



6

God Uses Esther

Key Theme

- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

Key Passages

- Esther 2:8–9, 2:17, 2:21–22, 3:8–10, 4:15–17, 5:2–3, 8:17

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe God's sovereign control over the events in the book of Esther.
- Explain how God used people to protect the Jews.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will put the Memory Verse Cards into order and then practice saying the verses together and/or with a partner.



Activity 1: God Uses Esther Class Notes

page 5

Students will fill out the God Uses Esther Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

page 6

The events in Esther are woven together in a dramatic and incredible way. God's sovereignty is clearly seen throughout all the events. A young Jew, Esther, was gathered with other young women as a candidate to become queen of Persia. In God's providence, she found favor with the king and was appointed queen. Next, a plot was devised to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom. But because God had positioned the young Jewish girl Esther as queen, the plot was foiled, and the Jews were spared.



Activity 2: Esther's Four Corners

page 11

Students will review the lesson by playing a game where they move to the four corners of the room where posters display answers to the game questions.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't done this, print and cut out the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for every 2–3 students.
- If you want to do this as an individual activity, make one set per student.
- Put complete sets into envelopes or plastic bags.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Cards in envelopes or plastic bags



GOD USES ESTHER CLASS NOTES

- Print one God Uses Esther Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- God Uses Esther Class Notes for each student
- God Uses Esther Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one set of four People in Esther Posters from the Resource DVD-ROM. Color the posters to add impact.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Four People in Esther Posters, colored for impact
- Poster putty or tape



ESTHER'S FOUR CORNERS

- Print one Esther's Four Corners Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM and use the four People in Esther Posters used previously.

- People in Esther Posters, colored for impact
- Esther's Four Corners Questions
- Tape



Memory Verse

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

If you haven't done so, take time to read through the entire book of Esther so that the flow of the events is in your mind. As you teach the lesson, you will be summarizing some events for the students and focusing on a few key passages in your time of study together. As you read Esther, you might notice that something is missing . . . God! Nowhere in the account is God mentioned. Nor is this book alluded to in the New Testament. Though God is unmentioned by name, His sovereign hand is evident throughout these events, and that will be drawn out in the lesson.

The events of Esther take place during the reign of the Persian King Ahasuerus. There is a bit of debate about who this ruler was (see historical section below), but we will connect him to Darius I who reigned from 521–485 BC. This places these events from about 520–510 BC with Esther being made queen in 515—the same year that the Temple was dedicated by Zerubbabel (Ezra 6). So these things happened after the first return of the Jews to Jerusalem, but before Ezra's return in 467.

As the book of Esther opens, King Ahasuerus (Darius I) had prepared a great feast, but his queen, Vashti, refused to appear before the king's guests. As a result, the king's counselors directed him to remove the queen and seek a new queen from among the beautiful young virgins of the Persian Empire. This decree by the king (whose heart was in God's sovereign hand—Proverbs 21:1) brought Esther into the picture.

How does a young Jewish girl wind up as the queen of the Persian Empire? It surely requires an amazing series of events—events under the guidance of an omnipotent God. But these events also require the interaction of many different people. God typically works out His plans in the world through human agents. From the king and queen to the party guests, and from Mordecai to Haman and the many messengers and scribes, all of these individuals and their personal wills, desires, thoughts, and actions ultimately brought about what God intended. Only an omnipotent God could bring about a certain result amid such a myriad of intersecting factors.

Before Esther was known as Esther, her name was Hadassah. Her great-grandfather, Kish, was among the captives carried away by Nebuchadnezzar with King Jehoiachin in 599 BC (Esther 2:5–6). After her parents

died, she was cared for by her older cousin Mordecai. They lived in Shushan (or Susa)—the winter residence of the Persian kings. Esther was among the beautiful young virgins who were gathered together, possibly by force, at the palace fortress. At several points in the account, we learn that Mordecai asked her to not let anyone know that she was a Jew (2:10, 2:20). Hadasah (meaning "myrtle") would be immediately recognized as a Jewish name, so her name was changed to the Persian name Esther, which likely means "star."

In the palace, the women were cared for by Hegai, the king's eunuch, and given beauty treatments for one year before the king would select one as his queen (2:8–14). We see God's hand, behind the scenes, in Esther's favor with Hegai and his special treatment of her (2:9, 2:15). On the day Esther was to appear before the king, she pleased him above all others and was made queen. God had elevated a Jewish captive to the queen of Persia through the decision of a king.

