

Preschool

GOD'S HEROES: FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY!

Day: Monday

PREESCOLAR

Theme: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego remain faithful

Lesson 1: *God saves 3 faithful young men from the fire*

Bible reference: Daniel 3:1-12 (13-28)

Memory verse: Daniel 3:28

Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. Dan. 3:28ab (NRSV)

OBJECTIVE

God frees us of the danger if we are faithful

PREPARATION

- *Seek God's direction in prayer, asking Him to give you wisdom and the right words so that students will understand the objective of this class.*
- *Pray also for children that you will have in your class, so that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of those with needs.*
- *Dedicate time to prepare class. Read the passage, keeping in mind the biblical and cultural background (Daniel 1 and 2).*
- *Read the Bible passage many times so that you are very familiar with the plot that reveals the story of these faithful young men of God.*
- *When possible, bring an illustrated Bible to the class and share the pictures with the children.*
- *Rehearse the class many times to measure the timing, using visual aids related to the class for support. If you'd like, you may use a flannel board. If you chose to do so, have the characters ready in the order in which they appear in the story.*
- *If there is enough time, you can act out the story with the children, allowing them to participate on the spot.*
- *Obtain all of the materials that you will use (pictures, flannel board, or dresses).*

- *Prepare the memory verse in a visual way (poster board, markers or figurines). Learn it well so that the students see your example, and if possible, keep the text in the classroom every day.*
- *Prepare the materials and have them ready to be used exactly the way you want them. For this class we suggest the following:*

MATERIALS

- *Images of:*
 - *The furnace*
 - *The Golden Statue*
 - *The king Nebuchadnezzar.*
- *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (these images are included)*
- *Red and Yellow cellophane strips taped to the end of a stick or cardboard strip to represent a torch.*
- *Activity sheet, drawing of an angel (included). Option: cotton and aluminum foil.*

BIBLICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

The people of Israel had been conquered by Babylon, and King Nebuchadnezzar sent for "young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace" (Daniel 1:4, NIV); "children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace" (Daniel 1:4 KJV).

It was the tradition of the conquerors at that time to impose the customs, religion and traditions on the conquered people.

The king's objective for bringing these young men to the palace was to make them faithful servants, not only to the king, but also to the gods of Babylon. It should be said that because of their good behavior, the king had made them administrators of the provinces of Babylon, and therefore their commitment to the king was greater.

INTRODUCTION

- *Start with a welcome and introduce all of the children, including those from the church. Let them know how happy you are to have them in your class to learn more about God.*
- *You can sing (or teach) a welcome song (if possible, write it using large letters and use a few illustrations related to the song to facilitate memorization).*
- *Give each child a name tag and take attendance. (use angels figures)*
- *Present the general theme of the VBS: **God's Heroes: From Ordinary to Extraordinary!** Then present the title of the lesson: **God saves from the fire 3 faithful young men***
- *Say a prayer for each of the children present and for those who will later come to the class.*

Practice the memory verse, Daniel 3:28" Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. Dan. 3:28ab (NRSV)

TEACHING THE CLASS

- *Ask if anyone knows what a furnace is*
- *Explain what a furnace is and show the picture of it.*
- *Ask if anyone has ever gotten burned before.*

Today I am going to tell you a nice Bible history. It is about 3 Jewish young men named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. One day the soldiers of a foreign king led them to live in a very distant place called Babylon. The king was Nebuchadnezzar. He give orders to make a golden statue (*show them the figure*) in order that they all incline in the presence of it and adore it. When his workers finished it his soldiers shouted: "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." (Daniel 3: 4-6). This order was indisputable because the king had given it. (*Show the picture of the furnace*) and say to them: do you know what happens to the things or persons that come in direct contact with the fire? *Take the pretend torch you created with the cellophane strips and help the children pretend that it is real fire. Help the children to think*

what would happen if that torch would touch some sheets of paper, or a dry tree, or even would touch a person's skin. Tell them about the way the fire would consume those objects.

Knowing what the punishment was, as soon as they heard the music, all of the people bowed down and worshipped the golden statue. But the Bible says that these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, did not do it. So the astrologers went before the king and said to him, "Your Majesty has given the order that all of the people of the nation bow down and worship the statue, and that whoever does not follow the order will be thrown into the fiery furnace." And your Majesty has put Jews in charge to govern the province of Babylon, and they have not followed your order - they do not worship the statue.

When he heard this, the king became very angry and he sent for them. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood in front of the king and the king said to them, "I have heard that you do not honor or worship my gods, nor the statue that I had made. Now when you hear the music, you had better bow down and worship the gold statue that I made or I will send you to be thrown into the furnace, and there will not be a god capable of freeing you from my hands." Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego responded that they did not need to defend themselves from the king, and they replied confidently, "If we are thrown into the fiery furnace, the God that we serve can free us from the furnace and from your Majesty's own hands. But even if our God does not, know that we will not honor your gods or the statue."

The king was furious. He ordered that the furnace be heated seven times hotter and that they be thrown into it. The furnace was so hot that when the soldiers threw in the three young men, whose feet and hands were tied, the heat itself killed the soldiers who were throwing the youth into the fire.

The king, anxious to see how they were burning, leaned out to see, and in that moment he asked his messengers "Weren't there three men that were tied and thrown into the fire?" The counselors replied that there were. Shocked, the king said, "Look! I see four men in the fire, without ropes and unharmed, and the fourth man has the appearance of a god."

