

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p><b>Lower Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Everyone can respond to God's call.</p> <p><b>ESTHER'S STORY:</b> Kids dress in costume and act out the story of Queen Esther.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Apron, small wrench, crown</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Bed sheet, 2 chairs, fabric pieces (various colors and textures), crown, costume jewelry (including a ring), Esther's Story Script</p>
<p><b>Upper Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God works through us.</p> <p><b>ESTHER, THEN AND NOW:</b> Kids tell Esther's biblical story and then present stories they have written about Esther facing modern dilemmas.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils, bed sheet, 2 chairs, fabric piece (dark color), crown, costume jewelry (including ring), assorted props (old cell phone, keys, backpack, basketball, purse, notebook, etc.), Esther, Then script, Esther, Now script</p>
<p><b>All Kids</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Everyone can respond faithfully to God's call.</p> <p><b>ESTHER IN TWO ACTS:</b> Kids form 2 groups and take turns acting out part of the Esther story.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Lesson Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils, paintbrush</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Lesson Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils, poster board (one sheet cut lengthwise into four strips), kid-friendly scissors, markers, adhesive gems, stapler, bed sheet, 2 chairs, fabric pieces (various colors and textures), costume jewelry (including a ring), skit script</p>



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.



**Workshop Focus:** Everyone can respond to God's call.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Queen Esther Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama. I'm happy to see all of you!** Begin passing the apron, wrench, and crown around the group. **In what kind of jobs do people wear aprons?** (*cooks, cleaners, sales people*) **Use wrenches?** (*mechanic, plumber, repair people*) **How about crowns?** (*kings, queens, actors*)

**Our Bible story is about a special queen named Esther. God uses Esther to help her people. As you listen to the story, bend at your waist every time I say the name Esther, just like you are bowing before a queen!** Read Queen Esther (pages 152-157 in the Spark Story Bible).

**That was quite a story! Let's see what you remember! Who was Mordecai?** (*Esther's cousin*) **Who did Haman want to punish?** (*Mordecai, Esther, all the Jews*) **How did Esther help?** (*She told the king Haman's plan. She told the king she and Mordecai were Jews.*) **God used Esther to help save the Jewish people!**

**Everyone can respond to God's call, including us! Today we're going to dress in costume and act out the story of Queen Esther. Some of you may have some lines to say during the skit!**

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bibles

**Supplies**  
Apron  
Small wrench  
Crown

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Esther's Story

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### Set Up:

- Make a copy of Esther's Story Script from page 87 of this guide for each child.
- Create a stage area with a bed sheet backdrop and two chairs for thrones.
- Have the fabric pieces, crown, costume jewelry, and ring accessible for the kids.

### Activity Instructions

1. Prepare to do the skit. Ask volunteers to be part of the stage crew. Kids on the stage crew use the props to make the chairs look like thrones and to dress the actors. **What would make this chair look like a royal throne? How would Haman be dressed? How would you know who Esther was?**
2. Recruit kids to be the actors. Ask a leader or fluent reader to be the narrator. Give the narrator a copy of the story script and give the actors their lines to practice. **How would Mordecai have walked? What kind of voice does sneaky Haman use?**
3. Have each actor choose someone to be an acting coach. Acting coaches help the actors practice their lines and give advice on what kind of actions to use. **Have the actors practice saying their lines to you. How should they say them? What should they sound like? Where should they stand or sit during the skit?**
4. Perform the skit. Gather everyone at the stage area. Have the narrator stand to one side of the stage and the actors stand where their coaches place them. Have everyone else sit in the audience where they can see the skit. **We're about to enjoy a wonderful skit about how God used Esther to save her people. Actors, listen to the narrator and do what is said. Your coaches will help you. Coaches, can you see your actors? Great! Let's begin!**
5. After the skit, gather everyone to debrief the experience. **Great job on the skit. We have a lot of differently talented people in the group! In our story, why wouldn't Mordecai bow down before Haman?** (*Mordecai knew he should only bow before God.*)
6. **Esther was very brave to tell the king about Haman's plan and that she and Mordecai were Jews.** Show kids the picture of the king, Esther, and Mordecai on pages 152-153 of the Spark Story Bible. **Did the king get mad at Esther?** (*no*) **What did the king give Mordecai?** (*his ring*) **Have any of you ever had to be brave and do the right thing?** Allow kids time to tell their stories. **Sometimes it's hard, but, just like Esther, everyone can respond to God's call!**