All the while, Esther's cousin Mordecai had been keeping in touch with her. He was likely a scribe or advisor in the palace and had access to her (2:11, 2:19). At one point, Mordecai uncovered a plot to murder the king. He informed Esther, the men were executed, and all of it was recorded in the chronicles of the king. Sometime later, a man named Haman came to power under King Ahasuerus. Mordecai would not bow to Haman, and Haman became enraged. Haman arranged a plot to have all the Jews in Persia killed on a specific day (3:1–15).

As Mordecai and the Jews around the kingdom heard of the decree, they were distraught. Esther had the same reaction when she heard the news and contacted Mordecai (4:1–9). When Mordecai asked her to confront the king and ask him to spare the Jews, she was afraid to do so, knowing that she could be put to death. Mordecai counseled her with wise words, reminding her that since she was a Jew, she would not escape the decree. If she did not go to the king, Mordecai was certain that deliverance would come from another place. He also recognized her placement in the palace as God's providence: "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (4:14). Esther had a choice to make.

Esther appeared uninvited before the king and was granted access—her life was spared (5:1–2). Surely, the king's heart was in God's hand. After this, a series of events quickly unfolded, again demonstrating God's hand: Esther arranged a banquet for the king and Haman; Haman planned to kill Mordecai; Mordecai

was honored by the king; at a second banquet, Esther revealed Haman's plot to kill her and her people; the king ordered Haman hung on the gallows at his own home; Mordecai was elevated to Haman's position; and Esther and Mordecai were allowed to write their own decree to protect the Jews. Wow! If you think that all this happened by chance, you do not understand who God is.

As you read through Esther, there can be no doubt that God was just as involved in protecting the Jews at this point as He was involved in leading them out of Egypt and as He was in the crucifixion of Christ on the Cross. Even though His name is not mentioned, we dare not deny that God was accomplishing His plans through each of these people.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Although the book of Esther appears relatively early in the Old Testament sequence of books, the events happen rather late in the actual timeline of Old Testament history. The time period of Esther occurs with the historical books of Ezra and Nehemiah while the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel, whose books appear later in the Bible, actually lived long before Esther. So be careful to help your students understand where all of the pieces fit together. You can use the History of Israel poster to help with that.

There is debate about the identity of the king in the book of Esther. Some believe the time period of Esther was actually *after* Ezra's return during the reign of Xerxes (485–465 BC). The dates and explanations used in this curriculum are based on the work of Archbishop James Ussher. It is difficult to assign exact dates in this period since there are few records and multiple rulers at the same time. Some rulers used the same titles and names. Also, the records in Greek use different names than the Persian records, and the biblical names are sometimes transliterated into Hebrew. With that said, whether this was one king or another, God was still in control.

The events recorded in the book of Esther are still celebrated by Jews today. After the Jews were delivered from annihilation, the festival of Purim was celebrated

(9:18–32). This festival is still celebrated each year by the Jews to commemorate God's deliverance through Esther and Mordecai.

Here is another important idea to consider from a historical perspective: If Haman's plan had been carried out, Zerubbabel, who had led the return to Jerusalem, would have been killed. Why does that matter? Zerubbabel was a descendant of David who is in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:12. This plan would have removed the possibility of Jesus being born as a descendant of David. If the line of David had been destroyed, then the promised Messiah would not have come to pass. Satan would love nothing more than to thwart God's plan, and we can safely assume that Satan was pleased with Haman's plan, if not directly orchestrating it behind the scenes. And yet God's plans stand. Let us proclaim along with Job: "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You."



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, I greatly rejoice today as I remember how you providentially moved through the people and events in Persia all those years ago. Each time I read this book, I stand in awe of you. You were in control then . . . and you are still in control, moving in much the same way. It's true! You are still sovereignly accomplishing your will today through your people. I know that. But there are still times when I get scared or depressed. There have been times when I've almost lost hope. Forgive me, Lord. Help me grow in this area. When things look bad, bring young Esther to my mind. Give me the courage to trust you and stand in faith believing you are in control and want what is best for me. Use me as you used her. To glorify you is my one desire—in the good times and the bad. May your Word come alive as I teach this lesson. Use it to penetrate each heart and convict us all to trust you more.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will put the Memory Verse Cards in order and recite the verses together and/or to each other. They may work individually or in teams.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



God Uses Esther Class Notes

MATERIALS

- God Uses Esther Class Notes for each student
- God Uses Esther Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the class notes at the beginning of class. Have students circle the person who said each statement as the lesson progresses.

Today we will be detectives trying to figure out who said these statements as we study

the Bible passages. Your choices will be Esther, the king, or Mordecai. I'll let you know when it is time to circle an answer.

