



Brave Esther Saves the Day

Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots Prayer)

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let's hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam's adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

The Pilots Prayer

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

Fun Together

Game: Esther Pictionary

What you need:

Flip chart or large sheets of paper

Marker pens

Have two teams of children each of the children are given pen and a piece of paper. Have a number of words from the book of Esther (see list below). The aim of the game is to let two children at a time see the word you wish them to draw and the winner is the first team to draw the item and have their team the guess the word. You are not allowed to use letters or words.



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King	Queen	Donkey	Food	Gold	Crown
Love	Gate	Angry	Ring		

Game: Crown Compliment Game (like Hot potato)

What you need:

- A Crown
- Music / stereo / speaker

Have Group stand in a circle. Someone holds the crown. Have them start passing the crown around the circle while you play music on CD player. When you stop the music, whoever is holding the crown puts it on his/her head. Everyone else has to tell the person wearing the crown something they like about them, or something that they are good at (give the "Queen" compliments). Start the music again and continue passing the crown. Try to make sure that every child gets to be complimented at least once.

Game: Stand up

What you need: - nothing!

Get the children to pair up (it is best if the pairs are around the same height)

Get the pairs to sit on the floor back to back.

Get the pairs to link their arms behind their back so that they are joined together.

The aim of the game is for them to stand up off the floor without unhooking their arms.

The Big Story: Brave Esther Saves the Day - from Esther 2 to 7

What you will need

- Grey wig



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- Crown
- Little swords
- A medal

Today's theme is: How God helped Esther save her people.

Reader 1: So today we are going to hear about Esther *(Get a child to be Esther)*

Now Esther was a Jew that was brought up by her cousin Mordecai because she had no parents of her own. *(get a child to be Mordecai)*

Reader 2: Hold on, they can't be Mordecai. He was old *(get grey wig out of the bag)*

Reader 1: They lived near Susa which was the palace city of a great king called Xerxes.

(Get a Child to be Xerxes and put a crown on him/her)

Now Xerxes had fallen out with his wife and he decided that he needed a new one, so he asked for his people to find him another. All the prettiest and nicest girls were brought to him to so that he could choose one. So Mordecai told Esther to go, but he warned her not to tell anyone that she was a Jew as some people didn't like the Jews

Reader 2: Really? Shouldn't she be free to be whatever religion she wants to be?

Reader 1: You are right, of course. But that doesn't always happen. Anyway, Esther took her cousin's advice and kept quiet. Esther was very beautiful and when the King saw her he fell deeply in love with her and married her straight away.

Reader 2: *(Get a prompt sign out of the bag that says "AWWW" on it and hold it up)*

Reader 1: Now one day Mordecai was by the city gates when he overheard two of the Kings men plotting to kill the king. *(Get two children to be the plotters and give them little swords)*

Reader 2: Hold on they can't kill the king otherwise this will end in a sad story and I don't like sad stories, Esther will be sad, the people will be sad, WE ALL WILL BE SAAAAAD!

Reader 1: Calm down! Nobody got killed apart from the two horrible men who were plotting against the king. Mordecai told Esther what he overheard and she told the king what Mordecai had told her. When the king investigated and found out what was said, was true, he was very pleased with both Esther and Mordecai.



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Reader 2: Well that was a lovely story, now shall we get on to the craft...

Reader 1: Hold on, that's only the beginning of the story. Now at that time the King made one of his advisors the prime minister of the country. His name was Haman (*Get a child to be Haman. Get a medal out of the bag and place it on Haman*)

Reader 2: Was he a good prime minister?

Reader 1: Well not really. Haman was not a very nice man. He only looked out for himself and was very vain. He expected everyone he passed to bow down because he was soooo important. (*Encourage the rest of the children to bow down*)

Reader 2: Good job I wasn't around then. I'd never get up again with my knees!

Reader 1: Well Mordecai felt the same way, but more because he didn't think that Haman was worthy of bowing down to. He refused. When Hanan saw this he was not impressed!!!! He spoke to his staff about how they could punish Mordecai. They came up with a horrible plan.

Reader 2: What? They confiscated his Playstation?

Reader 1: No - worse!

Reader 2: They took away all his sweets and chocolate?

Reader 1: No - much worse!!!!

Reader 2: No! They didn't make him eat all his vegetables?

Reader 1: No. it was even worse than that! They hatched a plan to convince the King that all the Jews in the kingdom were against him and eventually would try and kill him.

Reader 2: But that was just a lie!

Reader 1: We know that, but the King didn't, and Haman was his most trusted advisor. So, he told Haman to do what ever he needed to do to stop this. Haman was a real baddie. He seized the opportunity to say that all the Jews should be put to death.... Including Mordecai, of course. He was prime minister so he just gave the order!

Reader 2: He couldn't do that, could he?

Reader 1: Haman thought he could. When Esther heard this, she ran to Mordecai. She said that she would go to the king and beg for him to stop this. These were her people. Mordecai warned her not to



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do it because, if the king found out she was a Jew, he might kill her too. But brave Esther put on her royal robes and went to see her husband.

Reader 2: That was brave!

Reader 1: When he saw her, the king was pleased and called her in to see him. So much so that he asked her what she wanted - he would even give her half his kingdom.

Reader 2: Wow! Did she just take the money and run?

Reader 1: No, she didn't. Instead she just invited the King and Haman to dinner. Haman was so proud of himself – the queen had invited him to dinner with her and the king! What an honour!