Then he went to the furnace door and ordered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come out. When they did, all of the satraps, governors, judges and magistrates went up to them and saw that the fire had not harmed them-

not even one of their hairs had been burned, and they did not even smell like smoke.

So king Nebuchadnezzar said, "Glory to the God of these men, who sent an angel to save them. They trusted in Him and challenged a royal order, preferring to die before honoring and worshipping other gods that were not theirs."

And he gave them even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

Talk to children about how the power of God can do all things and how He uses His children to show His glory.

Through these young men, God showed His power before the king and all of the governors, and what's more, he made them conquerors by not fearing what could have happened in the furnace. (In Christ we are more than conquerors).

REFLECTING ON THE PASSAGE

Ask the children the following questions to help them participate and analyze the theme.

- What was King Nebuchadnezzar's order? Worship the golden statue
- What was the punishment for anyone who did not obey? to be thrown into the furnace
- Who disobeyed the order given by the king? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Remind the children that these three young men feared God and trusted completely in Him.

APPLYING THE MESSAGE

God saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego by sending an angel to take care of them and they come out unhurt. These young men remained faithful to God. When we place our trust in God, we never will be let down. God is always ready to help us, doing extraordinary things with people like these young men, people like you or me. Because of it we must be faithful to God no matter what are the circumstances that surround us. We must not be afraid, just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were firm in their faith. They knew that God can save them. God ordered an angel to protect them from the fire. They

were not hurt because they did not bow down before the statue but rather trusted in God. God free them of the flames of the furnace.

Option One:

Decide if you have enough room in your classroom for the students to play this game, or if you have to go elsewhere to play it. You can modify the number of children involved in each team according to class size.

Create groups of seven students. Tell them that two students will be the fire, four of those students will be the "angels" and one of them would be of the faithful young men from the story. The four angels will hold hands and will form a circle around the one young man. The angels will form a circle in such a way that they are turned to look outside the circle, with their backs to the young man in the middle of the circle. The two students that are the fire will try to touch the young person in the middle of the circle and the angels, without letting go of their partner's hand, will try to keep the fire away from the person they're protecting. Let the students play for a while and then allow them to change their role in the game. Let them play as long as your timeline permits.

Emphasize when you are done with the game that God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego because they were faithful. Remind them what the young men said to the king before being thrown into the fire: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Daniel 3:17-18. They did not know how exactly God would do this (that is, free them or how God would free them). However, they decided to be faithful to God, never doubting that God would do God's will one way or another.

Option Two

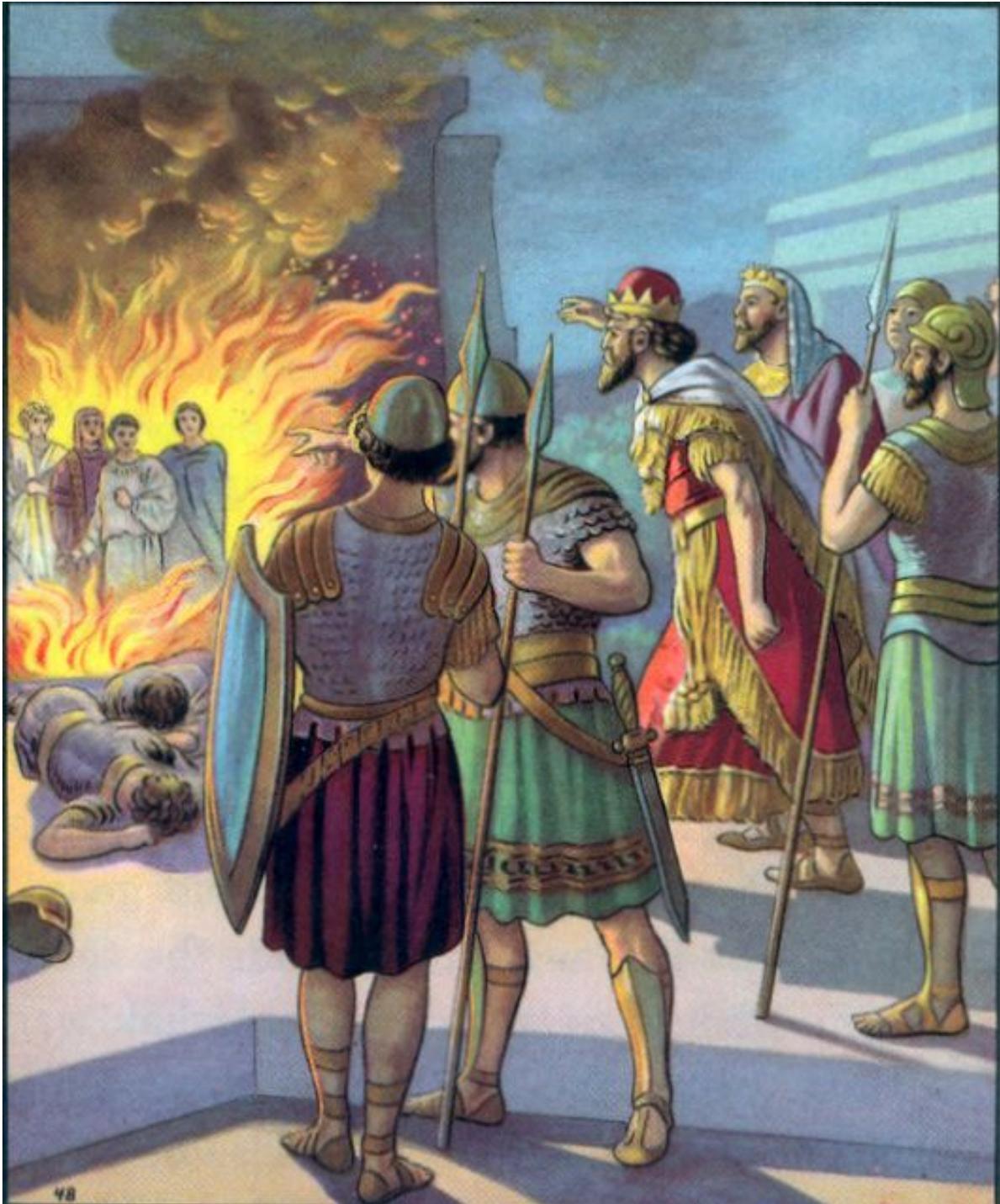
Ask the students to color the angel drawing. Or, they could glue pieces of cotton on the angel wings and foil on the angel's tunic.