After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that God is always in control and uses people and circumstances as He works everything according to His perfect will.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

► You will put the People in Esther Posters on the board as you discuss them during the lesson.

Refer to the Lesson 5 Lesson Theme Poster and the History of Israel Poster to indicate the time this event took place. In Jerusalem the Jewish people were celebrating their return home from captivity and the new Temple that had been finished under Zerubbabel's leadership. But back in Persia (the nation that used to be Babylon) things did not look good for the Jews who were still living there. We will hear about that today from the book of Esther in the Bible.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster and the People in Esther Posters. Today, we will hear about four characters from the book of Esther. They are Esther, Mordecai, the king, and Haman.

Add the Esther Poster to the board. Let's talk about Esther. Esther was a young Jew. But she was born in Babylon and raised by her cousin Mordecai. *Add the Mordecai Poster to the board.* Her parents were both dead.

Refer to History of Israel Poster and/or the Quarter 3, Lesson 11 Lesson Theme Poster. Remember that the Babylonians had conquered Judah and brought the people into Babylon to live. But later, a nation called Persia conquered the Babylonians. So, Babylon was now Persia, and that is where Esther and Mordecai were living and where the book of Esther took place.

Add the King Poster to the board. It all began when the king of Persia got angry with his queen and commanded that she be removed from the throne. She was not the queen anymore. So the king started a search for a new queen. The king sent his men to gather all the beautiful young women of the land. He would choose his next queen from them.

? Let's answer #1 on your class notes. Will someone read that? Who is that statement talking about? *Assign a reader. The king. Students can circle the king on their class notes.*

Esther 2:8-9

And that's where we will start reading today. The beautiful young women were being gathered to the royal palace. Listen as I read Esther 2:8-9. *Read Esther 2:8-9 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? The citadel is another name for the king's palace. Who was gathered at the citadel? *Esther 2:8. Many young women.*
- ? Who was taken into the king's palace with the beautiful young women? *Esther.*

All the women were put under the care of Hegai. Hegai was one of the king's servants. He was in charge of the women. It was his job to get them ready to go before the king.

- ? What did Hegai think of Esther? *Esther 2:9. She pleased him. She obtained his favor.*
- ? And what did Hegai do for Esther because he favored her over the others? *Esther 2:9. He gave her more beauty preparations than the other women. He gave her seven maidservants. And he moved her to the best place in the house for women.*
- ? Now. Can someone read #2 on your class notes for us? *Assign a reader. Who is this about? Esther. Students can circle Esther on the class notes.*

Esther, the Jew, was put in a special place. God was already working to save the Jewish people in Persia from being killed. God was in control from the very beginning.

Esther spent an entire year of beauty treatments in the palace. She was being prepared to meet the king. And finally the time came for Esther to go before the king. Would the king like her? Well, Esther didn't know what would happen. Only God knew.

Listen as I read, and see if you can tell me what the king thought of Esther when he saw her. *Read Esther 2:17.*

- ? What did the king think of her? *The king loved Esther more than all the other women.*
- ? Yes. He loved her, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight. What did he do after meeting her? What did he put on her head? *He put the crown on her head. He made her queen!*

Esther, the Jewish girl, was now queen of Persia!

- ? Wow! How exciting. Look at #3 on your class notes. Can someone read that for us? Who is this about? *Assign a reader. Esther. Have students circle Esther on the class notes.*

So Esther, a Jewish woman, received the crown and was now queen of Persia. Her cousin Mordecai, who was like a dad to her, kept close watch on her. And Mordecai, while keeping track of Esther, found out that someone wanted to murder the king!

Pay close attention as we read these next verses! *Read Esther 2:21–22 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

- ? This is about two men who were doorkeepers to the palace. They were furious, or very angry. What did they want to do? Who did they want to lay hands on? *Esther 2:21. On the king.*
- ? What do you think they planned to do? *Allow discussion.*
The Bible says they were angry with the king and were trying to think of a way to KILL him!
- ? But God saw to it that someone heard what they were talking about. Who was that? Who did the plan become known to? *Esther 2:22. Mordecai.*

➤ As you ask these questions, re-read the text that has the answers. This will allow your students to hear the answers from God's Word themselves!

Esther 2:17

Esther 2:21–22

➤ Re-read the portions of Scripture that answer your questions so your students can answer from the Word of God.

- ? And who did Mordecai tell? *Esther 2:22. Queen Esther.*
- ? And who did Queen Esther tell about the plan to murder the king? *Esther 2:22. The king!*
- ? Now go to #4 on your class notes! Who can read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Mordecai. Have students circle Mordecai on the class notes.*
- ? And what about #5? Who did Queen Esther tell about the plan? Will someone read it? *Assign a reader. The king. Have students circle the king on the class notes.*

This was all part of God's plan! God placed Mordecai inside the palace gates where he would be sure to hear of the plot to kill the king. God saved the king's life by using Mordecai and Queen Esther!