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

### Supplies

Bed sheet

2 chairs

Fabric pieces (various colors and textures)

Crown

Costume jewelry (including a ring)

Esther's Story Script

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today. It's been fun to work with you! We learned that God called Esther to save her people. Where do you think God might call you to be faithful this week?** Allow kids time to respond. **Remember to ask your caregiver about the Family Page. There are some great ideas to help you remember the story of Queen Esther all week long!**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**Wherever we are, we can always respond to God's call. Let's stand for our closing prayer. I'll pray a line, and you echo what I say.**

**Dear God,**

**You have wonderful ideas!**

**You helped Esther save her people.**

**Help me to do your work faithfully as well.**

**Help me at home, at school, and at my friend's house, to be the person you want me to be. Thank you, God!**

**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** God works through us.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Queen Esther Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama. I'm glad to see you today! Has anyone ever thought about what you would like to do or be someday?** Allow kids time to answer. **Today we're going to learn about a girl named Esther. She probably had never imagined how her life would turn out!**

**There is an entire book written about Esther in the Bible. We are going to read just a few passages that summarize her story.** Alternate with the kids reading the following passages from the Spark Bible beginning on page 535, Esther 2:7-8, 15-18; Esther 3:1-6; Esther 8:1-8, 15-17. Invite kids to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write answers in the margin.

**Let's review. Who was Mordecai?** (*Esther's cousin*) **Why was Haman angry?** (*Mordecai wouldn't bow to him.*) **How did Esther save her people, the Jews?** (*She convinced the king to overrule Haman.*) **God worked through Esther and her position with the king. God still works through people today!**

**Today we're going to retell Esther's story. Then we'll act out some ways God could work through Esther, or us, today!**

Spark Resources  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
Pencils

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Esther, Then and Now

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### Set Up:

- Determine a space to use as a stage. Hang the bed sheet as a backdrop and put two chairs in front of the sheet.
- Place the fabric, crown, jewelry, and assorted props where kids will have access to them.
- Make as many copies of the Esther—Then and Esther—Now scripts from pages 89-90 of this guide as you will need.

### Activity Instructions

1. Prepare to do the skits. Ask a volunteer to play the part of Esther—Then. Give the volunteer a script to rehearse and invite her to choose some props. **How would Esther tell her story?**
2. Divide the rest of the kids into two or three groups. Give each group copies of the Esther—Now Script. **God worked through Esther to save her people. God still works through people today. If Esther was living today, how would she do God's work? In your group, decide on a dilemma that kids your age might face. Work together to fill out the Esther, Now script. Decide who will act out your scene and how they will do it. Do you think some of the props might be helpful to use?**
3. If groups are having a hard time thinking of a modern-day dilemma, ask some questions. **What if Esther was on the basketball team? What would Esther talk about on the phone with a friend? How would Esther handle a group project for class?**
4. Perform the skits. Gather the kids near the stage area. Have the person playing Esther, Then go first. Decide in which order the groups presenting the Esther, Now skits will go. **We'll pause shortly after each skit to give everyone a minute to take their places. When it's not your turn to be on stage, you will be part of the audience. Let's begin.**
5. After the skits, gather the kids to debrief the experience. **Well done! God certainly helped Esther to be brave! What was your favorite part of Esther's story?** Allow kids time to answer this and the following questions. **What were your favorite parts about the Esther, Now skit(s)? Have you ever been in a difficult situation like Esther? What did you do?**

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

### Supplies

Pencils  
Bed sheet  
2 chairs  
Fabric piece (dark color)  
Crown  
Costume jewelry (including ring)  
Assorted props (old cell phone, keys, backpack, basketball, purse, notebook, etc.)  
Esther—Then Script  
Esther—Now Script

6. Ask kids to turn to Esther 8:5-7 and have a volunteer read it out loud. **Do you think Esther ever imagined how God would work through her as a queen?** Allow kids time to answer this and the following question. **How does God work through you?** Invite kids to mark the passage with a Makes Me Want To or Makes Me Feel Spark Bible Sticker. Encourage them to write their answers in the margin near the passage.

