



Authorised Mess — ESTHER

Your details

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Church: Morden Baptist Church, Surrey

Bible book	Esther
Theme of session	Enterprising Esther—how Esther used her God-given position for good
Notes	This session was part of a four-month series on women of the Bible, including Ruth, Hannah and Mary. We tried to show how God used these women, how they trusted in him in their difficult situations and how he answered their prayers in remarkable ways.

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Royal mask	Get everyone to make a mask so they are a king like Xerxes or a queen like Esther.	King/queen mask templates, card, scissors, coloured pens or collage materials, elastic, glue. Templates can be found at www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/361581/jewish/Mask .	To represent King Xerxes and Queen Esther.
Older participants	Friendship bracelet/keyring	Thread beads on to elastic to make a bracelet or a keyring to give to a friend.	Selection of beads (optional—alphabet beads for names), elastic, scissors.	To remember the gifts that King Xerxes gave to Esther to show how much he loved her. How can we show loyalty and love to a friend?



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Girls	Crown for a queen	Make a crown fit for a queen.	Crown template, card, scissors, collage materials, sequins/jewels, glue. Templates can be found at http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/World/Bejeweled_Crown/Bejeweled_Crown.html .	Think about what it might feel like to become a queen. How did Esther feel once she had been chosen by Xerxes?
Boys	Noisy shakers and tambourines	Make a simple shaker by filling a yoghurt pot with dried peas—seal well with tape. For a tambourine, attach small bells to the edge of a paper plate and decorate the inside.	Yoghurt pots, dried peas, tape, small bells, paper plates, colouring pens and other materials to decorate.	To make a noise maker or 'gragger' as used by Jewish families during the feast of Purim to drown out the name of Haman when mentioned during the reading of the story of Esther.
All	The Royal race	Get everyone to dress up as royalty ready for the banquet.	Costumes, crowns, robes (old curtains), sceptres (tubes covered in tin foil).	To see what it feels like to be royalty, and for fun. How did Esther feel once she had become a queen?
Food-based	Popcorn	Pop the corn in the saucepan (or microwave or popcorn machine).	Popping corn, saucepan, sugar/salt. A simple recipe can be found at http://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/perfect_popcorn/ .	To remember the feast that Esther laid on for Haman and Xerxes.



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Food- based	Hamantaschen (Haman's ears)	Follow the instructions to make these jammy biscuits.	Eggs, sugar, flour, baking powder, lemon, juice, vanilla, oil, jelly, bowls, utensils, baking sheet. See this website for details: www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/361591/jewish/Hamantashen.htm .	To remember the feast that Esther laid on by making some traditional Purim biscuits.
Quiet	Prayer crown	Prepare a large drawing of a crown on the paper. Get everyone to 'set' a jewel in the crown and think about a special place they go to—school, home, club, church—and the people they meet there.	Crown template, large sheet of paper, coloured shiny paper for jewels, glue.	Chance to think about the special places we belong to and how God could use us there.
Really messy	Can you plunge the gunge?	Fill buckets with 'gunge'—cornflour mixed with water and coloured with a little food colouring looks great. Who is brave enough to plunge their hands into the gunge to retrieve items from the buckets?	Buckets, cornflour, food colouring, water, small items to hide in the gunge, paper towels, soapy water.	Esther was very brave to face King Xerxes without being invited. How brave do we feel when we are asked to do something important?



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Celebration suggestion

The story of Esther is read out loud every year during the festival of Purim. It is a joyous occasion for Jewish people: they dress up and the story becomes a bit of a pantomime with masks, costumes and noisy audience participation. Every time the name of Haman is mentioned the audience boo and shake their 'graggers' to drown out his name.

Retell the story encouraging audience participation using the masks, crowns, costumes and 'graggers' made in the activities.

It might be interesting to tell them that Esther is the only book of the Bible that does not mention the name of God once(!)—but God's hand is at work all the way through the story.

Use the prayer crown to remember the places people go to/belong to. Pray that God will use them in those places and that they will be brave and enterprising to do what he wants them to do.

Meal suggestion

- ✿ Party food but probably best not to serve sausages if you really want to go with the Jewish theme.
- ✿ Haman's ears jammy biscuits and popcorn (made in the activity).

Faith in Homes suggestion

Spend some time remembering members of your family that live in other places/countries/situations. Send them a family card or letter to show them that you are thinking of them. Thank God for all the people in your family and those who you care for.

Primary School RE idea

- ✿ Have a Purim festival celebration using the masks and costumes made in the activity. Tell the story of Esther.
- ✿ Think of other brave women who have faced opposition for a cause—Florence Nightingale/Rosa Parks/Emmeline Pankhurst and so on.