who were Esther's friends. Esther's cousin sent a message straight to her, letting her know what the mean man wanted to do.

Esther's cousin told her, "God put you where you need to be so you can save your friends. Because you're queen, you can ask the king for help." So Esther decided to be brave and talk to the king. The king could get mad at her or not listen to her. So before Esther talked to the king, God's people gathered together. They talked to God, and they didn't eat any food for three days! Lead the children in counting to three.

Say: They were very worried about what would happen if the king didn't listen to Esther.

Share about a time you were worried about something.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you were worried.** Have kids share in small groups, and then have adult or teen helpers report what they talked about in their small groups.

Say: Let's talk to God about our worries like God's people did. Lead the children in a prayer, asking God for help with the worries kids mentioned.

Say: God listened to his people. God knew about their worries, and he knew what to do. That's why he put Esther in the palace with the king. God put her there for a reason. <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>, too. We might be worried, but God will take care of us, and he'll use us to do important things.

Play a Game

Say: God did something important with Esther. God put Esther right where she needed to be to save her friends. <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>, too.

Show the scepter. Say: King Xerxes was very happy with Esther, but even so, people weren't allowed to talk to the king without his permission. King Xerxes had a scepter that looked kind of like this. It was just a special, decorated stick. If people wanted to talk to the king, they would come to his door. If he held out his scepter, then they would know they could come spend time with him. Demonstrate how he might've held out his scepter. Then bring the scepter close to your body. But if he didn't hold out his scepter, then they must not go to the king.

Stand at one end of the Royal Runway, and have a child stand at the other end. Explain that when you hold out the scepter, the child can move toward you. When you bring it close to your body, the child has to stop. Demonstrate, and then have all the children stand at one end of the Royal Runway while you stand at the other.

Play a game with all the kids, using the rules you demonstrated. If time allows, let a few children take turns holding the scepter.

Have the children sit in a circle. Then say: Like in our game, Queen Esther came to King Xerxes' door, and he held out his scepter. So she went to him and asked him if she could make him and one of his friends a special dinner. She didn't want to ask him for help right away, so this is how she did it.

Have a Feast and Celebrate

Say: King Xerxes agreed to come to Esther's special dinner. She prepared a great feast for the king and his friend. A feast is a meal with lots of special food. Give each child the special snack, and let kids eat as you continue. The king's friend was not a good man. Remember, earlier I told you there was a mean man who wanted to hurt Esther's friends. That man was King Xerxes' friend who Esther invited to the special dinner.

King Xerxes asked Esther what she wanted to ask him, but she still didn't tell him. Instead, she invited him to another feast, and she made sure the king's mean friend would be there. Allow time for the children to finish their special snacks.

At the second feast, after the king had enjoyed all the special food and drinks that Esther had prepared, Esther told the king all about the mean things his friend wanted to do to hurt her friends. She asked King Xerxes for help. She begged him to save her friends from the mean man. And the king did! He punished his mean friend, and he kept Esther's friends safe! Lead the children to stand up and celebrate by cheering and jumping up and down.

Talk About It

Say: God put Esther where she needed to be. Because Esther was queen, she could ask the king for help. And the king helped her! God used Esther to save her friends. God can use us to do important things, too. <u>God puts us where we</u> <u>need to be</u>.

Share about some places you go and some people you spend time with.

Ask: • Where are some places you go and people you spend time with? As the children share about places they go and people they spend time with, help them think of ways God might use them in those places. For example, God might use a child at church to welcome a new friend into the class. God might use a child in his or her family to show love and bring the family joy. God might use a child on the playground to help a friend who fell and bumped his knee.

Say: <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. Each place we go, God can use us to show love, help others, and be good friends. We can do important things like Esther did. God made Esther queen so he could use her to save all his friends. And God put you in your family, in your neighborhood, and in our church so he can do important things through you!

Q DEEPER BIBLE

Where Does It Go?

Supplies

- Bible (click here)
- 4 containers or baskets
- "Sorting" handout (download here)
- variety of clothes, such as dress-up clothes, scarves, and shoes
- variety of round objects, such as balls, round toy fruit, yo-yos, and Frisbees
- variety of soft, comforting objects, such as stuffed animals, blankets, and small pillows
- variety of classroom toys, such as dolls, trucks, and building blocks
- tape

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the handout, and tape each picture to 1 of the 4 containers.
- Set out the 4 containers next to each other, and place all the objects in a large pile nearby.

