



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Working Even When We Can't See It

SCRIPTURE: Esther 1–5; 8

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 13:5b

“That was a total God thing.” I heard that phrase as a woman told a story about her granddaughter, who had run into an old friend from church at a coffee shop and now is considering coming back to church. I could have told her it was just a coincidence that the two teenage girls happened to go to the same coffee shop, but as a believer in the providence of God, I see it too. Running into a girl who would point her granddaughter back to her roots in the church at the perfect time in her life would indeed appear to be “a God thing.”

As Christ followers, we can see God’s providential hand in each and every interaction throughout our days. We praise Him for the little things, like a close parking spot on a rainy day, and the big things, like a friend being healed of cancer after years of treatment. We do this because we know God is working even when we cannot see it.

Read the book of Esther and look for God to be named—you won’t find it. If you were to read it without context, you could say each event was random, complete coincidence, without divine intervention. But the author would have us search and find where God is working, and in doing so, consider our own lives and how God might be working, creating “God things” in every moment.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children’s Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Esther is a Persian name meaning “star,” derived from the name of the Babylonian deity, Ishtar. Esther’s Hebrew name is *Hadassah*, which refers to the myrtle plant. Her parents died when she was young, and she was adopted and raised by her cousin Mordecai.

WHAT?

The narrative of Esther offers a peek into God’s work behind the scenes in the days of Israel’s exile. Esther rises to the level of queen during a vital moment. A man named Haman tries to eliminate all the Jews in the land. However, Queen Esther intervenes by asking the king to save her people.

WHERE?

Susa was one of the oldest cities in the world. It was the ancient capital of Elam and later, Persia. It was situated on a plain near the Zagros mountains and had a temperate climate. Many Jews, including Esther and Nehemiah, lived there and became prominent during exile.

WHEN?

King Xerxes reigned 486–465 BC. The events of the book of Esther probably took place during 483–474 BC. During this period, King Xerxes and the Persians were involved in multiple campaigns against the Greeks, including at Thermopylae and Athens.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

Purim is a Jewish festival celebrating the story of Esther. It is joyous time of remembering when God worked behind the scenes through Esther to overturn Haman’s plot to destroy the Jews. In the same way, God has worked through Jesus to overturn Satan’s plot to destroy all humankind.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: royal dress-up items such as robes, crowns, jewels, etc; coloring utensils;

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Esther Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and welcome them to church.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play with our royal dress up clothes to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Royal Dress-Up

Set-up: Set out royal dress-up items such as robes, crowns, jewels, scepters, etc. Consider cutting a door in a large cardboard box and letting kids decorate it to look like a castle.

Play: Encourage kids to pretend they're queens and kings by dressing up in robes and crowns.



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, sometimes we don't realize that You're working in our lives even when we can't see it. Help us see what You're doing in our lives today and help us hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 240-246

The Brave Queen

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

God has said, "I will never leave you."

— Hebrews 13:5b

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Has there been a time when you felt like God was not with you?**
- **How do we know God is with us even we can't see Him?**