CONCLUSION

If you want to be a faithful child, ask God to help you behave as God wants you to. Believe in him and he will never leave you. Having faith does not mean that everything will be OK. We have to take action and stay faithful and God will be in charge that all things will turn out as God wants them for our benefit. God takes care of us. God delivers us from danger. Always praise God. Of ordinary people, God makes extraordinary people!

Prepare the children whom God has chosen to accept Christ this week. Tell the class: God loves you so much! God wants to help and bless you. When you come to church you learn more and more about God's love. We hope that what you learn this week will help you feel that love, and will allow you to deepen your relationship with God. Let's ask God to fill us with gratitude for his love.

Conclude the class with a brief prayer, asking that the children repeat after you.



Source:

<http://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/Pictures/Standard%20Bible%20Story%20Readers,%20Book%20Four/target22.html>

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God's Heroes: From Ordinary to Extraordinary...

Héroes de Dios: De Ordinario a Extraordinario...

Joseph Interprets Dreams

Day One **4 yrs. to Kindergarten**

THEME:	God makes us extraordinary when God gives us different gifts.
BIBLE PASSAGE:	Genesis 41:1-28 (29-37) 38-40.
MEMORY VERSE:	We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. Rom. 12:6a

Objective Preparation

To show God gives each of us special gifts.

Material

- Read Genesis 41:1-28 (29-37) 38-40.
- Practice telling the story.
- Small ball or stuffed animal
- Seven large and seven small objects, like seven large and seven small blocks or seven large and seven small buttons
- Two puppets, dolls, or figures to represent Pharaoh and Joseph
- Plain drawing paper
- Heavier paper or construction paper
- Crayons

Introduction

Greet everyone. Ask the children to introduce themselves by saying their names and their favorite thing to sleep with. Example: my name is Jim and my favorite thing to sleep with is my teddy bear. Have the children pass around the ball or stuffed animal and only the child who has it can talk. It helps young children learn to take turns.

We all have dreams while we sleep. Some of us remember them better than others. Some of our dreams are scary. *Ask the children if they dream while they sleep. Let them tell you about some of their dreams. Be sure to emphasize that dreams are like stories from books - they are not real - and we do not need to worry about them.*

In Bible times, people were more concerned about dreams than we are today. They wanted to know what their dreams meant. We are going to talk about a young person named Joseph, who could talk to people about their dreams. Joseph is an immigrant. *Talk to the children about what that means, what it means to live in a different country. Some of them can tell about their experiences.*

Studying the Bible passage

There are two main people in this story, Pharaoh and Joseph. Pharaoh is the ruler. Joseph is working for him. Pharaoh has a dream about seven fat cows and seven skinny cows. The skinny cows eat the fat cows. Pharaoh asks Joseph to explain this dream. Joseph says it means there will be seven good years with plenty of food and then seven bad years with too little food to eat. Pharaoh is very pleased with Joseph and puts him in charge of storing food so there will be plenty to eat.

Put the seven large and seven small objects in front of the children. Ask them to count to be sure there are seven of each. Tell them to pretend the objects are cows - big fat cows and little skinny cows. Tell the story again using the objects to illustrate. As each skinny cow eats a fat cow, ask a child to take away one of the large objects. Repeat the story several times. Then have the Pharaoh figure tell the Joseph figure what a special young person he is that he told Pharaoh they must save food for the years when there will not be enough. Pharaoh can thank Joseph for being so helpful. The children can take turns acting out this part of the story.

Reflecting on the Bible passage

God knows that Joseph has special gifts. Even when his brothers sold him into slavery, God was taking care of Joseph. Because Joseph was a good and wise worker, Pharaoh rewarded him and put him in charge of the very important job of storing up food for the coming lean years.

Stand in a circle and talk about the fact that God is always with us. Ask the children if God is with them when they are happy (Yes!). Is God with them when they are sad (Yes!). Is God with them when they are eating their breakfast (Yes!). Go around the circle and let the children ask you questions, the sillier the better, about when God is with you. You may need to get them started. Brushing your teeth (Yes!) Sleeping (Yes!) Riding your bike (Yes!)

