

# **The Scottish Sleuths**

**and**

# **The Case of The Hidden Hero**

**Primary**

**Vacation Bible School  
Curriculum**

*Teacher's Manual  
Kindergarten-1st Grade*

# 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 5:11

**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 91:2

**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, and there is none like me...I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

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

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

## **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 91:2**

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	Snacks
10:05 - 10:25	Music
10:25 - 10:45	Crafts
10:45 - 11:05	Bible Application
11:05 - 11:25	Recreation
11:25 - 11:45 **	Bible Memory
11:45 - Noon	Closing Program

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



# God's People are Persecuted by God's Enemies

## DAY TWO

**Bible Text**

Esther 2:21 – 4:3

**Memory Verse**

Matthew 5:11

**Scripture Truth**

Serving God brings out hatred and persecution from those who hate God.

**Lesson Aim**

For the students to know that choosing to obey God will result in persecution by God's enemies. Pressure to obey man rather than God is a regular part of the life of a Christian.

## 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 each student has a name tag.

## Icebreaker

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

**Write on the board:** "What makes you angry?" Begin with your own answer. Have the students share their answers, one at a time. Write them on the board. **Give each child an opportunity to answer.**

**Transition:** *Today we'll read about what made one man mad and the consequences his anger brought upon God's people.*

## Bible Lesson

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

**Materials:** Visual aids. Have pictures or

flannelgraph figures available to illustrate today's Bible lesson.

**[Note: There is more reading today, as the story gets more involved. Please summarize as needed.]**

**Show the children your Bible.** *Who's ready to hear more about Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai? Let's be good Bible detectives as we listen closely to the lesson.*

*A new major character also enters our story. Watch out for him!*

### Read Esther 2:21-23.

<sup>21</sup> During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. <sup>22</sup> But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. <sup>23</sup> And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were hanged on a gallows. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

**Discussion [remember, you want concise responses at this point]:** *What did the two angry men want to do? [Kill the king.] Who found out about it? [Mordecai.] What did Mordecai do about it? [He told Queen Esther.] What happened to the two angry men? [They were hanged.]*

*Let's keep up that good "sleuthing" and continue reading our story.*

### Read Esther 3:1-6.

<sup>1</sup> After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. <sup>2</sup> All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt

down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.<sup>3</sup> Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?"<sup>4</sup> Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew.<sup>5</sup> When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.<sup>6</sup> Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

**Discussion:** *Our new major character, Haman, was given great power and authority in Persia. Everyone honored him just like they honored the king. What did Mordecai refuse to do? [Bow down and worship Haman.] How did Haman respond when he heard about it? [He was furious!] What sort of consequences occurred because of Mordecai's refusal to worship Haman? [Haman wanted to kill Mordecai and all of the Jews.]*

*Let's be good detectives and see what happens after Mordecai refuses to bow down to Haman.*

**Read verses 8-11, 13.**

<sup>8</sup>Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.<sup>9</sup> If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for

the men who carry out this business."<sup>10</sup> So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.<sup>11</sup> "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please."<sup>13</sup> Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and little children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

**Discussion:** *Did you hear what Haman decided to do to God's people? Did you notice how King Xerxes gave him full power to do whatever he pleased to the Jews? Wow! This could be a problem!*

*Let's finish today's part of the story, in the first part of Chapter 4.*

**Read Esther 4:1-3.**

<sup>1</sup>When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.<sup>2</sup> But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it.<sup>3</sup> In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

**Discussion:** *How did Mordecai and the rest of God's people respond to Haman's decree? [They mourned deeply.] Do you think they were crying out to each other or to someone else?*

*The plot "thickens." We'll talk more during Bible Application Time. And tomorrow we will see what happens next. **Close in prayer, thanking God for His Word.***



## 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 your children to use the restroom 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. **This is your break.**

## Crafts

Have your helpers escort your students to the Craft Area. The VBS crafts team will lead them 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 time. Remember to post the application points in the room.]*

