

Prepare

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

Written in the bible is a rich History of ordinary men and women whom God used in extra-ordinary ways. This program explores some of those people of faith and the lessons we can learn from them. We are believing your pre-schoolers will learn that God can use them in extraordinary ways as they keep loving and believing in Him.

Our repeated phrase is: "As we follow Jesus, we can be extraordinary!"

Memory Verse: "For I can do everything through [Jesus] Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

RESOURCES

- Game: N/A.
- Illustration: A map (see overleaf).
- Connect Groups: Simple biscuits, water and 'A Queen Named Esther' - Timeless Children Classics by Zonderkidz.
- Craft: A crown cut-out ([purchase here](#)), decorative diamond / jewel stickers, colouring pens and pencils and sticky tape.

THIS WEEKS KEY POINT: GOD HAS BIG PLANS FOR ME

Mat Time

1. WELCOME & GAME: SIMON SAYS!

Play a game of 'Simon Says' with the kids. The game leader will prompt kids to perform certain actions by saying "Simon says..." and adding in different actions (i.e. rub your belly, touch your toes etc.). However if a leader gives out an action without saying "Simon says..." beforehand, then the kids should not follow this action. If they do, they sit down, until only one player remains!

2. WORSHIP AND OUR BIG THREE RULES

- Have praise and worship time with the kids, if they haven't already with the adults at the start of church.
- Go through our three big rules: We are kind, we listen, we obey. Give examples & explain any reward system.

3. THIS WEEKS TOPIC & MEMORY VERSE

- Share today's topic: We are learning all about how we can as we follow Jesus, we can be extraordinary! Today we're learning that God has big plans for me.
- Go through the memory verse with the kids: Have the kids repeat it loudly, quietly, with fun actions - be creative!

4. VIDEO AND VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

Esther was a very brave queen. She stood up to the mean bully Haman by telling the King about his evil plan, even though she was worried that the King might not like what she had to say and try to kill her! That's pretty scary, but it was God's plan for Esther to save her family and friends. He was with her and kept Esther safe as she bravely followed Him!

- God loves us very much! How does God want us to treat others?
- Do you think you could be brave and help your friends when they are in trouble?
- How can we ask God for help as we show love to others?

5. ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Say hello to the kids and explain that you're going on a walk in the bush! "To know where I'm going I need my map... oh dear, I can't find my map! My map shows me the plan for my walk!" Ask the kids what they think will happen if you don't have your map for the bush walk? Explain to the kids that maps are like plans, they tell you where to go! God has a plan for each of them. Where can we learn how to follow God's plans for us? From the bible, our parents/leaders, and by trusting in God. If we do that, the bible says God will always show us where to go.

Small Groups

6. CONNECT GROUP STORY TIME

Give the kids a simple biscuit as you read 'A Queen Named Esther' - The Beginners Bible by Zondervan. Then ask:

1. Esther became a queen, but who had made evil plans to hurt the Jewish people?
2. How would you feel if you were told you were in danger?
3. Who did Esther ask to help her to be brave and strong to save her people?
4. After Esther prayed, she told the King about evil Haman. What did the king do next?
5. God has big plans for all of us to love and be kind to others. What are some loving and kind things you can do?

Pray together for God to reveal His big plans for us, as we follow and obey Him.

7. CRAFT

Today we will be making a crown to remind us that God has big plans for us!

- Give each child a crown craft template, some diamond / jewel stickers and colouring pens and pencils.
- Ask them to decorate their crown with all of the above materials.
- Next help them sticky tape it to the size of the child's head so it can be worn and not fall off.
- If you have time, ask them to pretend play as king's and queens with their crowns ie bowing, walking etc.
- Don't forget to label the crafts.

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RESOURCES

- Game: N/A.
- Illustration: A full drink bottle, a blindfold, food colouring, and the label 'Courage Medicine' on it.
- Connect Groups: Simple biscuits, water and 'A Queen Named Esther' - Timeless Children Classics by Zonderkidz.
- Craft: The Week 7 Craft template, colouring pens and pencils, glue/sticky tape and a paddle-pop stick.

THIS WEEKS KEY POINT: GOD HAS BIG PLANS FOR ME

Mat Time

1. WELCOME & GAME: DUCK DUCK GOOSE!

Have the kids sit in a circle facing each other. Pick somebody to be the 'Goose.' The 'Goose' will walk around the circle, tapping kids on the head and saying 'Duck' until they pick someone as 'goose' to chase them by tapping them. They then run around the circle being chased by that person, with the aim of making it the whole way around and sitting in that child's old spot before getting tagged. If they are successful, you have a new goose! If not, they must try again.

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5. ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Explain to the kids that you're scared of the dark! When it's dark, you imagine what might be creeping up on you, like the tickle monster! But it's okay, you have some courage medicine! Drink it boldly and put a blindfold on to 'see if it works.' It does! You're not afraid anymore! (Bump into something) Ooft! Tell the kids that courage medicine doesn't really exist. But we can get courage from someone else, can they guess who? God has big plans for us, especially to love others! But that may be scary sometimes. Jesus can help us have courage, we just need to ask. Pray for God to give the kids courage.

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7. CRAFT

Today we will be making a picture of Queen Esther to remind us that God has big plans for us!

- Give each child a paddlepops stick, some colouring pens and pencils and glue sticks.
- Have the kids colour in their Queen Esther!
- Help them to stick down Esther onto the paddle pop stick!
- Make sure to label their crafts!