

GOD HAS BIG PLANS FOR YOU, ESTHER

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TEACHER GUIDE

Introduction

Thank you for selecting this Bible study for your child and/or class. Leading children to read, observe, interpret, and apply the Bible for themselves offers them a bridge from hearsay to real truth. As they learn to be comfortable with the idea that they can read the Bible, they will take the task seriously.

The Discover 4 Yourself series is designed to lead young students through the process of inductive study: question, question, question, search, think, understand, and apply. They will be comfortable with this process only after you prove that the possibility is within their reach.

GOD HAS BIG PLANS FOR YOU, ESTHER is God's story about a Jew named Mordecai who brought up his uncle's daughter, Esther. When King Ahasuerus called for beautiful virgins to be brought to him, Mordecai took Esther to the king's palace. The king did not know she was a Jew, but she pleased him and found favor with him. You will see how God used Esther to save her people and learn that no matter what problems happen to come to you, God will be with you. Nothing is too hard for Him.

To prepare for leading ***GOD HAS BIG PLANS FOR YOU, ESTHER***, work through each "Day" on your own before consulting the Teacher Guide. Since this is an Inductive Bible Study, your teaching will be more effective if you do the work first and God reveals His truth to you.

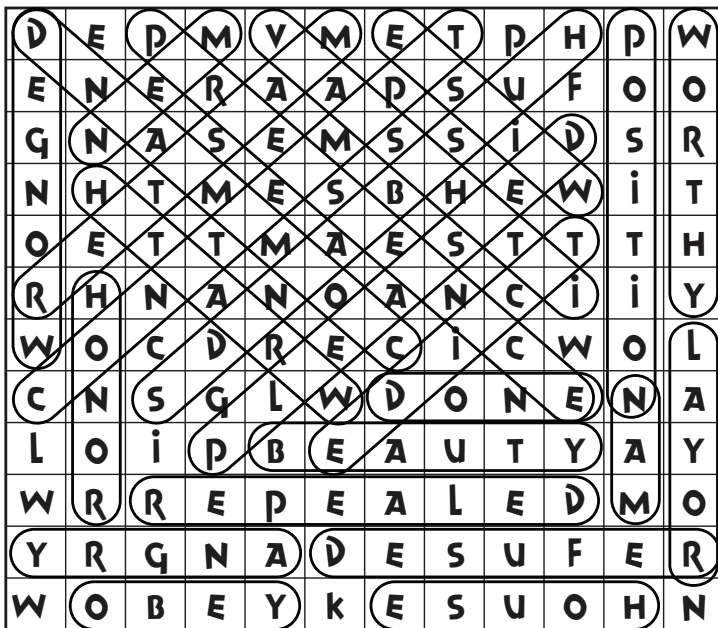
Whether you're homeschooling a child, teaching a Sunday school class, teaching in a Christian school, or simply using these studies for your child's quiet time or family Bible study, this Teacher Guide will show you how to clearly and carefully lead each child through Inductive Bible study. We offer suggestions to guide you step-by-step. Instructional Strategies explains why certain activities are used throughout the book. Choose the activities that best fit your situation.

Homeschooling Parents and Family Bible Study

We suggest you do one "Day" per day unless it's too much for your child's reading and/or writing skills. You can work with your child and discuss what you learn together or let him/her work independently, saving discussion times for later.

You may want to join or create a homeschool group that meets once a week to do these studies. The teacher will assign a week of homework in class. The following week the teacher will lead the students to discuss what they discovered, how to apply it, and to work on any creative elements included in the study or play a game to review what they have learned.

23



Are you surprised at the king's decision to remove Queen Vashti? WHAT will happen after the king banishes his queen? We'll find out as we discover two new people who are very important in this part of God's history.

Find a grown-up and say your memory verse out loud. Ask that person how you can be a good example to others.

Way to go! We are so proud of you!

Guided Instruction

23 Look at the word search on page 33. Find each word from the blanks in the questions and circle them.

Say your memory verse out loud to a grown-up.

Good job! God notices your diligence and is pleased.

If you are a classroom teacher you may want to give your students a quiz on their memory verse. There is also a quiz on Week One on page 177 to check memory and understanding.

If you are a Sunday School teacher this is a great time to review the whole week by playing a game like the *Drawing Game* on page 185 or *The Matching Game* on page 186. This is also a great way for classroom teachers and homeschool families to review with students what they learned this week.

the custody of Hegai, that Esther was taken to the king's palace into the custody of Hegai, who was in charge of the women.

9 Now the young lady pleased him and found favor with him. So he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and food, gave her seven choice maids from the king's palace and transferred her and her maids to the best place in the harem.

