

LESSON



Queen Esther

COMMUNITY

We help each other.

References

Esther 1; 2:1-20; *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, pp. 468-471.

Memory Verse

“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters” (Hebrews 13:1, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that they shouldn’t stop caring for others.

Feel that they want to be caring and kind to others.

Respond by finding ways to be caring to their family and friends.

The Message



God’s people care for each other.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When young Esther’s parents die, Cousin Mordecai takes her to live with his family. He treats her as his own daughter as she grows up. When the king is looking for a new queen, Esther, along with many other women, is taken to the king’s palace in hope that one of them would be queen. Mordecai continues to help Esther as she lives in the palace and

prepares to be presented before the king. The king chooses Esther to be his queen.

This is a lesson about community.

Christian family members and friends help one another in many ways because we care about each other in the same way that God cares about us. We never stop caring for each other because Jesus never stops caring for us.

THREE

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>We Never Stop Caring</i> B. <i>Inside/Outside</i> C. <i>Caring for All Ages</i>	poster paper, old magazines, scissors, glue sticks 3-5 dirty, crushed-looking envelopes 3-5 pretty or nicely decorated envelopes 3-5 pretty pictures (nature scenery, animals, etc.) 3-5 unattractive pictures (for example, in nature: a dead tree; a nice picture with crayon, pencil, or marker scribbles all over it; etc.) Caring for All Ages pattern (see p. 142), pencils, crayons
* Prayer and Praise *	up to 10	See page 35. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Bible Study Memory Verse	Bible-times costumes, crowns Bible Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Scenarios</i>	none
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Don't Stop Caring</i>	Stop Sign pattern (see p. 143), heavy paper, crayons, scissors

Teacher Enrichment

"Profound respect for her benefactor led Esther to cherish his counsel even after she became queen. This fact speaks well of Mordecai as a foster parent, and of Esther as a loyal and obedient daughter. Her beauty was essentially beauty of character and personality; beauty of appearance was incidental. Too often parental laxity on the one hand or overbearing strictness on the other, implants in young people the desire to be free from restraint, and cultivates waywardness and delinquency. Happy the home where parental au-

thority is balanced with respect for the individuality of its youth, where parental control is exercised with the objective of developing self-control. Like Esther, such youth leave home with well-balanced personalities and disciplined characters" (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, pp. 470, 471).

Do you find it easy or hard to balance being too strict with too lax in Sabbath School? How do the children view your authority? Do they respect and love you?

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. We Never Stop Caring

You Need:

- poster paper
- old magazines
- scissors
- glue sticks

For each child, prepare a large poster paper with the heading "We Never Stop Caring." Ask the children to look through the magazines and cut out pictures showing people caring for each other, then glue them to the poster paper. Encourage them to find pictures of caring for people of all ages.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Let's look at the posters you made. Show me any pictures of people caring for babies. How about young children? How about people caring for older people? How can you help care for babies? for other children? for older people? Our Bible story is about someone who never stopped caring for someone in his family. He cared for her when she was young and had no parents, and he still cared for her when she was grown up. Today's message is:**



God's people care for each other.

Say that with me.

B. Inside/Outside

You Need:

- 3-5 dirty, crushed-looking envelopes
- 3-5 pretty or nicely decorated envelopes
- 3-5 pretty pictures (nature scenery, animals, etc.)
- 3-5 unattractive pictures (for example, in nature: a dead tree; or a nice picture with crayon, pencil, or marker scribbles all over it; etc.)

Ahead of time, put some pretty pictures (beautiful nature sceneries or animals, etc.) into dirty, crushed-looking envelopes. Also place some pictures of unattractive scenery or animals, etc., into some very pretty envelopes. Also have one messed-up envelope with an ugly picture and a pretty envelope with a pretty picture. Hold on to those. Ask students to choose which envelopes they would like to open. Chances are almost all the students will gravitate toward the pretty envelopes. If no one chose the messed-up envelopes, then open a few yourself to reveal the pretty pictures inside.

Debriefing

Were some of you disappointed when you opened the pretty envelopes? What did you expect to see in the pretty envelope? The messy one? People are a little like that. We may be able to tell a few things about the outside of a person from looking at them but the outside of a person doesn't really tell us how that person is on the inside. Our Bible story is about a young woman who was in a beauty contest to become queen. We know that she was pretty on the outside because she won this contest, but she was also beautiful on the inside. Like this envelope. (Show the pretty envelope with the pretty picture.) How do we know if someone is beautiful on the inside? (They are kind, they care about others, they smile, etc.) How can people become beautiful on the inside? (Become like Jesus by reading the Bible and praying every day.) One way of showing that we are beautiful on the inside is to show that we care for others. Our message today reminds us of this.



God's people care for each other.

Say that with me.