Applying the Bible passage to our life (choose one or both)

1. *Ask the children to draw pictures of themselves. Write on the top of each child's picture, "God made me special." Talk about the ways they are special. What are the different gifts God gives us? Is someone they know a soccer player, a really good cook, a person who builds and fixes things, someone who plays a musical instrument, or helps people when they are sick? Ask the children what gifts God gave them. Ask them to include these gifts in their pictures.*

2. *Talk about the different abilities and talents God is using in this Vacation Bible School. There are parents who brought these children, people leading music, serving snacks, helping with games, and doing other tasks in the program. Ask the children to make pictures or cards using the heavier paper to give to the VBS helpers. The cards can say "God uses your special gifts."*

Memory verse is Rom. 12:6a: We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

Conclusion

God has special work for each one of us. God wants us to use the gifts that God gave us. God loves us a great deal. When you come to church you learn about the love of God, but you also learn that we human beings sin and that this becomes a barrier for our connection with God. This week, let's ask God to help us overcome that barrier through Jesus. In this way, we can use the gifts God has given us. *Conclude with prayer*

GOD'S HEROES: FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY!

Day: Wednesday

PREESCOLAR

Theme: Queen Esther Saves Her People.

Lesson 3: Esther the Brave Queen.

Bible reference: Esther 3:12-13, 4:1-17, 5:1-4, 7:1-6, 10

Memory verse: Esther 4:14

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? Est.4:14 (NIV) (use all or part of the verse).

OBJECTIVE

The student will know the story of Queen Esther, be able to tell about her bravery in defending her people, and will identify God's response to His people's fast.

PREPARATION

- *Seek God's direction in prayer, asking Him to give you wisdom and the right words so that students will understand the objective of this class.*
- *Pray also for the children that you will have in your class so that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of those with needs.*
- *For this class you will already know the children who have attended this week a little bit better; pray for them, especially for those you sense have the greatest needs. Ask the Lord to use you to help these children.*
- *Read the Bible passage many times so that you are very familiar with the plot that reveals the story of this young Jewish girl who would become queen.*
- *When possible, bring an illustrated Bible to the class and share the pictures with the children.*
- *Rehearse the class many times to measure the timing, using visual aids related to the class for support. Make your class enjoyable and try to*

make each class different from those before. This keeps the children interested. (Remember that we can use flannel boards, puppets, figurines, or whatever objects we have available-it's only a matter of imagination and creativity).

- *If there is enough time, you can act out the story with the children, allowing them to participate on the spot.*
- *Obtain all of the materials that you will use (pictures, flannel board, or dresses).*
- *Prepare the memory verse in a visual way (poster board, markers or figurines, etc). Learn it well so that the students see your example, and if possible, keep the text in the classroom every day.*

MATERIALS

- If using the flannel board, have pictures or figures representing the characters in the story.

BIBLICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

This happened during the time of King Ahasuerus who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush (Esther 1). Some Jews were dispersed and scattered among the people of the land ruled by King Ahasuerus (Esther 3:8).

At that time King Ahasuerus reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa (Esther 1:2). There was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin named Mordecai who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (Esther 2:5-6). Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, who was also known as Esther (Esther 2:7; 2:15). Even though both the parents of Esther passed away she was brought up by cousin Mordecai who had taken her as his own daughter (Esther 2:7).

Esther, descendant of the tribe of Benjamin, from the house of Israel, was beautiful, lovely in form and features. The book of Esther describes the time when all the Jews in the 127 provinces of kingdom of Ahasuerus got relief from their enemies with the help of Queen Esther.

The story revolves around king Ahasuerus. It was the third year of his reign when he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. One of those days King Ahasuerus was in high spirits, and he asked for Queen Vashti to be brought before him, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty

to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. But Queen Vashti refused to come into the presence of the King.

As a consequence of the Queen's conduct King Ahasuerus consulted his experts in matters of Law and justice. He inquired about what must be done to Queen Vashti, for she had disobeyed a royal commend. Foreseeing that the Queen's conduct would be known to all women in the Memucan kingdom, one of the wise advisors of the king predicted that women of the nobility would respond in the same way to all the nobles of the king.

Therefore, disrespect and discord amongst men and women would have no end in the kingdom. In this context, Memucan proposed that Vashti should never again enter the presence of king Ahasuerus, and that the King would give her royal position to someone else who was more worthy than she. As a result, all women would respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest.

The King and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memucan proposed. Beautiful girls were selected in every province of the kingdom. The one who pleases the king would become Queen instead of Vashti. Once chosen, a girl had to complete 12 months of beauty treatment before she was taken to the presence of the King.

Esther was selected amongst the beautiful girls of the kingdom. She was put under care of Hegai, who was in charge of the women in the Harem at the citadel of Susa. Esther pleased him and won his favor. He took good care of her and moved her to the best place in the Harem. When the time came for Esther to go to the King she followed Hegai's advice. Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. The King was attracted to Esther more than to any other woman, and she won his favor and approval. He set a royal crown on her head and made her Queen instead of Vashti.

In those days two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway conspired to assassinate King Ahasuerus. Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were hanged on a gallows. At this time Mordecai would not receive honor or recognition for saving the life of the king.

