



Session Eight: Esther Trusted God

Today's Point: When I am afraid, I will trust God.

Bible Verse: Psalm 56:3

CSB: When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Psalm 56:3

KJV: What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. Psalm 56:3

Today's Bible Skill:

- Begin memorizing Psalm 56:3
- Be able to identify the books in the Old Testament and put them in order.

Bible Truth: Esther 4-5

SAY: Today we are going to talk about a Jewish girl who trusted God when she was afraid. Our true story is found in the book of Esther. Esther is in the Old Testament. Let's start with Genesis and stop at Esther (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, ESTHER). Invite kids to turn to Esther, Chapter 4. Instruct them to put their index finger on the page when they find Esther Chapter 4. Help any child who needs it.

Tell this story in your own words:

After Esther's parents died, she was adopted by a family member named Mordecai. Mordecai was a servant of King Ahasuerus. King Ahasuerus wanted a new queen and of all the beautiful women brought before the king, Esther was chosen. Mordecai told Esther not to tell anyone she was a Jew.

Haman was an evil man and powerful man. He had become so powerful that everyone bowed down when he walked by – everyone that is but Mordecai. This made Haman very angry. In fact, he was so angry that he wanted to kill Mordecai. Haman found out Mordecai was a Jew, and so he came up with a plan to destroy all the Jews. Haman told the king that the Jews did not obey the king's laws and they needed to be destroyed. The king gave him permission.

Mordecai heard about this evil plot, and so he told Queen Esther that she had to go to the king and plead for their safety or the Jews will be destroyed. Esther sent a message back to Mordecai telling him that anyone who goes to the king without being invited could be killed. She also told Mordecai that the king had not invited her to see him for 30 days! Mordecai sent another message to Esther saying "Don't think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king's palace. If you stay silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews. But you and your family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." (Esther 4:13-14 CSB) So,

Queen Esther told Mordecai: “God and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish.” (Esther 4:15-16 CSB)

ASK: Do you think Esther was afraid?

Chapter 5:2-2 tells us: “As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she gained favor with him. The king extended the gold scepter in his hand toward Esther, and she approached and touched the tip of the scepter. ‘What is it, Queen Esther?’ the king asked her. ‘Whatever you want, event to half the kingdom, will be given to you’.” (CSB)

ASK: What do you think Esther asked for? (Allow time for kids to respond)

SAY: Queen Esther replied, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if the king is please, spare my life; this is my request. And spare my people; this is my desire.” (Chapter 7:3 CSB) Esther explained that there was an evil plot against them. “Who would dare harm you?” the king demanded. Queen Esther pointed at Haman and said, “he would!” Ahasuerus was so angry that he had Haman killed right away.

Later in Esther we find that even though the law couldn’t be canceled, the king made Mordecai head of the princes and gave him the power to make a new law. Mordecai made a law that allowed the Jews to defend themselves when they were attacked. On the 13th day of Adar, the Jews defeated their enemies. From then on, they celebrated this victory every year.

I wonder what would have happened if Esther had let fear stop her from doing what God wanted her to do. When Esther was afraid, she trusted God. When we are afraid, we can trust God, too.

Pray that the boys and girls will trust God when they are afraid.

Bible Verse Activity: Pool Noodle Plunge – Psalm 56:3

Materials:

Pool noodle – [1 per group]
Plunger [1 per group]
Marker
Scissors
Masking tape
Print Psalm 56:3 on cardstock – one for each group.

Prepare:

Cut Pool noodle into one-inch pieces – 11(CSB)/12 (KJV) [1 set per group]
Write one word of Psalm 56:3 on each piece of pool noodle.
Place pool noodle pieces beside plunger.
Place verse on table for reference

Instructions:

Divide kids into groups of no more than 5 kids.

Divide kids into even groups (4 per group)

Have groups form a line behind the starting line. Explain that when they hear “Not Afraid,” the first person on the team is to run to the table, locate the pool noodle piece with the first word of Psalm 56:3 and place it on the plunger. Once the piece is on the plunger, the player runs back and tags the next team member. The following players continue until the verse has been completed. The first team to correctly place the verse in order wins. Check for accuracy by having the team recite Psalm 56:3.

Bible Skills Activity: Old Testament “Jenga®” Type Block Tower**Materials:**

39 “Jenga®” type blocks (one set for every 3-4 kids)

Permanent marker

Prepare:

Write the name of one book of the Old Testament on each side of a “Jenga®” type block.

Stack blocks randomly, three to a layer in alternating directions.

Instructions:

Player one will remove any block and place it on the ground. Player two continues to do the same. Players are to add their blocks to those on the ground, putting them in correct order. The game continues until the tower falls. As time allows, reset the tower, and play again.

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