Reader 2: I wonder what they ate? I would have had chicken nuggets! I love chicken nuggets!

Reader 1: I don't expect they had chicken nuggets but it was a fine meal. The king again asked what she would like and again she asked for him and Haman to come for dinner again the following night. Well Haman though he was well in there by this time!

Reader 2: When is she going to tell the king about Haman?

Reader 1: Don't worry we will get there. That night the king couldn't sleep and he did what everyone does when you can't sleep...

Reader 2: What.. count sheep?

Reader 1: No, he read some court papers.

Reader 2: Well, if that doesn't send you to sleep, I don't know what would!!

Reader 1: While he was reading, the king found the story about how Mordecai saved him from the plot. He asked his servants how they had repaid Mordecai for this. When they told him Mordecai hadn't been rewarded, the king was shocked. He sent for Haman straight away. He asked Haman, "What should we do to honour a man that the king is really happy with."

Reader 2: Uh oh! I see what's coming...

Reader 1: Yes, you've got it. Haman had such a big head by now he thought that the king was talking about him. He had a think and then said, "That person should be put in one of the king's finest robes and paraded through the city as a great honour."

Reader 2: He's in for a big surprise!



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Reader 1: That's right. Mordecai was paraded through the streets and Haman was the laughing stock of the city. To make things worse, he had to go to the queen's house that night for dinner. Once again the king asked what Esther would like. This time she broke cover and told the king that she was a Jew.

Reader 2: Wow, that was risky!

Reader 1: Esther asked for the lives of her people, including Mordecai her cousin. The king was confused at first as he didn't know about Haman's plan. He was not happy when he heard, I can tell you! He ordered Haman to be put to death, just as he had planned to do to the Jews.

Reader 2: Not a happy ending for Haman, then.

Reader 1: You can say that again! The king made Mordecai his new prime minister and took away the threat to the Jewish people.

Reader 2: I wonder who or what God might be asking us to stand up for?

Creative Adventure

You will need:

- Ring doughnuts (or gluten free bagels)
- Wafers (or gluten free crackers)
- Sweets
- Icing tubes

Cut the wafers into points and stick them into the doughnut so that it looks like a crown. Then decorate the crown with sweets and the icing. Haribo Funny Mix are a good choice to use as they are gluten free and suitable for vegetarians.

OR

You will need:

- Empty containers (especially foil containers or used plastics for recycling)
- Sellotape or masking tape
- Items which will rattle (pebbles, rice, lentils etc)
- Paper sticky labels
- Felt tip pens



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The Jewish festival of Purim celebrates the story of Esther. People use noise makers (Purim Groggers) to drown out the name of Haman when they hear the story. It's a very noisy festival! Make your own groggers by fastening together two foil trays or using a bottle and fastening the top, after filling them with a handful of rattling items such as pebbles, rice, lentils, seeds etc. Decorate the outside of your noise maker with a sticker on which you could write "Make a noise for what's right".

You could use your noise makers in the active prayer if you choose.

Wondering questions to use during creative time:

I wonder why people sometimes pick on people for what they believe in?

I wonder how it feels to stand up to someone powerful when things aren't right?

I wonder if you've ever done something really brave like that ?

The Adventure Map

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth. However, a lot of the stories in the Bible before the birth of Jesus, talk of his coming and set out how God wants us to live our lives.

Take the young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.



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Walking the Way

This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.

For the Younger: FOFA the bear

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that's why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA's scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn't mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn't mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA's memory isn't very good as FOFA's brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is: Be brave: speak to someone who could change something you think is wrong or unfair and ask their help

Adventurers Go!

So, today's story was about how innocent people were saved because a woman was brave enough to stand up to those in power. Her faith helped her do the right thing.



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Prayers (choose one/both)

Spoken Prayer

Lord thank you for being there for us,

Thank you for protecting us.

Help us to stand up for what is right and to be brave and determined for you.

And help us always to be true to what you teach us, even when it seems hard

Amen

Active Prayer

Start sitting down.

Father God, when things aren't right, help us to STAND UP, STAMP OUR FEET, WAVE OUR ARMS and SHOUT

(children and leaders do the actions and shout the words – then sit down again)

When people are being treated unfairly, help us to STAND UP, STAMP OUR FEET, WAVE OUR ARMS and SHOUT

When people aren't caring for our world properly, help us to STAND UP, STAMP OUR FEET, WAVE OUR ARMS and SHOUT

When people are being bullied or hurt by others, help us to STAND UP, STAMP OUR FEET, WAVE OUR ARMS and SHOUT

Make us brave like Esther, honest like Mordecai, and good like Jesus.

Amen

End Prayer Every Session: Altogether

We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.

Adventurers go! Amen



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What you need for this session

Games:

- Flip chart or large sheets of paper
- Marker pens
- Crown



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Story:

- Grey wig
- Crown
- Little swords
- A medal

Craft:

- Ring doughnuts (or gluten free bagels)
 - Wafers (or gluten free crackers)
 - Sweets
 - Icing tubes
- OR
- Empty containers (especially foil containers or used plastics for recycling)
 - Sellotape or masking tape
 - Items which will rattle (pebbles, rice, lentils etc)
 - Paper sticky labels
 - Felt tip pens

Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
Craft activity	Allergies to certain foods	Check consent forms to make sure there are no allergies to foods used	Use different foods that comply with allergy advice if a problem.	