After these events, King Ahasuerus honored Haman, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. The king commanded that all the royal officials at the king's gate should kneel down and honor Haman. This they did, except Mordecai, for he said he was a Jew. Haman was enraged because of the conduct of Mordecai and looked for a

way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. To do so Haman spoke to the King. Haman told king Ahasuerus about the existence of people in the kingdom whose customs were different from those of all the other people and who wouldn't obey the laws of the king. He persuaded king Ahasuerus into issuing a decree to destroy them.

From this moment on, Esther would use her gifts and wisdom to save all the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus from those enemies who sought to annihilate them- young and old, women and children- in a single day.

INTRODUCTION

- *Welcome each child to the class and introduce the new children. Always demonstrate how happy you are to be with them again to continue learning about God.*
- *Sing the welcome song (if you taught one) and pass the attendance list.*
- *Don't forget to remind the students of the general theme of the VBS- "God's Heroes: From Ordinary to Extraordinary!"*
- *Review the verses you've already memorized and the titles of the previous classes.*
- *Present the title and key verse of today's class.*
- *Say a prayer for all of the children who have been blessed in coming to the VBS. Give thanks to God for what has been learned and for this lesson.*
- *Note: try to maintain eye contact with each student, preferably seating them in a semicircle.*

TEACHING THE CLASS

The Bible tells us the story of a young and very nice girl who was orphan (she did not have parents), but she had a cousin named Mordecai who took care of her and raised her. What do you think the life of a person who does not have parents is like? *Listen to children's comments.* They were living in a country very far from his and her mother land since they were Jewish, where there was a king called Ahasuerus. He was a king who had many friends. One day invited them to his palace to a great banquet.

This king during a party in his palace, called his queen Vashti in order that his friends meet her but she did not want to come to him. His friends advised him to take the throne from Vasti and to look for another woman in order that she may become his queen. Then the King chose Esther from among other women in order make her his queen, though he did not know that she belonged to the Jewish nation.

The king loved Esther more than any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed royalty gifts.

In the God's perfect plan she passed from being a simple orphan to occupying the royal throne. Her cousin told her that she should not declare her origin yet. Even though she was the queen, she was obeyed her cousin. During that time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, and two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway became angry and conspired to assassinate King Ahasuerus. But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were hanged on the gallows. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

But at this moment, Mordecai was not honored nor received recognition for saving the life of the king.

Haman was one of the King's officials. All the royal workers at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him homage. When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him homage, he was enraged. Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business."

So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please." Haman ordered an edict punishing the Jewish people because Mordecai would not pay homage to the king nor kneel before him. When Mordecai found out about this, he covered himself with ashes, put on clothes for mourning, and went out of the city shouting bitterly. Since no one was allowed to enter the palace dressed for mourning, he only made it to the king's door (he did this as a protest), and sent Hathach, a eunuch, (servant, employee) to tell Esther everything that was happening. *(Explain to the children that at that time the queen was not allowed to present herself before the king without being summoned, for it could cost her her life).* So Esther explained that she could not present herself before the king because she would be putting her life in danger, unless the king reached out with his scepter as a sign that he would spare her life. When Mordecai heard this he reminded her that despite being the queen she was also part of the Jewish people, and that it was possible that God had put her there in order to do something for them. Esther sent word to Mordecai to gather all the Jews that were in Susa to pray and fast for her for three days, without eating or drinking anything. She would do the same, and at the end of the three days she would present herself before the king. It didn't matter to Esther that she would be risking her life-she was certain that God would hear the prayers of His people. Esther said that she would do this, even though it went against the law. She said, "If I die, then I die". So Mordecai did what Esther had asked. Esther put on her royal robes and presented herself before the king. She was asking for her people to be freed from death. When he saw her, the king the king reached out his scepter as a symbol of pardon. What's more, he asked her what her petition was, saying, "even if you ask for half of my kingdom I will give it you!" If it pleases your Majesty, come today to the banquet that I will give in your honor, and also bring Haman. The king immediately had Haman sent for in order to fulfill Esther's request. So the king and Haman attended the banquet given by Esther, and being there he asked her, "What is it that you want?" And he told her again that even if she asked for half of his kingdom he would give it to her. Esther replied, "My wish and petition, if I have earned your Majesty's favor, is that you and Haman come to the banquet that I will give tomorrow, and then I will give my answer." *(Remind the students that before Esther did all this, she had been praying and fasting along with Mordecai and the Jewish people).* "On the

second day, the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, and while they were enjoying themselves the king asked the queen again what her petition was. She replied, "If I have earned your Majesty's favor, and if it seems fitting to you, my wish is that you grant me my life. My petition is that you would have compassion on my people, because both I and my people have been sentenced to be extermination, death, and annihilation. If only we would have been sold as slaves I would have stayed quiet, for such anguish would not be motive for disturbing your Majesty. (Show the children how Esther acted with humility before the king, even though she was the queen). King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?. Esther said : Is Haman" Then the king answered as to what would be done with Haman. Haman was punished and sent to be hanged on the same gallows that had been prepared for Mordecai. (*Emphasize how God takes care of His children and gives us solutions to our worries and dangers*).