10 Esther did not make known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make them known.

11 Every day Mordecai walked back and forth in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and how she fared.

12 Now when the turn of each young lady came to go in to King Ahasuerus, after the end of her twelve months under the regulations for the women—for the days of their beautification were completed as follows: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and the cosmetics for women—

13 the young lady would go in to the king in this way: anything that she desired was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

14 In the evening she would go in and in the morning she would return to the second harem, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not again go in to the king unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her as his daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the women, advised. And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus to his royal palace in the tenth month which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Guided Instruction

(page 41)

"You two are so sharp!" Uncle Matt smiled. "Now let's head back to Esther. Yesterday we saw that the king had a plan to find a new queen. Today as we continue our research, we need to get a close-up look at a new person in our study—a man named Mordecai. So..."

"We know, Uncle Matt!" Max laughed. "We need to ask God for His help and get to work!"

"You've got it!"

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WEEK TWO

Okay, kids, pray and turn to page 162. Read Esther 2. Look at every place where you colored a reference to Mordecai blue and make a list of what you discover about this man.

29

My List on Mordecai

Esther 2:5 Mordecai is a J e w. He is the son of Jair, who is the son of Shimei, who is the son of Kish, who is a Benjamite.

Esther 2:6 Mordecai's great-grandfather Kish was taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been exiled with J e c o n i a h, king of Judah, who had been exiled by King Nebuchadnezzar.

Esther 2:7 Mordecai was bringing up Hadassah (E s t h e r), his uncle's daughter. Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Esther 2:10 Mordecai i n s t r u c t e d Esther not to make known her people or her kindred.

Esther 2:11 Every day Mordecai walked back and forth in front of the court of the

Guided Instruction

Turn to page 162 and reread Esther 2.

29 Answer the questions on the chart, "My List on Mordecai" on page 42 and 43.

My List on Mordecai

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D4Y “God Has Big Plans For You, Esther” Quizzes**Week 1: A Royal Banquet**

1. When does Esther take place?
 - a. After the flood
 - b. In the days of Ahasuerus
 - c. During David’s reign
 - d. After Easter
2. Where was Ahasuerus’s royal throne?
 - a. Greece
 - b. Egypt
 - c. Susa
 - d. Persia
3. King Ahasuerus’s wife was Queen _____.
 - a. Vashti
 - b. Esther
 - c. Leah
 - d. Eve
4. Queen Vashti refused to _____ the king’s command to come to the banquet.
 - a. Believe
 - b. Dress for
 - c. Obey
 - d. Appreciate
5. Who gave the first banquet?
 - a. King Ahasuerus
 - b. Esther
 - c. Vashti
 - d. Mordecai
6. Who gave the third banquet?
 - a. Esther
 - b. Queen Vashti
 - c. King Ahasuerus
 - d. Haman
7. Who was invited to Queen Vashti’s banquet?
 - a. Esther
 - b. Mordecai
 - c. The women of the palace
 - d. King Ahasuerus
8. Why did the king want queen Vashti to come to his banquet?
 - a. To serve the meal
 - b. To display her beauty
 - c. To dance
 - d. To sing
9. What did Queen Vashti do?
 - a. Hid from the king
 - b. Refused to come
 - c. Ironed her gown
 - d. Polished her crown
10. What was Queen Vashti’s punishment?
 - a. Jailed
 - b. Worked in the fields
 - c. Worked with the people
 - d. Lost royal position

Memory Verse

Esther 1:17

“For the queen’s conduct will become known to all the women causing them to look with contempt on their husbands by saying, ‘King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in to his presence, but she did not come.’”

Optional Games

Drawing Game

To play the drawing game you will need to type out what you want the kids to draw such as a scene or an event in the book of Esther on a piece of paper and cut them out individually.

Fold each slip of paper and place it in a zip-loc bag or a bowl.

Divide your class into two teams.

Have a child from Team 1 come up to the front of the class and draw out a slip of paper out of the bag. After he or she has picked out a scene or an event they will draw a sketch to depict what they have chosen on the whiteboard. Both teams watch as the child draws their sketch. When a child from either team thinks they know what is being drawn they may raise their hand and you call on the child whose hand you see first to answer. It can be a child from either team. If the answer is not guessed continue letting them guess until someone guesses the correct answer.

When the answer is guessed correctly, the team who answered the question receives 100 points for their team. Then, the teacher asks the student who guessed the drawing correctly a question that goes with that drawing. For example, if they were drawing "King Ahasuerus's Banquet," the teacher might ask, "How many days did this first banquet last?" If the student answers the question correctly they receive another 100 points for their team for a total of 200 points. If they answer incorrectly, someone from the other team gets a chance to answer the question and receive 100 points for their team, with each team receiving 100 points.

After the points are given, it's Team 2's turn to pick a slip of paper out of the bag and draw the next person or event. Go back and forth with each team until each paper is picked and drawn on the whiteboard. You may want to reward the winning team with a treat like a small piece of candy, or a privilege.