C. Caring for All Ages

Prepare a copy of the Caring for All Ages pattern (see p. 142) for each child. Ask the children to look at the pictures, think about how old each person is, then put them in order by age. Have the children use a pencil to write the number in the box beside the picture of the youngest person, the next youngest, etc. As time permits, let the children color the pictures.

You Need:

- Caring for All Ages pattern (see p. 142)
- pencils
- crayons

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Let's see if you got them right. Which one comes first? Next? And then?** Continue until all pictures have been discussed. **Do babies need a lot of care? Do young children? Do older children still need someone to care for them? Do mommies and daddies still like to know someone cares for them and loves them? Do grandmas and grandpas? Yes, everyone needs someone to watch out for them and care for them. It's nice to know that someone loves you and cares about you. Our Bible story is about a man who cared for his niece when she was very young and had no parents. He cared for her when she was grown up too. Today's message is:**



God's people care for each other.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 35.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- child "actors"
- two crowns

Ask for volunteers to be Esther, her mother, her father, Mordecai, and the king. As you tell the story, give the directions in parentheses.

Read or tell the story.

Esther was a little girl who lived in the land of Persia. *[All the group points to Esther.]* When both her parents died, *[Esther's mother and father sit down in their seats]* Esther went to live with her older cousin, Mordecai. *[All the group points to Mordecai.]* Mordecai loved Esther and cared for her as if she were his own daughter.

As Esther grew to be a young woman, Mordecai taught her all the things parents teach their children. *[Mordecai talks to Esther.]* He taught her to be kind and helpful. *[Esther pretends to sweep.]* He taught her to be honest and brave. And he taught her to love and worship God. *[Esther kneels as if in prayer.]*

When Esther was a young woman, the king of Persia decided to look for a new queen. *[All the group points to the king.]* Young women from all over the country were called to the palace so the king could choose a new queen. Esther went to the king's palace. *[Esther goes to stand behind the king.]*

Even though she now lived in the king's palace with special helpers and special food and special beauty treatments, Mordecai still cared about Esther. Every day he walked in the gardens near where the young women lived so he could find out what was happening to her. *[Mordecai walks around Esther and the king.]*

Finally it was time for Esther to meet the king. Would he like her? Would he make her queen? *[Esther moves to stand in front of the king and curtsies.]*

The king did like her. Mordecai had raised her well. She was not only beautiful, she was kind and sweet, and she won the king's favor.

The king put a royal crown on Esther's head *[king places a crown on Esther's head]* and made her queen. He gave a great feast for her, proclaimed a holiday throughout the entire country, and gave her lots of gifts. *[King claps his hands. Everyone claps for Esther.]*

Mordecai had cared for Esther when she was a young girl and when she became a young woman. He never stopped caring for her. In God's family we never stop caring for our friends and family.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
What do you think about Mordecai? Do you think Esther was happy when her cousin Mordecai took her to live in his home? How did he treat her? How do you think Esther felt when she realized that Mordecai still cared for her even after she went to live in the palace?

Bible Study

You Need:

- Bible

Open your Bible to Esther 2:1-20. Point to the verses and say:

This is where today's story is found in the Bible.

Read some verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
When Esther's mother and father died, who looked after Esther? (Mordecai) Did he take good care of her? (yes) What did he do? (He looked after her; taught her to be kind and helpful and to worship God.)

Why did Esther go to live in the king's palace? What happened to Esther while she lived in the palace? (beauty treatments, special food, etc.)

Why do you think Esther was chosen to be the queen? (She was beautiful inside and out, and her inside beauty and her outside beauty showed.)

Mordecai cared about Esther. And because of his love and care, Esther was beautiful on the inside and the outside. She was kind and helpful to others. She had learned that from her cousin Mordecai. Do you remember the message? Let's say it together:



God's people care for each other.

Memory Verse

Turn to Hebrews 13:1 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud. **"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters."** Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

You Need:

Bible

Keep on loving

Cross arms over chest.



one another

Point to others.



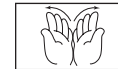
as brothers and sisters.

Point to a boy.
Point to a girl.



Hebrews 13:1

Palms together, then open.



PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "Our Church Is a Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 257)
- "Giving Jesus Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 301)
- "Little Feet, Be Careful" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 307)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 314)

Mission

Say: **Let's see who in our mission story cared for someone else.** Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Our offerings will help someone in another country. We serve God when we give Him our offerings so others may be helped. Today our offering is for _____ mission.**

Prayer

Say: **Let's pray together. Children, please repeat after me: Thank You, Jesus, that we can always care for each other. Amen.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson**Scenarios**

Tell the children you are going to read them a few little stories and you would like to know what they would do. Allow response time after each example.

Janae's mother is late to pick her up from Sabbath School. Janae is crying. What can you and your mother do? (Stay with her until her mother comes, hug her, play with her, pray with her.)

Matthew is 8 years old. His mother goes to the hospital to have a new baby. Matthew comes to stay at your house while his father is at work. What can you do to make Matthew happy? (Share your toys; play with him.)