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today! We've learned an intriguing story about how God worked through Queen Esther. What's one thing you plan to share about this story when you get home? Be sure to ask your caregiver about the Family Page. There are a few more ways to dig into this story all week long!**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

### Prayer Time

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**In our closing prayer today, let's ask God to work through us wherever we are. We'll use an echo prayer in which you repeat every line after me.**

**Dear God,  
Your love for all people is so great!  
You worked through Esther to save people. Work through me as well.  
Thank you, God!  
Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** Everyone can respond faithfully to God's call.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksondayschool.org](http://www.sparksondayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Queen Esther Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama! It's great to see everyone!** Begin passing around a pencil and a paintbrush. **Which would you rather use, a pencil or a paintbrush?** Allow kids time to answer. **We all grow up liking and doing different things. Today we're going to hear a story about a young girl who grew up to be a queen!**

Ask volunteers to look up three parts of the story in their Spark Bibles. (part 1—Esther 2:7, 17b-18; part 2—Esther 3:1-2, 5-6 and part 3—Esther 8:5-6, 15-16). Invite them to mark their passage with a Spark Bible Sticker. **We are going to read the story of Queen Esther from the Spark Story Bible and the Spark Bible.** Begin reading Queen Esther (pages 152-157 in the Spark Story Bible, page 535-540 in the Spark Bible). Before turning each page of the story, show the kids the pictures and ask the volunteers to read their verses out loud.

**Thanks for the help! What did Esther become when she grew up? (a queen) Why was Haman mad at Mordecai? (Mordecai wouldn't bow to him.) What did the King give to Mordecai? (his ring)**

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**  
Pencils  
Paintbrushes

**Queen Esther faithfully responded to God's call when she saved her people. Just like Esther, everyone can respond to God as well! Today we're going to use our talents to act out the story of Queen Esther for each other.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Esther in Two Acts

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#### Set Up

- Designate a stage area by hanging the bed sheet as a backdrop and placing two chairs for thrones in front of it.
- Provide an open area for kids to use poster board, scissors, markers, gems, and stapler to make crowns.
- Place the fabric pieces and jewelry in an area where kids can access them.
- Make several copies of the Esther in Two Acts skit script from page 91-92 of this guide.

#### Activity Instructions

1. Prepare to do the skits: Divide kids into two groups, Act 1 and Act 2. Hand out the appropriate skit scripts to everyone in the group. Have kids decide who will create the crowns, act, direct, and choose the costumes. **Each person in your group will participate in some way to help put on your half of the skit. What might you do to make your half of the skit different from the other half?**
2. Have kids create the crowns. Each group will make 2 crowns with the supplies. **How will you make Queen Esther's crown different than the king's?**
3. Ask the actors to read through their scripts. **Are there any words you need help with? What kind of voice would your character use?**
4. Encourage the director to make notes on his/her script. **Where should your actors stand when they are speaking? How should they move? You may want to practice your act.**
5. Invite kids in charge of costumes to look through the fabric and jewelry. **All of the fabric and jewelry may be shared between the 2 acts. What would each character wear? What will the costume make the audience think?**
6. Perform the skit. Gather the kids near the stage area. Direct the Act 1 group to take their places and the Act 2 group to sit in the audience.
7. **Actors, be dressed and ready with your costumes. The narrator may stand to the side of the stage. Actors, when you're not on stage, you may stand to the other side with the director. Audience, be courteous. There will be a quick intermission following Act 1. We will switch props, costumes, and places. Let's begin!**