REFLECTING ON THE PASSAGE

Esther acted with faith, along with her people, in prayer. Faith brings us to conviction, which brings us to action, which results in blessing. The result is up to God. Remember that God will not abandon us, and He always protects His people. Everything that happens is guided by Him and is for our good. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things, just as in this story He used Esther, who was just like you and me. She became queen and saved the lives of an entire people, and she accomplished all this by trusting in God.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY 1

Act out the moment in which Esther speaks to the King while the people fasted. Choose a person to be Queen Esther and one to be King Ahasuerus. Bring some costumes, crowns, etc. Then ask the rest of the class to be the people of God, on their knees praying while Esther spoke with the King. Help the group take turns so that several or all the students get a chance to have the roles of Esther and Ahasuerus

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY 2

Color the drawing of Queen Esther, or glue little bits of fabric or color paper on her dress.

APPLYING THE MESSAGE

Can you imagine what it must feel like to be orphaned with out parents to take care of you? Esther was an orphan but had a cousin who took care of her and taught her to trust in God. Esther completely trusted her cousin. When her cousin asked her to protect the Jewish people, she took a great risk to do so.

Have you ever obeyed your parents to do something that scared you, but since your parents were asking you to do it you did it anyway? Esther was not afraid to face the danger of speaking to the King without permission. The rule was that if the king did not extend his scepter to her, she ran the risk of being executed by order of the king.

Have you ever prayed for God to help you when you had a big problem? Have you seen your parents pray when they had a big decision to make? God listens to the prayers of God's people. The story tells us of a special way of praying. It's called Fasting. Do you remember what I told you fasting was? It is not eating in order to focus on praying to God. It is a very special way of praying and God listens to these prayers because they show how serious the people who are praying are. God heard the cry of his people praying, and God made the king to extend his scepter towards Esther and therefore sparing her life. Esther not only accomplished this, but also got the king to order the Jews to be able to defend themselves and be saved. As a result, the Jewish people had light, joy, happiness and honor in a foreign land.

CONCLUSION

We need to imitate Esther's decision and courage, which brought peace and wellbeing. We need to be ready to help others. God will make us decisive, courageous and extraordinary people if we trust in God.

Do you want to be an extraordinary person? God makes ordinary people to become extraordinary, just like the lesson. God wants to be in your heart and make you a part of God's family.

I invite you to surrender your life to Christ, confess your sins, and ask God for forgiveness. *If you have a positive response from any children, ask them to stay for a moment and finish presenting the plan of salvation. If you can't do it yourself, ask another teacher for support in doing so. (If possible, get the full names and addresses of these children).*

Conclude the class with prayer, giving God thanks for Jesus and for the members of the class.

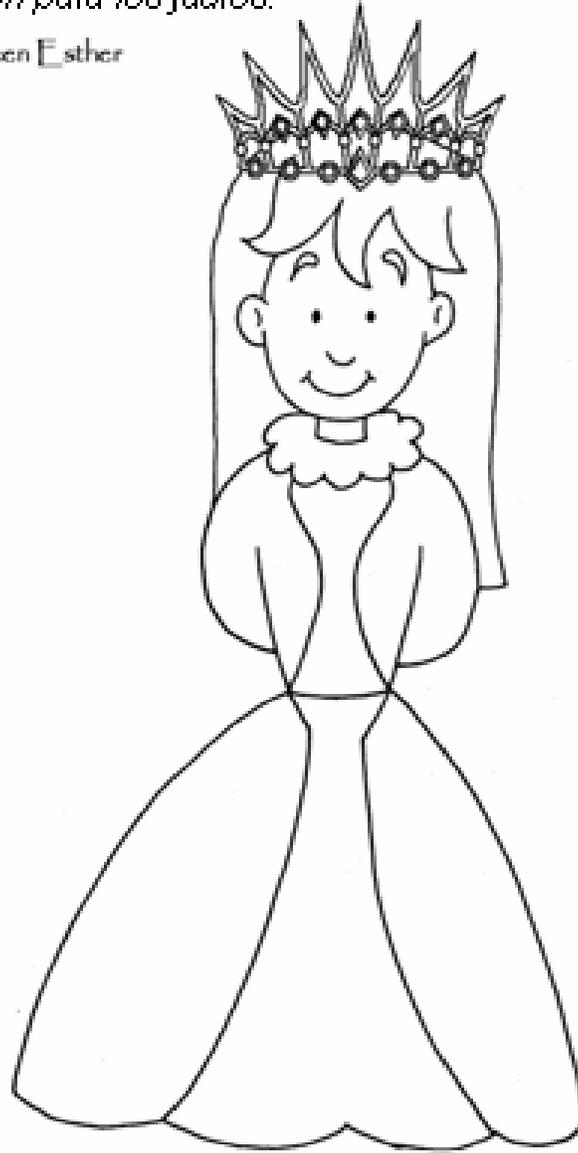
Queen Esther Before King Ahasuerus



Francesco Caucig (Austro-Hungarian, 1755–1828)
Queen Esther Before King Ahasuerus, ca. 1815
Oil on canvas, 55 3/4x 81 1/2 inches
University of Virginia Art Museum
<http://www.virginia.edu/artmuseum/WE2002/art/pages/PIC05.jpg.htm>

"Si ahora te quedas callada, de otra parte vendrán el alivio y la liberación para los judíos."

Queen Esther



Preescolar

God's Heroes: From Ordinary to Extraordinary... *Héroes de Dios: De Ordinario a Extraordinario...*

Mary prepares to serve God **Day Four 4 years to Kindergarten**

THEME:	God makes us extraordinary when God chooses us to do special things.
BIBLE PASSAGE:	Luke 1:26-38
MEMORY VERSE:	Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Lk.1:38

Objective Preparation

To show God can choose you to do something special.

