



Queen Esther Saves Her People

GOD KEEPS ME SAFE

ESTHER 4:1-5:8

Play-N-Worship for Toddlers & Twos ^{LESSON} 15 Queen Esther Saves Her People

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BIBLE STORY

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Esther 4:1-5:8, and show kids the words. Then show kids the open storyboard.

Point to Esther. Say: **Esther was a beautiful girl who loved God.** Point to the king. **The king wanted a queen, so he had all the girls in the kingdom come to his palace.** So Esther went. Point to Esther.

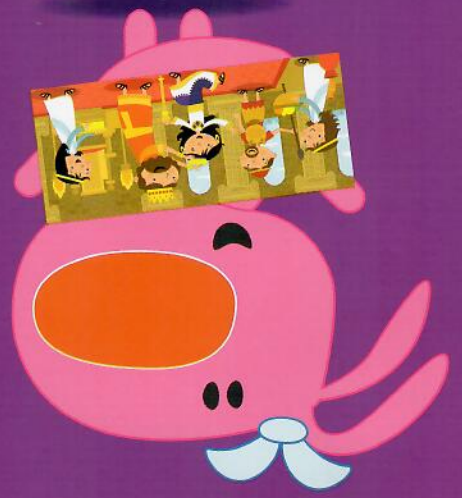
Say: **At the palace, the king's helpers took good care of the girls.** Point to the helpers. **Esther and the others got to eat special food.** Have kids pretend to eat. **The king looked around at all the beautiful girls.** Have kids look around the room. **He thought about it for a long time.** Have kids stroke their chins thoughtfully. **He decided he liked Esther the best.** **She could be the new queen!** Have kids hold their hands over their heads like pretend crowns.

Say: **After a while, Esther heard about a bad man who didn't want people to follow God.** He wanted to hurt all of God's people—even Esther!

Esther was worried. Have kids hold their faces in their hands. **She wanted to help God's people.** She knew the king could help. Point to the king.

Say: **Esther put on her queen's robes and her crown.** Have kids pretend to put on a robe and crown. **She prayed and asked God to help her be brave.** Have kids fold their hands in prayer. **She stood up straight and tall.** Have kids stand up. **And she walked to the king's room.** Have kids walk in place and then sit down.

Say: **The king listened to Esther and protected God's people.** **God heard Esther's prayer to keep God's people safe.** **God hears our prayers, too.** **God keeps us safe.** Lead kids in a prayer, thanking God for keeping us safe.



God keeps me safe

Doll Play

As children play with dolls, talk about ways they can keep the dolls safe. Point out ways that families keep us safe: providing food, clothing, and a place to play and sleep. Review how God kept his people safe. Help children tuck the dolls safely into bed.

Art

Prepare a simple construction paper crown for each child. Set out crayons and stickers and let children decorate their crowns. When they finish their crowns, place each child's crown on his or her head. "Crown" the children by saying: **Queen/King** [name of child], **God keeps you safe!**

Block Play

Help children use blocks to build the king's palace. If you have toy people, let children use them to represent Queen Esther and the king. They can build one room for Esther and one for the king. Review how God kept Esther and her people safe when she asked the king for help. Tell kids that God keeps us safe, too.



Dramatic Play

Let children set up their own special feast with toy food and utensils. As they play, talk about what it might be like to have dinner at the king's palace. What kind of special food do they think the king might serve? Talk about how God used Esther to help keep her people safe.

Music

You'll need the *Play-n-Worship* DVD, a DVD player, and a television. Play "God Is Our Help" and have kids follow the actions on-screen whenever a star appears. Play it a second time and use a rolled-up paper "scepter" (or a fancier one, if you like) to lead children as they sing along.

