

The Scottish Sleuths

and

The Case of The Hidden Hero

Pre-School

**Vacation Bible School
Curriculum**

*Teacher's Manual
4 and 5 year olds*

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 46:9b,10b

Persecuted

Day Two

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

Scripture Memory: Matthew 5:11a

Participate

Day Three

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

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 2:10a

Protects

Day Four

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

Scripture Memory: Psalm 91:2

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 46:9b,10b

I am God...My purpose will stand.

Day Two: Matthew 5:11a

“Blessed are you when people persecute you...”

Day Three: Ephesians 2:10a

For we are created in Christ Jesus to do good works...

Day Four: Psalm 91:2

God...is my refuge and my fortress... 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	Recreation
10:05 - 10:25	Snacks
10:25 - 10:45	Music
10:45 - 11:05	Bible Application
11:05 - 11:25	Crafts
11:25 - 11:45 **	Bible Memory
11:45 - Noon	Closing Program

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

God Has a Perfect Plan for His People

DAY ONE

Bible Text

Esther 1:1 – 2:20

Memory Verse

Isaiah 46:9b,10b

Scripture Truth

Things do not happen by chance; God is in control of all things.

Lesson Aim

For the students to understand that an obedient heart allows the child of God to enjoy the fact that God is in control of all circumstances of life.

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

Introduce yourself, your co-teacher(s), and your classroom helpers. Greet the boys and girls warmly, working diligently to memorize their names. Make sure each student has a name tag.

Icebreaker

[Note: Each day's icebreaker is intended to 1) Help the children feel comfortable in their new class; 2) Build relationships between teachers, helpers, and students; and 3) Get the children excited about the Bible lesson.]

Materials: One sheet of poster board; a few crayons or markers.

Have all the children sit on the floor facing you. Hold up the blank poster board.

Say: *This morning you will each have a chance to draw one shape on my poster board. I'll start with a circle. Draw a small circle. You can draw any shape you desire. Have the children come up one at*

a time and draw a shape. Ask the children to name each shape after it is drawn.

Upon completion, say: *What have we drawn a picture of? Let the children answer. It shouldn't look like a discernible picture!*

Transition: *We needed a PLAN in order to really draw a picture as a group. Our way didn't work! In our lesson today, we will learn about how God has a PERFECT PLAN for His people.*

Bible Lesson

[Note: The "Bible Lesson" time is intended to: 1) Allow the students to hear God's Word, getting acquainted with its stories and truths; and to 2) Enable them to begin learning about God and their responsibilities toward Him.]

Materials: Younger children need this storytelling time to be dramatic and visual. Feel free to bring in pictures, drawings, or puppets as visual aids. **Flannelgraph figures are one of the best options!**

Gather all the children together for the Bible Lesson.

Opening: *Are you ready to become good Bible detectives like Angus McTavish and Professor Thornwell? Great! I have a very important story to tell you this week. Show the children your Bible. It is found in the Bible, in the Old Testament—in the Book of Esther. It is one of the most amazing stories you will ever hear!*

Introduce the Book of Esther to your students: *The events in our story occurred a long, long time ago (483-473 B.C.). Years before our story began, God's people, the Jews, were taken into captivity. They ended up living in a country called Persia. Years later, they were allowed to return home. But many of the Jews decided to stay in Persia, living among the Persian people, under the rule of King Xerxes. The Book of Esther records the story of some of these Jews in this foreign land.*

Today, we begin our story with King Xerxes holding a week-long party to celebrate the glory of his large kingdom. He calls for his wife, Queen Vashti, to come to the party, so he can show her off to the crowds. The queen refuses to come. Can you believe it? This makes the king of Persia very, very angry. Let's read what happens.

[Note: All references are from the NIV.]

Read Esther 1:16, 18.

¹⁶ Then Memucan (*the king's advisor*) replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, "Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes. ¹⁸ This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

Discussion: *Did you hear that? The king's advisor tells King Xerxes that Queen Vashti has set a bad example by not obeying her husband. Now, listen to his advice...*

Read verses 19, 21.

¹⁹ "Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot

be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she...²¹ The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memucan proposed.

Discussion [help them with the answers]: *What punishment was suggested for Queen Vashti's disobedience? [She would no longer get to be queen.] Did the king do what his advisor suggested? [Yes.]*

Summary: *So now King Xerxes needs a new queen! He instructs his servants to search the whole kingdom for a beautiful young woman who could be the new queen. Let's see what happens...*

Read Esther 2:5-7.

⁵ Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, ⁶ who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. ⁷ Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

Discussion: *Esther was a beautiful orphan girl, raised by her cousin Mordecai. Both Esther and Mordecai were Jews—God's chosen people.*

Let's continue. Read verses 8-10.

⁸ When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. ⁹ The girl pleased him

and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven maids selected from the king's palace and moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem. ¹⁰ Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

Discussion: *What happened to Esther?* [She was chosen to be a candidate to become queen.] *What did Mordecai tell her NOT to do?* [Not to tell anyone she was a Jew.] *Did Esther obey him?* [Yes.]