- Read Luke 1:26-38.
- Reflect on the story from scripture as you prepare for the lesson and familiarize yourself with it.
- Try to place yourself in Mary's position of being poor, unwed and female.
- Practice telling the story.
- Small ball or stuffed animal
- Angel and Mary figures from a nativity set
- Drawing paper
- Crayons
- A paper plate for each child with a smiling face on one side and a frowning face on the other side

Material

Introduction

Greet everyone. Ask the children to introduce themselves by saying their names and the name of their favorite relative who does not live with them. Example: my name is Susie and my relative is my grandma. Have the children pass around the ball or stuffed animal and only the child who has it can talk. It helps young children learn to take turns.

Ask the children if they remember when a younger sister or brother was born, or if they know someone who is going to have a baby. Talk about how special it is when babies are born and how excited families are when they learn a new baby is coming. Tell them they are going to hear a story about the most special baby who was ever born - Jesus. When children think about the baby Jesus, they think about Christmas. Explain that this happened before Christmas - before baby Jesus is born. There is an angel in this story. In the Bible, God often uses angels to deliver news.

Studying the Bible passage

An angel tells Mary that she is going to have a baby. She is very surprised to see an angel in her house and surprised, but happy, that she is going to have a baby. She is willing to be the mother to this baby because God asked her. The angel also tells her that her relative Elizabeth is going to have a baby too.

Using the figures of the angel Gabriel and Mary, tell the Bible story, and then ask the children questions, like

- What did God do that surprised Mary?
- What did God say was going to happen to Mary?
- What did Mary say to God?

Help the class memorize the passage for today: "Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Luke 1:38

Reflecting on the Bible passage

God sent us Jesus to teach us to love each other. Ask the children to tell you about the people they love, and probably the first ones they will name are their parents. Talk about how important it is for babies and young children to have good people to care for them - parents, grandparents, or older siblings.

Applying the Bible passage to our life

Activities (choose one or both)

1. *Ask each child to name why they are likable, and write down what they say. Then ask each child why God likes him or her, and write it down. Since most children at this age cannot read all the words, you can draw pictures too. Third, ask why God liked Mary and why God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus?*
2. *Give each child a paper plate and point out that one side has a smiling face and the other side has a frowning face. When you ask a question, each child should show you the side that has the appropriate face on it.*

What would you do if I gave you a present?

(Smile and say thank you.)

What would you do if I took one of your toys?

(Frown and be unhappy.)

What would you do if I told you happy news?

(Smile and jump for joy.)

What would you do if I told you sad news?

(Frown and be sad.)

What did Mary do when God asked to be the mother of Jesus?

(Smiled and said yes - she would do what God wanted.)

What will you say when God asks you to do something?

(Smile and say yes.)

*Ask the children: what do you think God might ask you to do?
(Help someone, be nice to your family, do a good job at school, and other answers)*

Conclusion

Tell the children: God can ask us to do special work for God. We are always ready to do what God asks us to do.

God loves you so much! With Jesus in your heart, you have a special relationship with Jesus. Let's ask God to help you continue to grow in your knowledge and love of Jesus.

Conclude with prayer.

**GOD'S HEROES:
FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY!**

Day: Friday

PREESCOLAR

Topic: Peter walks on water.

Lesson 5: Peter takes up the challenge

Bible passage: Matthew 14:22-33

Line to memorize: Matthew 14:28

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." Mt 14:28 (NIV)

OBJECTIVE

Students will know the story of Peter walking on water when Jesus commanded it.

PREPARATION

- *Seek God's direction in prayer, asking Him to give you wisdom and the right words so that students will understand the objective of this class.*
- *Pray also for the children that you will have in your class that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of those with needs.*
- *For this class you will already know the children who have attended this week a little bit better; pray for them, especially for those you sense have the greatest needs. Ask the Lord to use you to help these children.*
- *Read the Bible passage many times so that you are very familiar with the plot that reveals the story.*
- *When possible, bring an illustrated Bible to the class and share the pictures with the children.*
- *Rehearse the class many times to measure the timing, using visual aids related to the class for support. Make your class enjoyable and try to make each class different from those before. This keeps the children interested. (Remember that we can use flannel boards, puppets, figurines, or whatever objects we have available-it's only a matter of imagination and creativity).*
- *If there is enough time, you can act out the story with the children, allowing them to participate on the spot.*

- Obtain all of the materials that you will use (pictures, flannel board, or dresses).
- Prepare the memory verse in a visual way (poster board, markers or figurines, etc). Learn it well so that the students see your example, and if possible, keep the text in the classroom every day.

MATERIAL

Directions for making a cardboard box T.V.:

1. Make a T.V. out of a cardboard box. Make a square-shaped hole for the screen (the size of an 8 1/2 x 11 inch piece of paper).

2. Make two holes in the top of the box and two holes in the bottom of the box-the top and bottom holes should be at the same position. Insert a paper tube (such as from a roll of aluminum foil) into the holes so that the tube goes in through the top of the box and comes out through the bottom.

3. Print the scenes (at the end of the document) and glue the scenes end-to-end. Roll the lesson (divided into picture scenes) around the left-hand tube, and glue the first scene onto the right side of the tube. As you show the lesson, spin the tube so that the paper moves toward the right side of the box.

For the introduction: a container with water and objects made from different materials, wood, plastic, paper, stone, tree leaves, etc.

