

# **The Scottish Sleuths**

**and**

# **The Case of The Hidden Hero**

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**Vacation Bible School  
Curriculum**

*Teacher's Manual  
4th-5th Grades*

# Overview of Daily Lessons

**Perfect  
Plan**

## Day One

Theme: God has a **Perfect Plan** for His People  
Bible Text: Esther 1:1 – 2:20

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 46:9-10

**Persecuted**

## Day Two

Theme: God's People are **Persecuted** by God's Enemies  
Bible Text: Esther 2:21 – 4:3

Scripture Memory: Matthew 5:11-12

**Participate**

## Day Three

Theme: God's People **Participate** in God's Plan  
Bible Text: Esther 4:4 – 5:14

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 2:10

**Protects**

## Day Four

Theme: God **Protects** His People  
Bible Text: Esther 6:1 – 8:11

Scripture Memory: Psalm 91:1-2

**Praise**

## Day Five

Theme: God's People **Praise** God for Their Protection  
Bible Text: Esther 8:15 – 10:3

Scripture Memory: Review all memory verses

# Scripture Memory

*Note: All Scripture Memory passages are taken from the New International Version (NIV)*

## **Day One: Isaiah 46:9-10**

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

## **Day Two: Matthew 5:11-12**

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## **Day Three: Ephesians 2:10**

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## **Day Four: Psalm 91:1-2**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

## **Day Five: Review all Memory Work**

# Daily Schedule

9:00 - 9:15	Opening Program
9:15 - 9:45	Welcome/Icebreaker Bible Lesson
9:45 - 10:05	Music
10:05 - 10:25	Crafts
10:25 - 10:45	Bible Application
10:45 - 11:05	Recreation
11:05 - 11:25	Snacks
11:25 - 11:45 **	Bible Memory
11:45 - Noon	Closing Program

**\*\*Day Five Only: 11:30 - Noon  
Closing Celebration**

# God's People Participate in God's Plan

## DAY THREE

**Bible Text**

Esther 4:4 – 5:14

**Memory Verse**

Ephesians 2:10

**Scripture Truth**

God gives His people opportunities to participate in His plan.

**Lesson Aim**

For the students to understand that God's plans and purposes always prevail; and, that He is gracious enough to involve us in the carrying out of His plans.

**Opening Program**

The opening program includes a skit to introduce the day's theme, a time of singing, and announcements. After the opening program, go with your students back to your classroom.

**Welcome**

Greet the boys and girls warmly. Introduce any new students to the rest of the class. Make sure all students have name tags.

**Icebreaker**

*[Note: See Day One's note about the purpose of icebreakers.]*

**Write the following on the board:**

**What would you rather do?**

- Play the Game*
- Cheer for your team to win the Game*
- Watch the Game*
- Talk about the Game*

**Ask each student to pick only one of the four options [Explain that this is just an imaginary game]. Write each person's name by his/her choice. After all have answered, ask:** *Which one of these four activities is true participation?* [Playing the Game]. *The other choices don't have the same level of commitment or involvement, do they? In our lesson today, we will discover how important TRUE PARTICIPATION in the Kingdom of God is.*

**Bible Lesson**

*[Note: See note on Day One for the purpose of the Bible Lesson.]*

**Materials:** Bibles; one per student.

**Introduction:** *Where did our story end last time? [The Jews were crying out to God when they discovered Haman's plot against them.] Let's continue to be good Bible detectives as we read more in the exciting Book of Esther.*

**Have your students open their Bibles to Esther 4.**

**Have a volunteer read Esther 4:5-11.**

<sup>5</sup> Then Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. <sup>6</sup> So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup> He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to urge her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. <sup>9</sup> Hathach went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup> Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, <sup>11</sup> "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But

thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

**Discussion [short, concise answers]:** *What did Mordecai want Esther to do?* [To go to the king and beg for mercy.] *How did Esther respond?* [She was concerned for her life.] *Did she want to obey Mordecai?*

*Let's keep reading and learn Mordecai's response to Esther.*

**Have a volunteer read verses 12-17.**

<sup>12</sup> When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, <sup>13</sup> he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup> For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" <sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

**Discussion:** *What was Mordecai's view of this situation?* [He thought that maybe Esther was placed in her position to be used by God to save the Jews.] *Did Esther change her mind after Mordecai's response? Why?* **Allow answers.** *What did Esther resolve to do now?* **Allow answers.**

*Let's see what happens next in Chapter 5.*

**Have another student read Esther 5:1-8.**

<sup>1</sup> On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king

was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. <sup>2</sup> When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. <sup>3</sup> Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you." <sup>4</sup> "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him." <sup>5</sup> "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. <sup>6</sup> As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." <sup>7</sup> Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: <sup>8</sup> If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."