Now, let's listen carefully and finish today's part of our story...

Read verses 17-20.

¹⁷ Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. ¹⁸ And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality. ¹⁹ When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. ²⁰ But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai's instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.

Discussion: *So, who did the king choose as his new queen?* [Esther!] *What did the king do for Esther?* [He gave Esther a great banquet; proclaimed a holiday, etc.] *Did Esther continue to obey Mordecai's instructions?* [Yes.]

We will talk further about this story later on, and then read more of it tomorrow.

Close this time with prayer, thanking God for His Word.

Recreation

Have your helpers escort your children to the Recreation Area. The Recreation Team will be responsible for your students during this time. **This is a time for you to take a 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. **Encourage the children to use the bathroom at this time.**

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. **Sing along with them or use this time for a break.**



Bible Application

[Note: The Bible Application time is intended to reinforce what was presented during the Bible Lesson time. The "Application Point" titles are included here just for the teacher's understanding, since they are too difficult for most of this age group to comprehend. One or two word basic concepts will be the focus of the activities during this segment.]

Arrange the children on the floor so they can see and hear the teacher.

Application Point 1:

Disobedience brings consequences

*Raise your hand if you have ever disobeyed your parents. **Make sure all the children raise their hands!***

*When you disobey your parents, what happens to you? **Allow them to call out answers. Encourage sharing.***

*Who disobeyed the king in our story today? [Queen Vashti.] **What happened to her?** [She was removed as queen.]*

*Boys and girls, disobedience has what we call **CONSEQUENCES**. Consequences are problems that come into our lives because of the wrong things we do.*

*Raise your hand if you like getting punished when you disobey your parents! **Why don't you like these CONSEQUENCES? Allow answers.***

The LORD tells us not to be disobedient, which means...we must obey! This leads us to our next application point...

Application Point 2:

Obedience means doing what those in authority tell you to do

Let's play a game. When I tell you to do something, you do it, ok?

Give the children various commands: Stand up, sit down, wave your hands, stomp your feet, turn around, etc.

*Okay, now let me ask you a question: Why did you just do all of those things? **Allow answers. [The right answer is: Because you told us to do those things!]***

*That's right! Most of you just demonstrated **OBEDIENCE**. Obedience is doing what someone tells you to do.*

*Who are you supposed to obey? **Have children call out answers.** God tells us to obey **ALL** those in authority over us.*

*Who in our story **DID NOT** obey? [Queen Vashti.] **Who in our story DID** obey? [Esther.] **Who did the right thing?***

*God tells us to obey **ALL** those in authority, and that means obeying **HIM** most of all.*

Application Point 3:

God has a perfect plan for His people

*Do you remember our poster we made earlier this morning? **Show the poster.** Did all of our shapes make a pretty picture? **Why not? I'll tell you why not—because we didn't have a PLAN!***

*In our story, do you remember Esther? **Hold up a picture or flannelgraph figure.** Do you think it was strange that a young Jewish girl became queen of a big foreign nation like Persia? **I do! Do you think this***

happened by chance? [No.] I don't either.

Boys and girls, God has a PERFECT PLAN for His people. We will learn this week that He has a PLAN for Queen Esther and Mordecai and for all of the Jews.

Do you think God has a plan for your life? Yes! God does have a PLAN for all of our lives. And it is PERFECT.

Close in prayer, asking God to give us obedient hearts that can fully enjoy His perfect plan for our lives.

[Note: If you need to fill some time before Craft Time, have coloring sheets available for the children.]

Crafts

Have your helpers escort your students to the Craft Area. The VBS Crafts Team will lead your students in a crafts project. Use this time for a break or to prepare for Bible Memory Time. Your children will return to the classroom for Bible Memory.

Bible Memory

Begin this segment by teaching the students the importance of memorizing God's Word:

- (1) We "hide it in our hearts" so we will turn away from sin and follow Jesus.**
- (2) It changes the way we think, focusing on pleasing God instead of pleasing self.**
- (3) It helps us to know God more and love God more.**

Relate to the students how Scripture memory has impacted your life.

Today's Scripture Memory is found in Isaiah 46:9b,10b.

"I am God...My purpose will stand."

Write the Scripture memory passage on poster board.

Say: *Today's memory verse tells us that God is in control of all things. He has a PERFECT purpose or PLAN that will always stand forever.*

Activity: Memory Rhythm. Help the children make up a "rhythm" to enable memorization. Make it fun!

Example:

I am God...

(echo—I am God)

My purpose...

(echo—My purpose)

will stand...

(echo—will stand)

Isaiah... (clap, clap)

46:9b,10b

Review the Scripture a number of times to allow memorization. Allow students to perform their rhythms in front of the class. Or, have various groups do it together.

If extra time, have coloring sheets available.

Hand out Scripture memory reminder cards and encourage the students to have dad or mom help them memorize.

Closing Program

Go with your students back to the area designated for the Closing Program. Remind them to be respectful of others on their way to and during the Closing Program. Afterwards, escort the students to their pick-up location.

END DAY ONE