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers  
Lesson Stickers

#### Supplies

Pencils  
Poster board (1 sheet cut lengthwise into 4 strips)  
Kid-friendly scissors  
Markers  
Adhesive gems  
Stapler  
Bed sheet  
2 chairs  
Fabric pieces (various colors and textures)  
Costume jewelry (including a ring)  
Esther in Two Acts  
Skit script (several copies)

8. After the skit, gather everyone together with their Bibles. **Great Job! Queen Esther helped make a rule that saved her people. She was doing God's work when she was the queen. If you were a king or queen, what kind of rules would you make to respond faithfully to God's call?** Allow kids time to respond.
9. Have the older kids find Esther 4:12-14 in their Spark Bibles. **These verses tell us that Esther's cousin Mordecai helped Esther figure out how to do God's work. Just like Esther, everyone can respond faithfully to God, no matter where they are.** Invite kids to read the passage and mark it with a Reminds Me Of, Makes Me Want To, or Makes Me Wonder Spark Bible Sticker. Kids can use pencils to write their answers in the margin.
10. While the older kids are writing, pass around the Spark Story Bible. Have kids find pictures of people doing different jobs, such as collecting taxes, preaching, shepherding, sweeping, etc. **What are some of these people doing?** Allow kids time to respond to this and the following question. **How are they responding to God's call to faithful work? Just like Esther, everyone can respond faithfully to God's call!**

Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today. We've had a great time! Queen Esther was very brave. With that courage, Esther faithfully served God by saving her people. Just like Esther, you can serve God faithfully wherever you are, too! Be sure to ask your caregiver about the Family Page. There are some great ideas to help remember the story of Queen Esther all week long!**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

### Prayer Time

**Let's stand and hold hands for our closing prayer. Today each time I say a line, everyone will respond with "Everyone can do God's work!" Let's pray.**

**Dear God, you helped Queen Esther save her people.  
Help me remember,  
Whether I'm at home or school,  
When I'm at my friend's house,  
And when I'm older too,  
That you will help me to do good things, too! Thank you, God!  
Amen.**



# Esther's Story Script

**Narrator:** Once there was a young girl named Esther. Her cousin, Mordecai, worked for the king. When Esther's parents died, she went to live with her cousin in the palace. Esther learned new things, wore dazzling clothes, and grew into a beautiful young woman. When the king saw Esther, he said,

**King:** "I am so happy! I want you to wear this crown and be my queen!"

**Narrator:** The king was a wise man, and he always listened to what Mordecai and Esther had to say. One of the king's men, however, did not like Mordecai. He was a very proud man named Haman. One day the king said,

**King:** "I am giving Haman a special job. And because he is so important, everyone should kneel and bow down to him!"

**Narrator:** This made Haman happy because he thought a lot of himself. But Mordecai knew that God was the only one he should bow down to. Mordecai said,

**Mordecai:** "I will only bow down before God, not Haman!"

**Narrator:** When Haman saw that Mordecai wouldn't bow to him, he was so mad! And when he learned that Mordecai was a Jew, he was even madder because many people did not like Jews. Haman said,

**Haman:** "This isn't right! I am going to punish Mordecai and all of the Jewish people!"

**Narrator:** Haman saw that the king loved Esther and that he listened to Mordecai. Haman knew that they were Jews, so he planned for all of the Jews to be killed. But Esther was smarter than Haman! Esther talked to the king while they were eating at a banquet.

**Esther:** "I have found out something important. Haman plans to kill all of the Jews!"

**Narrator:** When Esther told the king that Mordecai was her cousin, and that they were both Jews, the king wasn't mad at her. Because the king loved Esther so much, he gave Mordecai the job that Haman had before. The king said to Mordecai,

**King:** "Here is my ring for you to wear. Write a message to all of the Jews in my name and seal the letters with my ring."

**Narrator:** The letters that Mordecai wrote went to people all across the land, and they celebrated with music, feasting, and dancing. The people cheered.