### Application Point 1:

**Obeying God means disobeying something that is sinful**

*Yesterday, we learned that God requires His people to obey those in authority. So did anyone find it strange that Mordecai, who taught Esther to obey him, openly **disobeyed** one of the king's commands? **Allow time for responses.***

*Well, the reason that Mordecai did not bow down to Haman was not because he was stubborn or in rebellion against God, but because doing so would be worshipping a man, and an evil man at that. The Persians believed their kings and rulers were actually "gods," so that is why they bowed down to them. Mordecai worshipped the true God, so he refused to worship Haman or the king.*

*There may be times when you and I may have to disobey something sinful in order to obey God. Can you think of any examples? [Give some examples: If the government made a law that no one could go to church and worship God. If an authority instructs you to do something against God's Word, like stealing, cheating, lying, etc.] **Allow the students to suggest some others.***

*You may never have to take a stand like Mordecai did; but, on the other hand, you may get the chance one day. What will you do—obey God or obey a sinful command from a person? **Allow responses.***

### Application Point 2:

**People may try to tempt you to disobey God**

*Did you notice that those around Mordecai urged him to just go ahead and bow down to Haman? Do you remember what Mordecai did? [He refused to "go along with the crowd."]*

*Not only did Mordecai's peers try to get him to disobey God, they ended up "tattling" on*

him to Haman. *Why do you think they did that?* **Help the students to think about possible reasons.** [Jealousy, anger, revenge, etc.]

*Have you ever been pressured by a friend to do something wrong? Did you give into the pressure—or did you respond like Mordecai and stand your ground?* **Allow some discussion.**

*There will be times in your life where “everybody else” is disobeying God, and you have the choice of either going along with them or obeying God. And, obeying God may bring consequences from your “friends,” just like in Mordecai’s case.* **Give an example from your own life.**

**Application Point 3:**  
**God’s enemies will try to hurt**  
**God’s people**

*Did it surprise you that Haman decided to not just seek to kill Mordecai for his refusal to worship him, but also ALL the Jews as well? Why do you think he hated God’s people so much?* **Help students to discuss.** [Possible answers: The Jews were different; The Jews would not worship the Persian leaders and gods; etc.]

*Ultimately, God’s people are hated and persecuted because God is hated by His enemies. Jesus said that those who hated Him would also hate His disciples. There are those who hate Christians out of rebellion against God.*

*Have you heard about people being hated, hurt, or even killed for being Christians?* **Allow students to answer. Help them think about missionaries, Christian martyrs, etc. Give some examples of the persecuted church.**

*Have you ever been disliked for doing the right thing? Maybe you’ve been teased or picked on for not doing what others were doing wrong.* **Encourage sharing. Give your own example.**

*Let’s not forget the end of our reading today. When God’s people found out that Haman wanted all of them killed, they cried out to God. That should be the Christian’s response to hatred and persecution. We should ask God for help!*

**Close in prayer, asking God to give us strength to obey Him in the midst of difficult situations.**

**Recreation**

Escort your children to the Recreation Area. The Recreation Team will be responsible for your students during this time. **Use this time as your break, or prepare for Bible Memory time.**

**Bible Memory**

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

**Review yesterday’s Scripture Memory [Isaiah 46:9b, 10b] 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.**

*Remember that God’s purposes always stand. He is in control of all situations!*

**Today's Scripture Memory is found in  
Matthew 5:11.**

“Blessed are you when people insult you,  
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of  
evil against you because of me.”

**Have the entire passage written on the board. Read it through several times with the children.**

*Say: This Scripture passage reinforces what we learned in our lesson today: God's people have been and will continue to be persecuted by God's enemies. But, it also says that we are blessed because of this, because God is glorified!*

**Activity: Memory Teams. Divide the class into any number of small teams. Call on each team, one by one, to stand up and say the verse. Encourage the other teams to listen closely. Acknowledge the team that recites the verse the best. Repeat.**

**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 on their way to and during the Closing Program. Afterwards, escort the students to their pick-up location.

END DAY TWO