**Discussion:** *Do you see how the plot to our story is building? What do you think Queen Esther is planning to do?* **Allow some conversation.**

**Summarize the end of Esther 5:** *Chapter 5 continues with Haman being filled with rage again because Mordecai continued to refuse to bow down and worship him. Isn't that kind of funny? Haman's wife and friends only help to stir up his anger against Mordecai and the Jews.*

*Listen to how Chapter Five ends.*

**Read verse 14.**

<sup>14</sup> His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows built, seventy-five feet

high, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go with the king to the dinner and be happy.” This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the gallows built.

*Looks like more evidence that God's enemies persecute God's people, doesn't it?*

**Close with prayer, asking God to give us hearts committed to participating in God's Plan.**

**Music**

Escort your children to the Music Area for Music. The Music Team will lead the class in a time of singing and learning the various VBS songs. **This is your break time.**

**Crafts**

Have your helpers take your students to the Craft Area. The VBS crafts team will lead your students in a crafts project. **Use this time to prepare for Bible Application time.**

**Bible Application**

*[Note: See Bible Application Note on Day One for purpose of this section. Remember to post the application points in the room.]*

**Application Point 1:**

**God wants to use you to accomplish His plan**

*Mordecai sent this message to Esther: “**And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?**” Mordecai was basically saying that God had put Esther in a place of authority to enable her to help to save God's people from destruction. God wanted to use Esther to accomplish His plan.*

*Do you know that God uses His people to accomplish His plans? For example, God uses pastors to preach so that people will hear the gospel, repent, and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. What are some other ways God uses people to accomplish His plan and purpose? **Help the students think of examples: Missionaries; parents raising their children; various occupations preventing crime, fixing problems, etc.***

*Now, how can God use you, at YOUR AGE, to accomplish His plans? **Allow time for students to answer [Witnessing, obeying parents, example, etc.]***

**Application Point 2:**

**God's plan will be accomplished—with or without you**

*Remember that Mordecai said something else to Esther about her participation in helping to save God's people— “**For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place...**” He was telling her that God would accomplish His plan with her, or through someone else.*

*What does this tell you about God? **Help the students talk about how God is sovereign and in control; that He does***



what He pleases; that God's plans ALWAYS come to pass.

*Wouldn't you rather be involved in God's work rather than God choosing someone else instead? Do you see how Esther was in the absolute best position to help God's people? Allow time for response.*

*Remember that Mordecai warned Esther about the consequences of not participating in the salvation of the Jews — "...you and your father's family will perish." Those are dire consequences, don't you think? Would that change your thinking?*

*If you are one of God's children, like Esther was, He will put you in positions to be able to accomplish His plans. But, if you disobey, God's plan will still come to pass!*

**Application Point 3:**  
**Participation in God's plan can be very costly**

*When Queen Esther changed her mind and decided to obey Mordecai and try to help save God's people from destruction, she said these words: "I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." Esther knew that going to the king without being summoned could mean that she could lose her life. Why do you think she was willing to take this risk? Help students come up with possible reasons.*

*Participation in God's plan can be very costly at times. Esther could have lost her life. What could you "lose" if you choose to participate in God's plan? Allow discussion. This is a difficult question.*

**Take time to help the students consider "costly losses" for living a Christian life:**

- Loss of so-called friends
- Loss of money/possessions
- Loss of a comfortable life
- Loss of people liking you
- Loss of time

**If desired, share with your students any personal examples about how you have participated in God's plan for your children, family, friends, etc.**

**Close in prayer, thanking God for His control of all things and His grace for allowing us to participate in His plan.**

**Recreation**

Have your helpers escort your children to the Recreation Area. The Recreation Team will be responsible for your students during this time. **Enjoy your break.**

**Snack**

Snacks will be delivered to your classroom. Have a volunteer lead the class in a prayer of thanks for the food and drink. Make sure the students respect each other while eating and clean up after themselves.



## **Bible Memory**

Review the importance of memorizing God's Word [See Day One].

Review yesterday's Scripture Memory [Matthew 5:11-12] with the class. Get volunteers to say it from memory.

Also spend a minute or two checking if they remember the main point of the verse [That God's people will be persecuted today just as they always have been.].

Have the students open their Bibles to Ephesians 2:10 and read it aloud.

**Today's Scripture Memory is found in  
Ephesians 2:10.**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*Say: Do you see what this verse says? We are created to do good works (to participate in God's plan!) which He has prepared us to do. Wow! Let's practice this verse...*

**Activity: Memory Erase.** Write the entire verse on the board, erasing sections of the verse at a time (after each time it is recited), until there is nothing left except the Scripture reference! Encourage all students to participate together. If time, have individual students recite the verses to the rest of the class.

Hand out Scripture memory reminder cards and encourage the students to spend time in memorization.

## **Closing Program**

Go with your students back to the Closing Program area. Remind them to be respectful of others. Afterwards, deliver the students to their pick-up location.

END DAY THREE