Sort Objects

Say: Today we're getting to learn a true story from the Bible about a young woman named Esther. Esther was just a normal young woman. But she became a queen and got to live in a palace because that's where God needed her to be. God put Esther in the palace so she could help save God's friends from getting hurt. <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. Motion to the pile of objects. Let's play a game and try to put all these things where they're supposed to be! We're going to decide which container each item belongs in.

Show children the four containers, and explain what type of objects belongs in each one based on the label and accompanying pictures. Then choose a couple of children to go first, each picking an object from the pile and placing it in one of the four containers.

Comment on the objects as children pick them up. Point out which objects definitely only belong in one bin, such as a truck belonging only in the Toy container or a pillow belonging in the Soft container. Say things like "Yep, there's only one container that toy belongs in!" Also point out how some objects could go in multiple containers, such as an orange, which could be placed in the Round container or Toy container, or a scarf, which could go in the Clothes container or Soft container. Emphasize the challenge of the task, saying things like "Wow, it's hard to decide where this thing should go! You could put it in a couple of different places."

Let children ultimately decide where objects belong; then allow other children to have a turn. Continue sorting until each child has had at least one turn and all the objects have been sorted.

After preschoolers have sorted all the objects, let them search for other objects around your room that could go in one of the four containers.

Say: Wow! It was so hard to decide where everything should go! Even though we might have had a hard time and struggled to decide where things needed to be, God doesn't struggle. God sees each and every one of us and has a special place for us.

You know, the Bible tells us about how <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. Open your Bible to Jeremiah 29:11. In the Bible, God told his friends, "For I know the plans I have for you...They are plans for good and not for disaster." Read the verse one more time before continuing. God has good plans for us, just like he had good plans for Esther! We can know that God has big, important things for us to do, like sharing his love with others and showing kindness. And he will help us because <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>!



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Buccaneer Adventure Island

Supplies

• "Buccaneer Adventure Island" teaching video (watch or download here)

<u>Tips</u>

- Talk-About Videos may work for preschoolers, but they're geared more toward elementary kids.
 If you find that the videos aren't hitting the mark for your preschoolers, try using the Preschool
 Puppet Skit activity block instead.
- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD here.

Discuss and Watch "Buccaneer Adventure Island"

Ask: • What's something you're too young or too small to do?

Say: <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. That means God has a special place for you *right now*. He might even use the fact that you're young or small to do something important!

Watch "Buccaneer Adventure Island."

Ask: • When have you felt like Maisy did?

• When have you been able to do something no one else could? Share examples to help preschoolers get started.

Say: In our video, Maisy couldn't do much at the amusement park. But if she wasn't so small, she wouldn't have been able to fit through the doggy door and help her family. <u>God puts us where we need to be</u> to do important things.



MUSIC VIDEO

Wherever You Go (Joshua 1:9)

Supplies

- "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (watch or download here)
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (watch or download here)
- "Great Things!" (watch or download <u>here</u>) Sing the three songs in any order.



CRAFT

Clutter Keepers

Supplies

- paper lunch bags (at least 4 per child)
- markers
- child-safe scissors
- Glue Dots

Easy Prep

• Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Organizers

Say: At your house, you probably have special places where your things need to be—dirty clothes need to be in the hamper, toys need to be in the toy box, and books need to be on the bookshelf when you've finished reading them. Show the sample craft. Today we're going to make these little paper boxes so we can organize our toys and put things where they need to be. You can make a box

[20 min]

for your hair ties, for your toy cars...whatever it is that you want to have a special for.

Give each preschooler two paper bags, and help kids brainstorm objects they could store in their containers. Then help preschoolers lay the bags on top of each other and cut off the tops of the bags to match the size of the container they'd like— preschoolers might want a taller container for colored pencils and a shorter container for hair ties.

Next, have preschoolers color a picture on *one* of the two bags to show what they will keep in that paper box. While preschoolers are working, ask about what they are coloring and what they want to use the box for.

After coloring, help preschoolers open the two bags and place the undecorated bag inside the decorated bag (this will make the paper containers a bit sturdier than just using one bag on its own). Place Glue Dots in between the sides of the bags to keep the sides together.

When preschoolers have finished one container, give them a second set of paper bags to create another container as time allows.

Say: Just like these paper boxes will help us put things where *they* need to be, today we're learning that <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. God made Esther a queen and put her in the king's palace to do an important job, and God has a place for each one of you! God can use you for important things just like Esther. <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Supplies

- "Playground" handout (download here)
- transparent tape
- masking tape
- blindfold (optional)

Easy Prep

- Piece together the pages of the "Playground" handout to make a large picture of a playground. Tape the scene to the wall.
- Cut out the pictures of children from the handout, and put a piece of rolled-up tape on the back of each picture.
- Place a piece of masking tape on the floor about 3 feet away from the playground picture.