**People:** "Hurrah for Queen Esther! Because the king loves her, we are saved."



# Esther—Then Script

Hi! I'm Esther. You might know me as Queen Esther, but I wasn't always a queen. You see, when I was a little girl, I lived with my mother and father, but they died. Then I moved in with my cousin, Mordecai, who lived at the palace.

Growing up in the palace was great! I got to wear beautiful clothes, perfume, and expensive jewelry. When the king noticed how beautiful and smart I was, he asked me to be his queen!

Many other people lived in the palace, like my cousin Mordecai and that sneaky Haman. Haman was the king's assistant. He thought he was so important that everyone should bow down to him. Many people did, except for my cousin Mordecai.

Cousin Mordecai and I are Jews. We know not to bow down and worship anyone but God. But when Haman found this out, he became very angry! Haman devised an evil plot and convinced the king to kill all of the Jews in the land. What could I do? I had to think fast!

I went to the King and told him that both I and my uncle Mordecai were Jews. I said if he followed Haman's plan, we would both have to die! The king loves me very much. He decided to have Haman put to death instead, and my cousin Mordecai was made the king's new assistant.

The king gave Mordecai his special ring and told him to write a new order giving all of the Jews freedom. What a day that was! All of my people were safe. Praise God for working through me to save them!

# Esther—Now Script

What is the dilemma?

Where is it taking place?

Who is involved? What are they saying/doing?

What will Esther say/do? How will God work through her?

How does everything end?

# Esther in Two Acts—Skit Script

## Act 1

**Narrator:** Once there was a young girl named Esther. Her cousin, Mordecai, worked for the king. When Esther's parents died, she went to live with her cousin in the palace.

Esther learned new things, wore dazzling clothes, and grew into a beautiful young woman. When the king saw Esther, he said,

**King:** "I am so happy! I want you to wear this crown and be my queen!"

**Esther:** "Thank you! I am so happy to live here at the palace!"

**Narrator:** The king was a wise man, and he always listened to what Mordecai and Esther had to say.

One of the men did not like Mordecai. He was a very proud man named Haman. One day the king said,

**King:** "I am giving Haman a special job. Haman will be my assistant."

**Narrator:** This made Haman happy because he thought a lot of himself.

**Haman:** "I am so important. I think everyone should bow down to me!"

**Narrator:** But Mordecai knew that God was the only one he should bow down to. Mordecai said,

**Mordecai:** "I will only bow down before God, not Haman!"

**Narrator:** When Haman saw that Mordecai wouldn't bow to him, he was so mad! And when he learned that Mordecai was a Jew, he was even madder because many people did not like Jews. Haman said,

**Haman:** "This isn't right! I am going to punish Mordecai and all of the Jewish people!"

## Act 2

**Narrator:** Haman saw that the king loved Esther and that he listened to Mordecai. Haman knew that they were Jews, so he planned for all of the Jews to be killed.

**Haman:** "I'll show that Mordecai! Send an order that all Jews should be killed!"

**Narrator:** But Esther was smarter than Haman! Esther talked to the king while they were eating at a banquet.

**Esther:** "Your highness, may I have a word with you?"

**King:** "What is it, my dear?"

**Esther:** "I have found out something important. Haman plans to kill all of the Jews!"

**King:** "Would that be so terrible?"

**Esther:** "There is something you need to know. Mordecai is my cousin, and we are both Jews!"

**Narrator:** When Esther told the king that Mordecai was her cousin, and that they were both Jews, the king wasn't mad at her.

Because the king loved Esther so much, he gave Mordecai the job that Haman had before. The king said to Mordecai,

**King:** "Here is my ring for you to wear. Write a message to all of the Jews in my name and seal the letters with my ring."

**Mordecai:** "Thank you, King! Let it be known that from this day forward, all Jews will be safe!"

**Narrator:** The letters that Mordecai wrote went to people all across the land, and they celebrated with music, feasting, and dancing. The people cheered.

**People:** "Hurrah for Queen Esther! Because the king loves her, we are saved."