Add the Haman Poster to the board. Now I want to tell you about this guy! His name was Haman. The Bible tells us that the king gave Haman a very powerful position in the nation. And the king commanded that the people bow with respect and worship to Haman because of his high position. *Demonstrate by bowing down.* But Mordecai would NOT bow to this man. This made Haman very angry at Mordecai and all the Jews. He came up with a way to destroy them all! This was bad for all the Jews in Persia—and for Queen Esther who was also a Jew.

So Haman went to the king and told him about his plan to get rid of all the Jews in Persia.

- ? Will someone read #6 on your class notes? Who is this about? *Assign a reader. The king. Have students circle the king.*

Esther 3:8-10

Would the king listen to Haman and destroy ALL the Jews, including Queen Esther? Would Haman get what he wanted? I am going to read Esther 3:8-10. Listen carefully! *Read Esther 3:8-10. Emphasize the answers to the questions below. Re-read the verses that answer the questions.*

- ? Haman said there was a certain people scattered in the kingdom. Who do you think he was talking about? *Esther 3:8. Allow discussion. The Jewish people.*
- ? What did he say about the Jewish laws? *Esther 3:8. Their laws are different from others. They don't keep the king's laws.*

Haman told the king that the Jews were different from the other people in Persia. He said they did not keep the king's laws. He told the king they should all be destroyed. The king agreed that Haman could go ahead with his plan to kill all the Jews.

- ? *Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster and/or the Esther/Mordecai Posters on the board.* Well, who do we know were Jews? *Allow discussion.*

Queen Esther and Mordecai were Jews! The decree said that ALL Jews should be killed. And this included Queen Esther. A letter went out telling

everyone throughout the country to destroy and kill all the Jews, young and old, little children, and women. This was really bad!

? But, who was in control? *God.*

Discover the Truth

That's right. God was in control of the entire situation. He made Esther queen. He allowed Mordecai to hear the plan to murder the king. Mordecai's message saved the king's life. God even knew about Haman's plan to kill all the Jews. God was and is always in complete control of all events. He is sovereign. God was setting something up here. Let's finish and see what happened next!



SOVEREIGN

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

READ THE WORD

Mordecai and all the Jews knew about the king's plan to destroy them. They were very sad and probably afraid! If they were going to be saved, God would have to use Queen Esther to change the king's mind. Mordecai asked the queen to go before the king and ask that he save the Jews. But it would be very dangerous for Queen Esther to go before the king because there was a law that said no one could approach the king without being invited—not even the queen. And if someone came to the king without being invited, they could be KILLED! Well, Queen Esther had not been invited. If she went to the king he could kill her on the spot! But, if the king agreed to see her, she would not be killed.

? OK. Let's go to #7 on the class notes. Will someone read that please? Who is this talking about? *Assign a reader. Mordecai. Have students circle Mordecai.*

Esther was afraid at first. But Mordecai reminded her that although she risked death to approach the king, she was a Jew, too. And if Haman's plan succeeded, Queen Esther would also be killed. Mordecai told her that this could be the very reason God had made her queen—for such a time as this—to save the Jewish people from death!

What would Esther do? Would she risk her life to save the lives of the Jewish nation? Listen as I read Esther 4:15–17. This is what she told her cousin Mordecai. *Read Esther 4:15–17 with enthusiasm emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Esther 4:15–17

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? What did Esther tell Mordecai to do? *Esther 4:16. Gather the Jews and fast.*

? How long were they going to fast? *Esther 4:16. Three days.*

Esther wanted the Jews in the land to fast and pray asking God to protect her from death when she approached the king, and to pray that God

would move the king's heart to change his mind about killing all the Jewish people.

? What was Esther going to do after the fast? *Esther 4:16. She would go to the king.*

? And what was she willing to do to save the Jews? It is at the very end of the verse. *Re-read Esther 4:16. Perish!*

? Can someone read #8 on the class notes? Who said that? *Assign a reader. Esther. Have students circle Esther on the class notes.*

Esther 5:2-3

God gave Esther strength and courage to risk her life to save the Jews. So what happened? How did the king react when Esther showed up? Listen as I read Esther 5:2-3. You will hear just what the king did. *Read Esther 5:2-3.*

? How did the king respond when he saw Esther in the court before him? *Esther 5:2. She found favor in his sight.*

Yes! When Esther came in to see the king, God led the king to look at her and see how beautiful she was—he invited her in! Esther was safe!