<u>Tip</u>

• If you have a large class, print and prepare several handouts and divide into as many groups as you have adult or teen helpers.

Play a Game Like Pin the Tail on the Donkey

Have kids form a line behind the piece of masking tape, facing the playground scene. Point to the pictures, and highlight the different things on the playground. Mention where *you'd* choose to play first.

Ask: • Where would you like to play on this playground?

Say: God can use you to show his love and kindness even on a playground! That spot you chose might be just the place God needs you to be. Hold up the paper children. Let's play a game where we'll put these kids where they need to be on our playground.

Give the first child in line a paper person to "pin" to the playground. Blindfold the child (or have the child close eyes tightly), and help him or her spin around three times before moving toward the picture to place the paper child on the playground. Remove the blindfold so the child can see where the paper child landed; then give another child a turn. Continue until all paper children have been put on the playground.

Talk About It

Say: Let's take a look at our completed picture.

Ask: • Do you think all the children are where they need to be? Why or why not? As children share, help them think of reasons they might need to be where they were put.

Say: We couldn't see where we were going, so the children got stuck in some silly spots! But God always sees the big picture. <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. He knows all about us and has a special place for each one of us. Invite kids to move the paper people if they think they need to be in different spots on the playground. When finished, clap and celebrate that each person is where he or she needs to be, and say the Bible Point together: <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

This Needs to Go There!

Supplies

- parachute or large bedsheet
- several plush objects (stuffed animals or balls work well)

Launch Objects

Lay the parachute on the floor, and have kids hold on to it around the edge. Place a plush object in the middle of the parachute; then have kids move the parachute up and down or sideways to make the object bounce around. After several seconds, point to a wall or corner of the room.

Say: Our toy friend needs to be over there. Let's use our parachute to launch it that way!

Help kids aim the parachute; then on the count of three, send the object to where you pointed. If kids miss, put the object back on the parachute and try again.

Repeat, adding different plush objects and choosing different locations around the room. Celebrate when objects land where they need to be.

Talk About It

Say: It was fun to see the objects fly across the room. With our help, they all ended up where they needed to be. Just like we put the objects where they needed to be, <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. He may not send us flying through the air, but he placed us in families that love us and with friends who play with us. He even put us all in this classroom together today!

Tell about a place God put *you* recently. Perhaps he put you at the grocery store so you could smile and be nice to the cashier, or maybe he put you at a sports event so you could cheer for your team.

Ask: • Where's a place God put you? Help kids get started, if needed. You might suggest the park, preschool, gymnastics class, or an organized sports team.

Say: <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. When we're where we need to be, we can help other people and make them happy! Ask kids to help you gather all the objects around the room. Pretend to encourage the stuffed animals as you put them away, telling them they did a good job going where they needed to be.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Pass and Pray

Supplies

- royal scepter from Core Bible Discovery
- Friends With God Story Bible (optional) (order here)

Pass the Scepter and Pray

Have children sit in a circle. Say: Today we learned that <u>God puts us where</u> we need to be. We heard how he put Esther in the palace and made her queen so she could help God's friends. In the Bible story, we learned that King Xerxes held out his scepter to Esther to let her know she could come talk to him. Let's use this scepter as we pray. When the scepter comes to you, it's your turn to say a prayer. Since Esther prayed for God's friends, let's pray for others when we're holding the scepter.

You'll begin the prayer. Hold the scepter and briefly pray for someone you know. Then pass the scepter to the child on your right. Encourage that child to pray for someone he or she knows. The prayer can be as simple as, "God, I pray for Grandma." Continue having the children pass the scepter and pray when they're holding it. Avoid forcing children to pray if they don't want to.

Close in prayer: God, we know you hear us. Thank you for putting us in friendships and families with the people we prayed about. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.

If you have extra time, spend some time reading today's Bible story, "For Such a Time as This—by Esther," from the *Friends With God Story Bible*.

Say: <u>God puts us where we need to be</u>. Sometimes that means he puts us in a place like church. And sometimes that means he puts us in a friendship, like with the friends we prayed about. God can do great things where he put us, like he did great things with Esther. I'm glad God put you here at church to be friends with all of us! I hope you'll come back next week!



Supplies

• this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download here)

Easy Prep

• Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.

The Bible in One Year, Lesson 3: Esther: God Sends Esther to Save the Jews, Design and base content

Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. Licensed for use with 1-20 students.

Permission to reproduce granted for local church use only.