



**January 14**

**I am Secure**

**Kindergarten - 5th grade**

**Leader Notes**

**Bible Passage:** Esther- Esther 1-8

**Bottom Line:** God controls my story.

**Leader Context:** Just like Esther, we were placed in this specific space at this specific time. God controls our story, and He has a purpose and a plan.

**THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS:** Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

**Games and Music (10 minutes)**

**What You Need:** Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page

**What You Do:**

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

**Bible Story Video (10 minutes)**

**Bible Story Recap- Say This**

We all have a story, right? Sometimes our stories are great! Things are going our way, we're having fun, and we're happy. But sometimes our stories are not so great. We go through hard times, and we feel sad and kind of shaky. We can feel worried or afraid because we aren't sure what will happen next.

But today, we're learning that we don't have to be afraid because God is in control of our story.

Who here thinks Queen Esther was brave for talking to the king? (Allow time for kids to raise their hands.) Me too! I also think it's amazing that God chose to have a Jewish queen as the king's wife, so that she could help save the Jewish people. This reminds me of the best and most important story in the whole Bible. It's the story of God's only Son, Jesus. God sent Jesus to save the whole world, just like Esther saved her people. Jesus came to save us from sin, which is when we are doing what we think is best instead of following God's best. If we believe in Jesus, then when we mess up, we can ask Jesus to forgive us. And He will! If we believe in Jesus, we also get to spend forever in heaven with God.

Let's pray together. Remember prayer is listening and talking to God.

Jesus, we are so glad that when we follow You, we can trust that You are writing a great story for each of us. Help each of us to know You, love You, and trust You. Help us to always know that You are in control of our stories and that we are secure in You. Amen.

The Bible tells us that we are secure because God controls our stories. God is in control, and He is unshakable!

**Social**

**Videos**

**Quick Draw (20 minutes)**

**What You Need:** dry erase boards, dry erase markers, Esther Cards (1 set per group), marker, timer/phone (optional)

**What You Do:**

Today we will take turns drawing out items from our Bible story. Some are people. Some are places. Some are even feelings. You will take a slip of paper and draw whatever is written on it. But we will shake things up a little with our game. Here are our rules:

- You only have 60 seconds to draw the item from the Bible story.
- You cannot speak at all while you are drawing.
- Your goal is to have everyone else guess what you are drawing.

Everyone except for the artist in each round tries to guess what is being drawn. If you think you know the answer, shout it out, and I'll tell you if your guess was correct or incorrect. Everyone ready to play? Quick, draw!

*Note: Keep it going- invite kids to come up with other drawing prompts from the story.*

**Say:** "What was your favorite things to draw or watch someone draw in this game? *(Allow time for answers)* Were some prompts more difficult to draw than others? What are some things in your life that may seem hard to do? *(Allow time for answers. Get all my homework done, be kind to someone who is not kind to me, obey when I don't want to.)*

Many things in life may seem hard to do, scary, or even impossible. This week, we are focusing on the fact that God controls our story. No matter what page of our story we are on- whether an easy breezy stroll through the park or the difficult uphill climb of a mountain- God is always with us. Esther had courage and trusted that God was with her even though she didn't know what would happen. We can have that same kind of courage- trusting that God is unshakable. That means we can face any difficult or scary or overwhelming thing that comes our way because we are not alone. God is with us, and He is in control of our stories."

**Discussion Questions:**

- If you were going to write a story, who or what would it be about? *(Allow kids time to answer and share your own answer.)*
- Do you think it would be easy or hard to write a story? Why do you think that? *(Allow kids time to share. Share your own experience.)*
- We saw today that the storybook can help us remember that God controls our stories and knows the beginning, middle, and end. What are some parts about your story that you can share with us? The Bible tells us that we are secure because God controls our stories. Let's open our Bibles to Esther 4:14-16 and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open up their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* What is one word or sentence that stands out to you in this passage?
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted that God would take care of them, even when things were shaky and uncertain. How can we learn to trust God like they did?*(Allow kids time to answer and share your own answer. Things like reading the Bible, learning more about God, spending time with Him, praying, talking with other people who love God.)*
- God sent His Son, Jesus, so we can know and follow Him. When we love Jesus and follow the way He has for us, we can trust that our stories will work out for good. What are some things we see God doing in us and people around us?*(Allow kids time answer and share your own answer.)*

**Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.**

- Pass out coloring pages for kids to take home.
- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.