? And what did the king ask Esther? *Esther 5:3. What do you wish?*

The king said that he would do whatever she asked of him! So Esther invited him and the wicked Haman to a banquet she had prepared. While they were eating, the king asked Esther again if there was something she wanted. But Esther said, "There will be another feast tomorrow, and then I will tell you."

So the next night at the feast, the king asked her again, "What is it you want? I will give it to you." God led Esther to beg the king to save her life and the lives of all the Jews that Haman wanted to kill. Well, God led the king to grant Queen Esther's request, and all the Jews were saved. God saved His people!

? Will someone read #9 on your class notes? Who is this about? *Assign a reader. The king. Have students circle the king on class notes.*

? And what about #10? Can someone read it? *Assign a reader. Esther. Have students circle Esther on their class notes.*

? How do you think the Jews felt when they found out they were saved? What do you think they did? *Allow discussion.*

Esther 8:17a

The Bible tells us what they did. Listen to this. *Read Esther 8:17a emphasizing "joy and gladness" and "feast and a holiday."*

? How did the Jews feel? *They had joy and gladness.*

? How did they celebrate? *Had a feast and a holiday.*

That's right! The Jews celebrated because they knew that God had saved their lives. Everything turned out just the way God wanted it to. God led Esther, Mordecai, Haman, and the king through His plan to save His people.

Discover the Truth

We just looked at the whole book of Esther! We saw God work out many details to accomplish one thing. Everything that happened fit together perfectly to keep the Jewish people—God’s people—from being destroyed. This account of Esther, Mordecai, Haman, the king, and the Jewish people is a good example of God’s sovereignty. He can do anything to accomplish His will. God’s will in this story was to save the lives of His people. And He did it by working through the people and events recorded in the book of Esther.



Esther’s Four Corners

MATERIALS

- Four People in Esther Posters
- Esther’s Four Corner Questions
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Tape the posters to the four corners of the classroom. Read each one as you tape them up. This game is like Four Corners in that the students will be choosing their answers by moving to a corner of the room.

Read the questions from the Esther’s Four Corners Questions, one at a time, allowing the students to move where they think the correct answer is. Have them return to the center of the room and move again for the next question. Students will not be “out” for an incorrect guess. Everyone can continue to play. Discuss each answer briefly as a review.

Today you’ll be playing Esther’s Four Corners. When I ask a question, I want you to move to the corner of the classroom that shows your answer. Think about the question for a moment and try not to follow other students. I want to see how much you remember. *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

That was fun! Through all the twists and turns we heard about in the book of Esther, we saw God working to accomplish His perfect plan to save His people, the Jews, from being destroyed.



Applying God’s Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today we studied the book of Esther in God’s Word.

Who were the main characters in this book? *Allow discussion. Should get the answers the king, Haman, Esther, Mordecai, the Jewish people.*

It seems like these were the main characters of this book. But they really weren’t! The main character was God! God used the young Jewish

girl Esther, Mordecai, Haman, the king, and even the king's servants to accomplish His will to save the Jews.

God's hand was at work in so many of the details of this event! Here is a list of just a few: 1) The Jewish girl Esther became queen of a pagan nation. 2) Mordecai overheard the plot to murder the king and save the king's life. 3) The king accepted Queen Esther when she approached him uninvited. 4) The king listened and took pity on his queen, on Mordecai, and on all the Jews, and he agreed to save their lives.

God's will was done! The wicked Haman planned to kill Mordecai and wipe out the Jews. But instead, God saved the Jews. There is no limit to what God can do to accomplish His will.

God was the main character of this account. God is ALWAYS working in every detail of our lives. God is the main character of everything that goes on in our lives.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

What a great God we serve. We've seen that God was in control of every detail in this lesson. Some people might say, "Wow, the Jews were really lucky that Esther became queen and that the king didn't kill her and that Haman didn't get his way and kill all the Jews!" Well, there is no such thing as luck! And we know that because we believe in God, the Creator of the universe. He is the one who holds all things together by the power of His Word. Our God is in heaven and He does all that He pleases! He is in charge of all the things that are going on. Our memory verse tells us that God holds the king's heart in His hand! God turns his heart in whichever direction He wishes. God knows what is going on, and God is directing all things the way He wants them.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

No, there is no such thing as luck. As children of God, we believe in the one true God who works out all things according to His plans!



MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God who is sovereign.
- Thank God that we can trust Him in every situation.
- Ask God to help us when we don't understand what is going on and we are afraid or sad.