

## LESSON PLAN

### ESTHER'S BANQUET

#### Esther 7–10

**Lesson Memory Verse:** Colossians 3:25 - **“He that does wrong shall receive [be punished] for the wrong which he has done: and there is no respect of persons.”** (Grades 1 & 2 memorize portion in bold.)

**Lesson Aim:** God will punish those who do wrong, but He will forgive those that turn from their sin and receive Jesus as their Savior.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** Let me tell you why God sent a flood in Noah's day; it was a flood that covered the whole earth. God is holy and He created Adam and Eve to be holy. He made Adam the king of the earth and wanted to have fellowship with Adam and Eve. When Adam ate the fruit of one tree that God had told him not to eat of it, he did wrong and sinned against God. He had obeyed Satan and was no longer holy. When he obeyed Satan, he was under the rule of Satan. Now Satan began to rule the world and he turned the people against God. Even though God gave all sinners a plan of forgiveness for their sins, people began to turn away from God. They did not want to live a holy life and have fellowship with God; they wanted to live a sinful life and have fellowship with Satan and demons. During Noah's time the people became so wicked that only Noah and his family wanted to live with God. The time had come for God to put all those wicked people to death and repopulate the earth with godly people from Noah's family. He would destroy all these wicked people by a flood that would cover the whole earth. Only those who entered the boat that Noah built would remain alive. Do you know how many people entered the boat that Noah built? Only Noah's family wanted to do what was right and there were only eight people in his family. All the rest of the people in the world died in the flood for doing wrong.

**HE (for Authority):** Our memory verse tells that those who “do wrong” (those who sin) will receive punishment for their sins. Our verse tells us that “there is no respect of persons” with God. He treats everyone the same way when He punishes sin. In other words, no matter who you are – big or little, a king or a servant – you will be punished for the wrong that you do. There is only one way to escape God's punishment. You must repent (hate your sin and want to turn away from it) and receive Jesus as your Savior. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins and He rose from the grave to give you eternal life.

**SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.** Our Bible story today will show us how God punished the sin of Haman that wanted to kill all the Jewish people. This Bible story will teach us how God punishes those who are proud and do wrong. (Briefly review last week's lesson with them from Esther 1-6 before you tell this story.)

#### I. Haman Accused - Esther 7:1-6

When Queen Esther had her second banquet with Haman and King Ahasuerus (Xerxes), he told his queen that she could ask what she wished up to half of the kingdom of Persia and it would be given to her. This time Esther told the king that there was a certain person who was trying to destroy her people. Now not even the king knew that her people were the Jews. When the king heard that someone was planning to kill the queen's people, he became very angry and asked who it was that had such a wicked plan. Esther's answer was clear. She said, “The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.” When Haman heard that the Jews were Esther's people, he was afraid for his life.

**WE:** When we sin, we can be sure that it will be found out (Num 32:23). God sees everything we do and there is no possible way that we can hide our sins from Him. Sometimes our parents or teachers do not find out about our sins, but God knows everything about us. Yes, He knows all about our sins and will punish us for them unless we turn to Jesus and ask Him to save us from God's punishment.

#### II. Haman Killed - Esther 7:7-10

Now when Haman's plan to kill the Jews was better understood by the king, King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) became very angry with Haman. Haman knew that he would probably be killed for his sin so he begged Queen Esther to save his life. Haman was happy when he had planned to kill all the Jews, but now he

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was afraid when he realized that his life was in danger. This shows how wicked Haman was. God used the king to punish Haman for his sin against the Jews. The king commanded his servants to take Haman and hang him on the gallows that he had built for Mordecai.

**WE:** We, too, will be punished for our sin just like Haman was punished for his sin, unless we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. Haman is in Hell now and later He will be punished in the lake of fire forever. It is a serious thing to sin against God, but He will forgive us if we confess our sins and believe Jesus paid the penalty for them. Have you done that for your sins? If not, you need to do that today and I will be happy to help you after I dismiss our class.

### III. The Jews Protected - Esther 8:1 – 9:4

Mordecai was given the office that Haman had and had the authority with the king's permission to write a law and seal it with the king's ring. A law had been written by Haman and sealed with the king's ring to have all the Jews destroyed on a certain day. A law that was sealed with the king's ring could not be changed according to the Persian rules. So Esther asked the king for permission to write another law to allow the Jews to defend themselves against those who would try to kill them on the day given in the law made by Haman. The king gave his permission to Mordecai to write a law allowing the Jews to protect themselves. Mordecai wrote the law, sealed it with the king's ring and sent it to all the people of Persia. On the day appointed for the Jews to be killed, they gathered themselves together for protection against their enemies, and God saved them from their enemies.

**WE:** We are under the law of God that Moses wrote. It was a just law, but we would die under that law and go to Hell. But God sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins. Now a new law has been written that allows us to be saved from death in Hell. If we believe Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and we receive Him as our Savior, we are saved from the law written by Moses. When we ask Jesus to save us, He will protect us and we will not be punished in Hell for our sins.

### IV. Haman's Followers Killed - Esther 9:5-16

Many of Haman's followers hated the Jews just like he did. Even after Haman was dead, his followers tried to carry out his wicked plans. As a result of following his sinful plan, many of Haman's followers also lost their lives. In the palace at Shushan there were five hundred men who were killed. Haman's ten sons also were killed. Later there were three hundred additional men killed at the palace and a total of 75,000 people killed in other parts of the kingdom. This would not have happened to them, if they had not followed Haman's plan.

**WE:** We must be careful and not get involved with wicked people who make plans to sin. If we choose wrong friends, we will soon do the same things that they are doing and we will be punished with them. This is what the Bible says: "He that walks with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Prov 13:20).

**BE (for Action):** This Bible lesson teaches us that God punishes wicked people that love their sins. He will punish you, too, if you love your sins. God knows everything about you. He knows what you think, what you love and what you do. If you think of ways to sin, God knows that, even if you do not tell anyone. If you love your sins, He knows that too. So it is no surprise that He knows what you have done when you sin. Since He hates sin, He will punish you if you sin. Never make plans to sin like Haman did or you will be punished for your sin like he was. But God does not want to punish you for your sins; He wants to save you from your sins. That is why He sent His Son to die for your sins and then raised Him from the dead. If you hate your sins and receive Jesus to save you from your sins, God will remove your sins from your records. You will be made holy in His sight, because Jesus will remove all of your sins. If you have not received Jesus as your Savior, He invites you receive Him now. If you are ready to receive Him as your Savior, I will help you do it after I dismiss the class. Please do not wait for another day to do it. If you die without asking Jesus to be your Savior, no one can keep you from going to Hell—NOT EVEN GOD. So He wants you to receive Jesus as your Savior today, and so do I want you to do it.