For the memory verse, have a paper boat prepared for every student with the written text; they will be able to take it home at the conclusion of the class.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Activity: color the water and the ship



BIBLE CONTEXT

Jesus Christ was walking beside the Sea of Galilee and asked Simon, also known as Peter, to follow him. From there he became one of the 12 disciples of Christ (Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16).

Peter was impulsive (Matthew 16:22, 17:4, 26:33, 35; John 18:10) and full of weaknesses (Matthew 14:28, 30; 19:27, 26:40; John 18:17, 25, 27)

Jesus Christ predicted that Simon Peter would become the building rock upon which the church of Christ would be built (Matthew 16:17-19)

Peter disciplined himself through years of trials. After the Ascension of Christ, Peter wrote some letters, which show a difference on the character of Peter.

First epistle of Peter

Peter had become what Christ predicted: a rock for his church. This letter is likely to have been written during the last years of his life

The epistle is addressed to God's elect, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia.

INTRODUCTION

- *Welcome each child to the class and introduce the new children. Always demonstrate how happy you are to be with them again to continue learning about God.*
- *Sing the welcome song (if you taught one) and pass the attendance list.*
- *Don't forget to remind the students of the general theme of the VBS- "God's Heroes: From Ordinary to Extraordinary!"*
- *Review the verses you've already memorized and the titles of the previous classes.*
- *Present the title and key verse for today's class.*
- *Say a prayer for all of the children who have been blessed by coming to the VBS. Give thanks to God for what has been learned and for this lesson.*
- *Note: try to maintain eye contact with each student, preferably seating them in a semicircle.*

- *Allow that the students to put different objects inside the container with water and observe if they sink or float, comment about what they could observe*

TEACHING THE CLASS

(Share your visual aids as you tell the story).

Ask why ships and boats can float on the water. Ask them if a person can walk on the surface of the water. Listen to their answers and say to them: the Bible tells us the story of a disciple of Jesus named Peter who walked on water. One day Jesus was preaching, and after seeing off the multitude, he rose to the mountain to pray alone. A lot of time passed by and it was very late when he went towards the boat. Due to the strong wind and the waves the boat floated far enough from land. It was already late at night when he approached the boat walking on the water. The disciples saw him but did not recognize him because it still dark. They were very scared and were shouting fearfully that it was a ghost! When Jesus heard it, He said to them: calm down! It is I. Do not be afraid.

Peter, one of the disciples, having heard him immediately said to him: Lord, if it is you, order me to go to you on the water. Jesus said to him: come. Peter quickly got out of the boat and he started walking on the water. He put his faith in action, risked walking on the water with the full knowledge that this is impossible for human beings. We were not made to float on water. However reason did not matter to him, only his faith. He managed to take several steps towards Jesus, but when he felt the strong wind it frightened him, and then he started sinking in the water. Peter cried out to Jesus and said to him: Lord, save me! Jesus then stretched out his hand and saved Peter from sinking.

REFLECTING ON THE PASSAGE

Ask to the children why Peter started sinking. Make clear to them that it was because when Peter felt the force of the wind he started doubting. He stopped being focused on Jesus and instead looked at the adversity. But Jesus saved him. Christ wants that we trust only in Him, that we do not look at the problems, but that we stick with Him. He's always ready to help us, so that we may do extraordinary things.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Act out the moment in which Peter climbed out of the boat and started walking on the water towards Jesus. Choose a person to be Peter and one to be Jesus. The students may wear some costumes, and place the chairs in a circle to represent the boat. Then ask the rest of the class to be the disciples on the boat. Help the group take turns so that several or all the students get a chance to have the roles of Jesus and Peter

THINKING ABOUT THE BIBLE PASSAGE OF TODAY.

God is the only one that can make things happen that are out of the ordinary. He's the only that can walk on the water and make another person like Peter be able to walk on water. We must deposit our faith in God though we have difficulties in our life. In Peter's case the wind was against him, but if we fix our eyes on Jesus, He's always ready to help us to overcome our fears or adversities. He wants us to be BRAVE AND THAT WE TRUST IN HIM.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

You can play a game of "Jesus Says." Ask the students to form a line in front of you. Explain to them that you'll give them orders to do some things (take a step forward, jump, etc.) but that they should only do them if first you say "Jesus says..." When you give an order without first saying "Jesus says..." then those who followed the incomplete order and sit down and the rest of the group will continue. Likewise, those who do not follow the order exactly when you do say "Jesus says..." must also be seated. Play as long as you would like, time permitting.

CONCLUSION

Peter, though he was a person like you and me, he was able to walk on water. However, when he was frightened and started sinking he cried out Jesus and He helped to Peter.

We must always turn to Jesus. Only can help us. It is part of our calling to share this joy from God with others. Tell your siblings, your parents, your friends that having Jesus in your heart makes you feel his love.

Jesus wants to be in your heart. If you have not yet invited Jesus to enter into your heart, you can do it now. *If you have a positive response from any children, ask them to stay for a moment and finish presenting the plan of salvation. If you can't do it yourself, ask another teacher for support in doing so. (If possible, get the full names and addresses of these children).*

Conclude the class with prayer. Thank the students for coming all week. Tell them goodbye and invite them to keep coming to Sunday School.

Lección 5: Pedro camina sobre las aguas.



1 PREESCOLAR











Activity: