

LESSON 7

THE JEWS ARE SAVED

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Invisible Hand of God

While the Book of Esther does not mention God explicitly, His presence permeates the entire story. It is evident that God controlled and directed all the "coincidences" that occurred. Even though God disciplined His people out of His love, He did not abandon them to the ploys of their evil enemies. Could it have been a mere coincidence that Esther was chosen as the queen, that her cousin and adopted father, Mordecai, foiled an assassination plot against King Xerxes, and that the king remembered Mordecai's heroic deed at just the right time? We know that none of these events were accidental. God was firmly in control of these events.

Feasts

Feasting played a very important role in the Book of Esther. A total of ten banquets were mentioned (Esth 1:3-9; 2:18; 3:15; 5:1-8; 7:1-10; 8:17; 9:17-32). Many critical events occurred at these feasts. They were manifestations of royal wealth and power among the ruling nation, as well as celebrations of God's intervention among God's people. The more prominent ones were the two banquets hosted in the palace (where Queen Vashti disobeyed King Xerxes), the two prepared by Esther (where she made a plea for her people), and the final celebration of Purim (established as a reminder of Esther's heroism in risking her life to save the people and consequently becoming the catalyst for God's deliverance). Purim was established on the fourteenth and fifteenth days in the month of Adar, the last month of the year. Purim did not celebrate the destruction of the enemies but rather the deliverance of the Jews from near annihilation. In modern times, Jews around the world observe this feast on the fourteenth, while in Jerusalem it is observed on the fifteenth.

BIBLE TEXT

Esther 3-5; 7-9

BIBLE TRUTH

God delivers His people.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the power of fasting prayer.
2. To trust that God has the power to overcome any evil plot against His children.
3. To recognize that God is still in control, guiding and protecting those who love Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

(1 Corinthians 16:13)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we know that You love us because You always take care of us and protect us. We can be brave because Your love and power are always with Your people. Help us to rely on and trust in You at all times. We know that You will guide us and deliver us from danger in Your time and in Your way. Let this lesson remind us to always act like brave Christians so that we can glorify Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

At this age, students live in a self-centered world. Whenever a decision needs to be made, not only do they tend to think of their own needs, desires, benefits, and costs first, but they also often make the selection that is in their favor with little or no consideration for others. Esther was confronted with a similar situation when the Jews faced destruction. She would have probably been safe had she just remained quiet, enjoying the hedonistic lifestyle of the palace. It wasn't until Mordecai reminded her of the inexplicable way she had come to power that she realized the possibility that God made her queen so she could fulfill His purpose of delivering His people. Instead of being selfish and concerned about her own well being, she risked her life and royal status for the sake of countless Jews she didn't even know.

Students will be inclined to make selfish decisions not only because it benefits them, but also because it is easier than choosing to be courageous and considerate. It may be something as simple as choosing between eating their favorite food by themselves or sharing it with others. It may be playing instead of helping out. It may be keeping

quiet about a mistake that has been made so that they will not get into trouble instead of taking responsibility by being honest. These decisions may not strike their conscience. It may even seem normal and natural to them. Therefore, it is very important to stress the example of Esther. She wasn't afraid to share or sacrifice whatever she could for the sake of others. Students can walk in her footsteps by sharing their time, their talents, their belongings, or anything that can help other people, even if that means they won't be rewarded or enjoy the results. Sometimes, it seems difficult for the young students to give up their time or their material possessions. It is even more difficult for them to do something that will risk getting them into trouble. Despite the many challenges they face, remind them that God empowers those who do His will and He remembers their good deeds and sacrifices. God will always guide them. Just like Esther, they can pray and rely on God to help them make the right choices. In the end, they will please God with their actions and be a channel of blessing to those around them.

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about two very different people serving in King Xerxes's palace. One was a kind person who was Esther's adoptive father. Do you remember his name? (Mordecai.) He worshipped God and was humble. He even saved the king's life when he reported on a plan to kill the king. The other person was an evil and proud man. Does anyone remember his name? (Haman.) He wanted people to obey him and bow down to him. Everyone bowed down to Haman except for Mordecai. This made Haman so angry that he convinced the king to set a decree to have all the Jews killed. Just when evil seemed to be winning, God stepped into the picture, blessing the humble Mordecai. One night, the king could not sleep, so he asked his attendants to read the palace's record books. He discovered that he had not rewarded Mordecai for saving his life. When the king asked Haman how he should honor someone, Haman suggested a big parade, thinking that he was the man to be honored. When Haman realized King Xerxes wanted to honor Mordecai, the man he despised, Haman felt humiliated. He was angry when he went home and his family suggested that he build gallows where he could hang Mordecai. In the last lesson, we learned that it is important to humble ourselves before God. People like Haman who are proud and look down on others will not be blessed by God.

VOCABULARY

- mourn:** to feel sorrow or sadness
- sackcloth:** a coarse cloth worn when a person is repenting and is sorry about sinning
- deliver:** to save someone from a dangerous situation
- plea:** to beg, to ask for a favor
- spare:** to save someone from punishment

BIBLE STORY

The Jews Mourn

After all those times of seeing Mordecai refusing to bow down, Haman felt comforted knowing that all the Jews would soon be killed because of the king's decree. When the Jews heard this news, they cried bitterly. They fasted and put on sackcloth and ashes to show their sadness. Mordecai also mourned. He sat in front of the king's gates wearing sackcloth. When Esther found out about Mordecai's situation, she became very worried. She did not know what was going on outside the palace. She had not heard about the decree the king had sealed. So, she sent a servant with clothing for Mordecai to ask what was wrong. Mordecai told him everything and even gave him a copy of the king's letter so that Esther could read it for herself. Mordecai also sent a message for Esther, asking her to plead with the king to stop this killing of the Jews. The servant went back and reported what Mordecai had said to Queen Esther.

Esther Is Afraid

When Esther heard about Haman's evil plot, she became distressed. She didn't know what to do. Even though Mordecai had asked her to talk to the king, she was scared to go. She sent a messenger to Mordecai explaining her fear.

In her message, Esther said, "All the people know that any man or woman who goes to see the king without being called by him will be put to death. The king has not called for me for thirty days. If I go without permission, I could be killed!"

What would you have done if you were Esther? Raise your right hand if you would have gone to speak to the king. Raise your left hand if you would have stayed quiet and continued living in the palace.

Mordecai sent back another message saying, "Do not think that because you are the queen, you can hide in the palace. You are also a Jew. How do you know if God made you queen so that you could help your people in this situation? If you do not help, God can still deliver His people, but you and your family will be destroyed."

When Esther heard these words, she realized that God had a purpose for her. She had not become queen just so she could enjoy delicious food, beautiful clothing, and comfortable rooms, but so she could do God's work and help others. She sent a message back to Mordecai, saying, "I will go to the king. Help me by asking everyone to fast and pray with me for three days and nights. My maids and I will also fast. When those three days are up, I will go and speak to the king. If I die, then I die." She was filled with courage because she trusted that God would listen to the fasting and prayers of all the Jews.

The Two Banquets

After three days of fasting and praying, Esther put on her

best robes and went to see the king. When the king saw her, he did not become angry. In fact, he was very happy to see his wife and welcomed her by extending his scepter to her. This action meant that she could come close to him and not be put to death. What a miracle! God had given Esther the courage to come before the king, even though there had been the risk that she could die for trying to see him. Because Esther was willing to sacrifice for others and trust in God, He moved the king to welcome her.

King Xerxes then asked Esther if she had any requests. After praying for three days, Esther had a plan, so she invited the king and Haman to attend a banquet that she had prepared.

During the banquet, the king asked Esther again what she wanted. Esther only asked the king and Haman to attend another feast the following day. The king was delighted and promised he would come. Even though it was important to move quickly to find a solution to the decree against the Jews, Esther trusted God's guidance and patiently waited to win the king's favor with another beautiful banquet.

The next day, both Haman and the king came to the banquet. Xerxes was very happy that his wife had gone through so much trouble to please him. He was prepared to give her anything she wanted, even half of his kingdom. While he was drinking, he asked Esther again if she had any requests. Esther knew that this was the best time to make her plea.

"King Xerxes," Esther said, "if I have won your favor, please spare my life and the lives of my people. We are going to be destroyed and killed."

When the king heard this, he became very angry.

"Who is it that dares to kill you?" the king asked in a rage.

Esther replied, "It is the wicked Haman!"

All this time, Haman was sitting at the banquet, listening to the conversation between the king and queen. He must have felt honored by the queen's invitations to the two banquets, so he did not expect Esther's words. When the queen revealed that Haman was the one who had plotted the killing of her people, he was terrified. He knew the king would punish or even kill him for daring to put his queen's life in danger. Haman begged Esther to spare his life. As he rushed over to plead with her, he fell on the couch where she was sitting. After hearing Esther's words and seeing Haman's movements, the king thought that Haman was trying to attack Esther! He immediately ordered his servants to take Haman out. Haman was hanged on the same gallows he had set up for Mordecai.

The Jews Are Saved

After King Xerxes felt better, Esther went to see him again, asking him to change the decree to kill the Jews. Even though he wanted to, the king could not change it. Once

he sealed a decree with his ring it could not be changed. There was another way the Jews could be saved. The king allowed Mordecai to write another decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves on the day when the first decree would take place. King Xerxes also made Mordecai a high official in his kingdom.

When the day of the first decree finally came, those

who really despised the Jews tried to fight with them. Because of the second decree, the Jews successfully defended themselves and were not killed. Afterward, they celebrated their triumph and thanked God for His protection and deliverance through the brave Queen Esther.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False/Questions to Think About

1. Esther was _____ (afraid) to see the king in the beginning.
2. After understanding God's will, she asked the people to fast and _____ (pray) with her for three days and nights.
3. Esther asked the king to attend _____ (two) banquets before making her plea.
4. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had originally made for Mordecai. True.
5. Because the decree could not be reversed, the Jews still had to die. False.
6. Why was Esther afraid to see the king? She was afraid that she would be put to death because he had not asked to see her.
7. Do you think it was a coincidence that Haman died on the same gallows he had made for Mordecai? No, God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. Haman was also being punished for trying to kill the Jews.
8. How did God protect and guide the Jews in the story of Esther? Before Haman convinced the king to make a decree to kill the Jews, God allowed Esther to become queen. Then, God allowed Mordecai to save the king's life by giving him the chance to overhear the assassination plot. Finally, God listened to the prayer of Esther and the Jews, allowing them to defend themselves on the day when they would have been completely destroyed. God was always in control and working behind the scenes.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong." (1 Corinthians 16:13)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. There is power in fasting prayer.

Today, we heard the story of Esther—a heroine of the Jews. If you were to use a word to describe Esther, what would it be? [Let students share.] I'd use the word "courageous"! When Mordecai first asked her to plead with the king for her people, she didn't know what to do. As much as she wanted to help Mordecai and all the Jews, she was so afraid that the king would kill her for going to see him without his permission. She didn't want to die! It was terrifying.

But later, Esther overcame her fear and risked her life to save the Jews—how courageous! Now, how did Esther become so fearless within just a few days? What made her so brave? The answer is in the message she sent back to Mordecai. Do you remember what she said in her message? [Let students answer.] Esther called for a fast. She asked the Jews to pray for God's help on her dangerous mission while she prayed to God for His will to be done by fasting. After three days and nights of praying and fasting, Esther transformed into a courageous worker for the Lord. She knew that God had a purpose for her, that is, to use her position as queen of Persia to convince the king to save all the Jews.

Often, we need courage to fulfill God's plans for us. Where does this courage come from? It comes from continuous praying and fasting. Just like Esther, we will also gain courage when we fast and pray. In the Bible, we can find many examples of fasting, such as when Daniel prayed about God's judgment upon Israel (Dan 9:3), when Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in the church (Acts 14:23), and when our Lord Jesus began His ministry (Mt 4:2). By fasting, they showed God that they were honoring God's will with their most sincere heart.

Students, when we pray with a sincere heart, God will not close His ears and refuse to listen. This is the attitude we should have when praying for others. Oftentimes, we hear the church announcing prayer requests from other church members. They may be ill, they may have just lost a loved one and need comfort, or they may be desperately praying for the Holy Spirit. Do you care to pray for them? Have you ever thought that your prayers won't matter, or that they won't make any difference? This is not true at all! If we truly want to help, we cannot neglect the power of praying and fasting. It may be the only thing we can do for them, but it is also the best and most helpful thing we can do. The power of praying and fasting is beyond our imagination. All it requires is our heart to be sincere! When God sees our hearts, He will not delay in reaching out His hands to help. Let me share a testimony with you.

Marie got into a very bad accident and was taken to the ER while in a coma. When Marie's family got to the hospital, the doctor told them that she had lost a great amount of blood and that the doctors in the room with Marie were doing their best to try to save her. He added that Marie's chance of survival was only 10-15%. In great despair, Marie and her family began praying in the hospital. They knew that doctors alone could not save Marie's life and that they needed God, who has almighty power to even overcome death. Not only did they continue to pray, Marie's mom also called many church members to ask for their prayers of intercession. That night, many members gathered together in the chapel, and fasted and prayed for Marie. They prayed for hours and hours; many shed tears, pleading with God to help Marie. Even though they were trembling, Marie's family had great faith in God and His power. They didn't give up on praying for Marie despite what the doctors had said to them. After eight hours in the room, the doctors finally came out. Marie had survived! As soon as the news was announced, Marie received a phone call from a church member to ask if the doctors had said anything. The church member said that the Holy Spirit had moved her in her prayer to make this phone call. It was just the right time! Marie's mom reported the good news and everyone shed tears of happiness. A few weeks later, Marie's mom shared this incident with the whole congregation at church. She testified for God and the power of fasting prayer.

2. Trust that God has the power to overcome any evil plot against His children.

While Esther left us a great example to follow, Haman, on the other hand, also set us an example—a very, very bad example! Haman thought that he had already received the king's approval. What did he ask the king for? [Let students answer.] He asked the king to make a decree to kill all the Jews. But consider this for a second. The Jews are God's people. Do you think that God will allow anyone to bring harm to His children? [Let students answer.] No! God would not allow this to happen. God has the power to overcome any evil plot against His children. He knows what lies ahead; and because He does, we can rest. Psalm 121:4 says, "Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." Nothing happens without His knowledge and permission. This is why none of Haman's plans were successful—even the king's decree is not a problem for God!

Today, we're also God's children and we can take courage that God is in control of our lives. He watches us carefully; no one can harm us without God's knowledge and He will protect us from any evil plots. No turn of events or actions of men can ever frustrate God because nothing catches Him by surprise! God can guide us through and out of any circumstances we face. Whenever you face any challenges, simply let God take care of your worries and know that He has much greater power than anyone in this world. Here's another testimony that I'd like to share with you.

Mr. Smith had asked Francisco to go see him after school. Without a clue what was happening, Francisco went to Mr. Smith's office and sat down with him. Mr. Smith looked particularly serious that day. He said, "Francisco, why did you draw on the classroom door? Firstly, the door is the school's property and you shouldn't damage it. Secondly, you shouldn't publicly express that you don't like a certain teacher! Why did you do that?" Still with no clue why he was there, Francisco answered, "Wait, Mr. Smith, I didn't do that! I never drew on the classroom door. And I love Mrs. Johnson. I don't understand why you think I did that!"

Mr. Smith didn't seem convinced. He said, "Today, five students came to me and reported that they saw you drawing on the door during lunch. They can't just all happen to make up the same story." Francisco tried to defend himself, but he had too many false witnesses against him and Mr. Smith didn't believe in him. That day, Francisco went home crying. He felt so indignant and angry. His mom found out what had happened and she said to Francisco, "Don't worry, son. Tonight, we will pray together. Remember the story of Haman? God didn't allow him to harm His people. If you are innocent, God surely knows that and He has the power to stop whoever that plotted against you. But first, we must have faith in God!" Francisco agreed and prayed with his mom. The next day, Francisco went home from school and his mom was waiting for him. She told Francisco that Mr. Smith had just called to tell her that he had found the students who had drawn on the classroom door—not Francisco, but the five students that reported to him! What happened was, the day after Mr. Smith talked to Francisco, another student went to him and reported the other five students. Mr. Smith then realized that the five students had everything planned out. They plotted against Francisco by first drawing on the door, and then by reporting to Mr. Smith that they saw Francisco drawing on the door. Francisco's mom added, "See, God won't let anybody harm His children. God listened to our prayers and brought you justice." Francisco gave his mom a hug, and together, they offered a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who had helped Francisco overcome the evil plot against him.

3. God is behind all the scenes in the Book of Esther.

Last week, we talked how God's name is hidden in the Book of Esther. Yet, in every event that happened in this book, God was behind the scene, helping Esther at every step of the way. The Book of Esther is clearly filled with God's interventions. Many things may seem coincidental, but if you look more closely, you'll see God's hands working all the way through! Let's review the story once again and see if you can recognize where the works of God took place:

1. Esther, a Jewish girl who worshipped God, was chosen to be the queen. Out of all the beautiful women in the land, Esther was chosen. If Esther had not been the queen, who else could have cared enough about the Jews to plead with the king? God clearly knew Haman's plan ahead of time and had prepared to save His people.
2. Mordecai discovered a death plot and saved the king's life, but the king did not reward him at that time. One night, the king couldn't sleep and he decided to read a history book that then reminded him to reward Mordecai for his good deed. God saved Mordecai's reward for later—for the right time, when Haman was plotting against Mordecai. Haman ended up being the official who led Mordecai in the parade.

We can clearly see God at work, both in the lives of individuals and in the affairs of a whole entire nation. Even though it looked like the lives of the Jews were in the hands of the evil Haman, God was still in control, guiding and protecting those who love Him. Today, God is in every single one of our lives, so we don't have to worry that He can't handle our matters because He is busy taking care of someone else. He is constantly working to make everything beautiful in His time.

4. Esther is a humble yet courageous person, a heroine who risked her life to appear before the king.

There are many times in life when God has providentially worked for the "right" time. God's call to us is to be faithful in the ordinary and everyday things. God makes everything happen for a reason and all we have to do is obey, trust, and have faith in Him. We don't know when God will call upon us to make a hard decision or to step out in faith and impact others. But we will be much more likely to stand strong in such a moment if we have been standing strong all along.

Another great example for us to follow in today's lesson is Mordecai, who raised Esther to be a godly person. Not only did he teach the words of God to Esther, he also reminded Esther that God had a purpose for her, and that she must have faith in Him and do what He willed, which was to save the Jews! On the other hand, Mordecai had a very humble heart. Last week, we learned that he refused to bow down to Haman. But that was not because he was arrogant like Haman, but rather because he wanted to obey God. This week, we were able to see the humble side of Mordecai. He was so humble that, even though he saved the king's life, he didn't ask for a reward. The Bible tells us that God lifts up the humble. Indeed, God honored Mordecai by putting him in charge as the prime minister (Est 10:3). By comparing Haman and Mordecai, we can see that God truly keeps His words.

Students, how much of Mordecai is in you? Do you think of God's people, that is, the members of the church, and God—our heavenly Father—all the time?

In conclusion, we have learned that God has a plan for everything, just as He had a plan for the Jews, Esther, and Mordecai. Ephesians 2:10 explains, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." God has good works prepared for each of us to do. He wants to use us, just like He wanted to use Esther! If you are good at speaking, maybe God's plan for you is to preach. If you play the piano, maybe God has a plan for you to serve as a pianist in church. In fact, as 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." Boys and girls, God is behind the scenes in all that has happened in our lives. The Bible teaches us to acknowledge Him in all our ways (Prov 3:5). In other words, we must look out for God's purpose in our lives. When Esther was afraid to go to the king, Mordecai reminded her that God had made her queen so that she could save His people. When Esther realized the plan that God had for her, she prayed and fasted earnestly for God to give her strength to fulfill His plan. In the same way, we can also live a life worthy of God's calling by living out His plans for us. All we have to do is open our hearts and pray for His will, and God will surely guide us along every step of the way.

ACTIVITIES

1

Esther Saves the People

Objective: To review the story of Esther.

Instructions: Read the passage about the story of Esther. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words. Finish the story yourself. Make up your own blanks and ask a friend to complete the story. Check to see if the answers are correct!

When King X_____ chose E _____ to be the new queen, he didn't know she was J _____. Her cousin and adopted father, M _____, had raised her since the death of her parents. He was a godly man. He always sat at the king's palace g _____. One time, he overheard two men plotting to k _____ the king. He quickly told Esther and saved the king's l _____.

H _____ was an evil man who worked for the king. He wanted everyone to b _____ down to him. But Mordecai refused to do this because he knew that he could only worship G _____. Haman became very a _____ and plotted to kill all the Jews. He convinced the king to pass a law to destroy all the Jews on a certain day. When Mordecai heard this, he became s _____. The people fasted and prayed to God. Mordecai asked Esther to help. But Esther was s _____. She thought the k _____ might kill her if she went to see him without his permission. Mordecai told her that God allowed her to become the q _____ so that she could help her people. Esther agreed to help and asked the people to pray and f _____ with her for t _____ days and nights. When the days were up, she wore her best clothes and went to see King Xerxes. What was her plan? How was she going to save the Jews? Finish the rest of the story.

2

The Courageous League

Instructions: Read each of these Bible passages to answer the questions. Then, use the secret code to discover the famous words spoken by these people who showed great courage when they faced difficult challenges.

Secret Code

1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

1. David, the Brave Shepherd (1 Sam 17)

David was only a young shepherd when he went into his first battle against the giant Goliath. How did he courageously defeat his Philistine enemy?

“Your s2rv1nt _____ has killed both l34n _____ and b21r _____; and this 5nc3rc5mc3s2d _____ Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has d2f32d _____ the 1rm32s _____ of the living God. The Lord, who d2l3v2r2d _____ me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Ph3l3st3n2 _____.”

2. Joshua and Caleb, the Courageous Spies (Num 13:26-33; 14:1-38)

Twelve spies were sent to scout the promised land. When they returned, only two of the spies had faith. How did they show their courageous spirit and faith in God?

“The land we passed through to spy out is an 2xc22d3ngly _____ good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which fl4ws _____ with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, because we will sw1ll4w _____ them up. Their pr4t2ct34n _____ is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

3. The Brave Apostles (Acts 5:17-42)

The apostles performed miracles and healed the sick. Even though the high priest and his followers put the apostles in jail, God sent an angel to release them and tell them to keep preaching. When the apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin, they were not afraid. How did the apostles show their courage?

“We ought to 4b2y _____ God rather than men. The God of our fathers r13s2d _____ up Jesus whom you m5rd2r2d _____ by hanging on a tree. Him God has 2x1lt2d _____ to His right hand to be Prince and S1v34r _____, to give repentance to Israel and f4rg3v2n2ss _____ of sins. And we are His w3tn2ss2s _____ to these things, and so also is the H4ly _____ Sp3r3t _____, whom God has given to those who 4b2y _____ Him.”

ACTIVITIES ANSWER KEY

Activity 1: "Esther Saves the People"

Answers: Xerxes, Esther, Jewish, Mordecai, gate, kill, life, Haman, bow, God, angry, sad, scared, king, queen, fast, three

Activity 2: "The Courageous League"

1. David, the Brave Shepherd

Answer: David trusted in God and threw a stone at Goliath using his sling.

Verse: "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." (1 Samuel 17:36-37)

2. Joshua and Caleb, the Courageous Spies

Answer: They stood up to the other ten spies and told the Israelites that they could conquer the land with God's help.

Verse: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'" Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them." (Numbers 14:7-9)

3. The Brave Apostles

Answer: The apostles told the Sanhedrin that they had to obey God over man. After they were flogged, they were joyful for their suffering and continued to preach.

Verse: "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him." (Acts 5:29-32)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

a. 5 b. 1 c. 9 d. 6 e. 8 f. 4 g. 10 h. 3 i. 7 j. 2

E1 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 7—The Jews Are Saved

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God delivers His people.

Lesson Objective: To be courageous and trust in God at all times.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Corinthians 16:13)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Number the events from Esther's story in order, starting from 1.

- _____ a. Esther invites King Xerxes and Haman to the first banquet.
- _____ b. Mordecai mourns in sackcloth outside the king's gate.
- _____ c. King Xerxes issues a decree that the Jews can defend themselves.
- _____ d. Queen Esther makes a plea for her life and the lives of the Jews.
- _____ e. Haman is hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.
- _____ f. Esther risks her life to go and speak to King Xerxes.
- _____ g. The Jews celebrate God's deliverance through the brave Queen Esther.
- _____ h. Esther and the Jews fast and pray for three days and three nights.
- _____ i. Haman begs Esther for his life and angers the king.
- _____ j. Mordecai tells Esther that God might have made her queen to help the Jews.