

LESSON PLAN

HAMAN'S PLOT FAILED

Esther 1 – 6

Lesson Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:18-19 - "**The path of the just is as the shining light**, that shines more and more unto the perfect day. **The way of the wicked is as darkness**: they know not at what they stumble." (Grades 1-2 should memorize the part of the verses that are in bold.)

Lesson Aim: We must choose the path of the righteous to win, because the way of the wicked will fail.

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

KEY (for Attention): How many of you have ever grabbed something that is very, very hot? What happened? (Got burned, or let go of it quickly) Sin is like something that is very, very hot. If you hold on to it, you will get burned. The best thing to do is to drop it quickly. We must drop our sins and go to Jesus to take away our sins and give us His righteousness.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse warns us of the danger of holding on to our sins. We will be like a man walking outside on a very dark night and stumbles over something that he could not see. But a just (righteous) person will be like a man walking on a path that is full of light, which gets brighter as he keeps walking. How do we become just (righteous)? First, we must hate our sins and give them to Jesus. Then He will take our sins and give us His righteousness (1 Pet 2:24). That will make us a new creature (2 Cor 5:17). We will no longer love sin, but we will love to do what is right.

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. In this story you will learn about a wicked man named Haman. His pride turned his great success to utter failure in less time than it takes to eat your dinner.

I. Crown of Esther - Esther 1-2

Vashti had her queen's crown taken away because she disobeyed her husband, the king (1:1-22). Many beautiful women wanted to be the next queen, but Esther was chosen and given the crown (2:1-20). God allowed Esther to be the next queen because He had important work for her to do as queen. One of her first jobs was to help Mordecai, her cousin, catch two wicked men who planned to kill the king. Mordecai heard about the plans of these men and he told Esther. Esther then told the king what Mordecai had told her. When it was proven that these two wicked men were trying to kill the king, they were hanged (2:21-23).

WE: We are to serve the Lord wherever He puts us. If He gives us an important place to work, we need to serve the Lord, not ourselves. Then we will walk in the light. If we do wicked things, we will walk in the dark and stumble. Remember what happened to the two men who planned to kill the king. Their sinful plans caused them to stumble, to be executed and now to suffer in Hell. Do not follow their example.

II. Conspiracy of Haman - Esther 3

The king gave Haman the highest position in his kingdom, next to himself, and everyone was to bow down to him when he rode past them. Mordecai did not bow down to him because he was a Jew and would only bow down to God. When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down to him, he hated him. When he hated Mordecai, he walked in darkness and stumbled. How? He learned that Mordecai was a Jew, so he hated all Jews and made a wicked plan to kill all of them. By drawing lots, it was determined that all Jews were to be killed on the last month of the year. That was almost a year away, which gave God enough time to defeat Haman's plan. Now Haman went to the king to approve his plot against the Jews. He told the king that there were some people in his kingdom that had different laws than his laws and he wanted the king's permission to kill them. The king gave Haman his permission. This made it impossible to change Haman's plan. Haman sent letters to all of the cities of the country to tell them when all Jews were to be killed. This meant that all the Jews that had returned to Palestine and rebuilt the temple of God were going to be killed. It meant that God's promise to send His Son to the earth through the Jewish people could not happen. You can be sure God was not pleased with Haman. Everything looked good for Haman, but he did not know that he was walking in darkness and he would stumble."

LESSON PLAN

WE: We must remember that God is in control of everything that happens. We may not understand God's plans, but His plans are higher and stronger than the plans of any man. When God makes a promise, He will keep it, no matter what plans man makes.

III. Courage of Esther - Esther 4-5

Mordecai was deeply hurt and cried when he heard what Haman had planned against the Jews. He told Esther that she had to see the king to save her people, but no one knew, not even the king, that the Jews were her people. Nevertheless, Mordecai believed that God had allowed her to become queen so she could save her people at this time (4:14). However, Esther had one serious problem: she could not see the king unless he called her. If she came without the king's call, she would be killed unless the king would hold out his golden scepter to her. Then she would be able to talk to him without harm. Esther had not been called by the king for over a month. Would she be killed if she appeared before him? She did not know, but she obeyed Mordecai in order to try to save God's people. It took real courage for Esther to do it.

When she appeared before the king, he saw it was Esther and he held out the golden scepter to her. She was accepted by him and he asked what she wanted of him. She asked for him and Haman to come to her banquet. They both came to her banquet and then the king asked again what she wanted from him. Again Esther asked that they both come to her banquet on the next day and then she would tell them what she wanted. The king no doubt was curious, but Haman was just delighted to be so highly honored by the queen.

Only one thing disturbed Haman and that was Mordecai. When he went home, Mordecai did not bow to him as he passed by. That made Haman so furious that he told his wife about Mordecai. She suggested he make a gallows and ask the king for permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows the next day. It sounded good to Haman and he had the gallows built. Haman was walking in darkness when he hated Mordecai and he would stumble in his hatred for Mordecai.

WE: We should be courageous like Esther and work for God. The path of the righteous is a shining light, so they do not stumble when they walk in the pure light of His plans. However, we must not let our hearts be filled with hatred for anyone, because that will darken our minds and we will make wicked plans, like Haman, that will cause us to stumble.

IV. Collapse of Haman - Esther 6

Haman had a plan to hang Mordecai on the gallows, but God had another plan. That night God did not let the king go to sleep, so he asked that the official records be read to him. In these records he learned that Mordecai had saved his life and no reward had been given to him. Just then Haman came into his court. Haman was going to ask the king for permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows, but before he asked the king for permission to hang Mordecai, the king asked Haman to honor Mordecai for saving his life. This was very embarrassing for Haman, but he had to do it. After Haman's duties were over, he hurried home to be comforted by his wife, but when she heard what happened she said he would be conquered by Mordecai.

WE: We will find no rest when we walk in the darkness of our sins. We stumble and no one will pick us up. Everything begins to go against us. God is against us; our friends no longer help us; even our family speaks against us. Walking in the darkness of our sins is a lonely path. We need to walk on the path of the righteous. It is a path of light, where no one stumbles. God is with us, good friends cheer us and saved family member encourage us. Choose the path of the righteous and walk with God and godly believers in the light (1 Jn 1:7).

BE (for Action): Haman was happy when he was promoted to have a position next to the king in the Persian kingdom, but he stumbled when he hated Mordecai. Do not let hatred, or any other sin, cause you to stumble and ruin your life. If sin is controlling your life, you need to be saved by Jesus Christ. He will put you on the path of light so you will not stumble, but will have victory over sin. If you really want to be saved, Jesus can save you right now! (Have the children bow their heads and those who want to be saved from their sins should raise their hands and stay after class to pray with you.)