Jonathan's grandma lives with his family. She starts coughing and coughing one day while she is reading a book to him. What can

Jonathan do to help her? (Get her a glass of water; pat her on the back; ask if she's all right.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How many of you have a brother or a sister? How do you want your brother or sister to treat you?** (kindly, lovingly) **How should we treat our brothers and sisters?**

How can we help care for our parents? Our grandparents? How can we treat people in God's family as if they are our real brothers or sisters?

Should we ever stop caring for people? Why?

Let's say our message together:



God's people care for each other.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Don't Stop Caring

You Need:

- Stop Sign pattern (see p. 143)
- heavy paper
- scissors
- crayons

In advance, prepare a copy of the Stop Sign pattern (see p. 143) on heavy paper for each child. Have the children color the inside of the stop sign red and leave the STOP letters white.

Then have the children cut the stop sign out.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know what your stop sign says? Read it aloud. Take this home and share it with someone as you tell them about Mordecai, who never stopped caring for Esther. It can help remind you to care for others too. Let's say our message one last time:**



God's people care for each other.

Closing

Sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 44). Say a simple prayer such as: **Dear Jesus, help us always to care for others. Help us to never stop caring. Amen.**

STUDENT LESSON

Queen Esther

References

Esther 1; 2:1-20;
*The SDA Bible
 Commentary*, vol.
 3, pp. 468-471

Memory Verse

“Keep on loving
 one another as
 brothers and
 sisters” (Hebrews
 13:1, NIV).

The Message

God’s people
 care for each
 other.

Who do you stay with when you can’t be with your parents? Esther’s cousin cared for her for a long time.

Esther, a pretty little girl, lived in the land of Persia. When both her parents died, Esther went to live with her older cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai loved Esther and cared for her as if she were his own daughter.

As Esther grew to be a young woman, Mordecai taught her all the things parents teach their children. He taught her to be kind and helpful. He taught her to be honest and brave. And he taught her to love and worship God. Although Esther and Mordecai lived in Persia, they weren’t Persian. They were Jewish, and Mordecai didn’t want Esther to forget the God of her people.

When Esther was a young woman, the king of Persia decided to look for a new queen. Young women from all over the country were called to the palace. The king would choose a new queen from among them. Esther was one of those young women.

Each young woman enjoyed a year of special care before they went to meet the king. During this time they lived in a special part of the king’s palace and were cared for by special helpers. Esther was such a kind, thoughtful girl, that she soon became friends with the one in charge of all the girls. He gave her seven special maids, the best food, and the best place to stay.

Mordecai worked in the king’s palace. He could walk in the gardens near where the young women lived. There he could find out how Esther was, and what was happening to her.

Finally it was time for Esther to meet the king. Would he like her?



Would he like her more than all the other young women? Would he make her queen?

The king did like her. Mordecai had raised her well. She was not only beautiful, she was kind and sweet, and she won the king’s favor.

The king put a royal crown on Esther’s head and made her queen. He gave a great feast for her. He proclaimed a

holiday throughout the entire country, and gave lots of gifts in honor of his new queen.

Mordecai had cared for Esther most of her life. And he didn’t stop caring for her when she became queen. Mordecai and Esther were part of God’s family. And people in God’s family never stop caring for each other.

How can you show others that you care for them? Think of several things you can do. Can you help people in your family? Can you pray for them? Sing a song for them? Or give them a hug? Show your love to someone in your family today.

Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

Keep on loving Cross arms over chest.

one another Point to others.

as brothers Point to a boy.

and sisters. Point to a girl.

Hebrews 13:1 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 314). Bang some blocks or spoons together as you sing if you want to.

Help your child show they care about someone else in your family by doing something nice for them as a surprise.

Monday

Talk about the beauty treatments Esther had for months. Let your child put on some nice-smelling lotion or perfume. Talk about how Esther was beautiful on the inside because she treated people with love. Ask: How can you be beautiful on the inside?

Tuesday

Help your child do something caring for an elderly neighbor, friend, or relative. Help with yard work or housework, sit and listen while they talk, give them a hug.



Look at books or magazines together and have your child point out pictures of people helping other people of all ages.

Wednesday

Read Esther 2:1-20 together, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: Who was Esther's cousin?

How did he take care of her? Why did the king choose Esther for his queen?

Encourage your child to share the stop sign they made in Sabbath School with someone as they tell them about Mordecai and Esther. (Or draw and color a six-sided stop sign shape with STOP in big letters.)



Thursday

Help your child make a paper crown like the one you think the king gave Esther when he made her his queen. Save it for Friday night worship.

Friday

Act out the Bible story as a family. Be sure to use the crown made yesterday.

Make a list of ways your family has shown love to one another this week. Then say the memory verse together.

Ask God to help you always to show love and care for others in His family.