

11 September 2022

Esther: The Intercessor



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Introduction

We aim to teach our children to walk in authority through having a vibrant prayer life as intercessors. We believe each child can learn to abstain or fast certain activities or food as they give more time to prayer. Like Queen Esther, our children's prayers can have significant impact on a nation as we teach them to pray the will of God.

Our lesson objectives for this week:

- Teach the children to understand what an intercessor does.
- Teach the children to make praying for others a priority.

Lesson Context:

- Esther was the new queen of the Persian Empire
- Esther decided to go before the king, even though it was against the law, to protect her people from Haman's plot to destroy them.

Read in advance:

- Esther 4

Memorize the Word:

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

1 Timothy 2:1

This week's Declaration:

I am an intercessor. I pray for people and please my Father!

Word of the week:

Intercessor



Opening Activity:

Teach the kids about the five finger prayer. Use the worksheet provided to help them understand better. The prayer works like this: Each finger represents an area for which the kids can pray for:

1. Thumb - Family
2. Index - Pastors & Teachers
3. Middle - Government
4. Ring - Poor people
5. Pinky - Me

Say: In Today's lesson we will see how Queen Esther interceded for her people through prayer and her obedience to God's guidance.

Opening Prayer:

(Let the children repeat after you)
"Father God, thank You for a new day. Thank You that we can learn how to be intercessors just like Esther. Thank You that as we pray, our families and nations will never be the same. In Jesus name. Amen."

Read the following scriptures



Esther 4:15-16

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die.”

Esther 5:3

Then the king asked her, “What do you want, Queen Esther? What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!”

Discussion points:

We can learn some important things from these verses:

- **What is an intercessor?** An intercessor is someone who comes before God on behalf of others. An intercessor is a hero because they pray for other people.
A hero is an intercessor.
- **An intercessor uses spiritual weapons:** An intercessor knows that fierce battles are won with spiritual weapons. Queen Esther used prayer and fasting to save her life and the life of her people. (Please note: kids can only fast as agreed with their parents)
A hero knows how to use spiritual weapons.
- **An intercessor touches the heart of God:** An intercessor knows how to touch the heart of God to receive His favour. The king was so pleased with Esther that he offered to give her up to half his kingdom.
A hero always receives an answer from God.

Application:

Pray clip on 5 finger prayer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_SCqgeWB1I

Say: Think of people that you know who need prayer. It could be a sick grandparent, or someone who needs help. Let us pray for them.

Pray after me: Father, thank You that You always hear our prayers. Today we ask You to provide everything our friends and family need. We ask for Your mercy in each situation. In Jesus name. Amen.

Say: What you just did shows what an intercessor does, coming before God on behalf of other.

Ask all the children to draw and colour the flag of South Africa.

Ask the children to help you in a special mission:
Interceding for the nation!

Say: The enemy attacks society with bad things like violence, sadness and the separation of families. That is why we need a network of intercessory heroes to protect our nation.

The children will intercede by repeating declarations:

- By the blood of Jesus, my nation has been redeemed from the power of the enemy. The devil has no power over my nation I dwell in the house of the Lord.
- By the blood of Jesus, all the sins of my nation have been forgiven. There are no debts outstanding between my nation and the Lord.
- By the blood of Jesus, my nation has been justified. All the unrighteousness of my nation has been nailed to the cross and we have been clothed with the righteousness of Christ. God sees us as if we had never sinned.
- By the blood of Jesus, my nation has been sanctified and set apart for God. Everything in my nation - land, businesses, families - are all God's private property.

Conclude by congratulating the children for being heroes in their nation and by giving a clap offering to the Lord.

Declare together:

I am an intercessor. I pray for people and please my Father!