



Exploration Stations

Day 5

Bible Point: God chooses you.

Bible Story: God chooses Esther to save her people. (Esther 2–8)

Bible Verse: “I have called you by name; you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

Consider This:

- ◆ During his reign, King Xerxes invaded Greece, using one of the largest armies in ancient history, as well as a sizable navy. Unfortunately, the invasion ultimately failed.
- ◆ Nebuchadnezzar captured Mordecai’s ancestors, taking them from Jerusalem into Babylon. In Daniel, you can read about a few other Bible heroes captured at the same time!
- ◆ Although the name of God is never mentioned openly in the book of Esther, it’s clear that Mordecai believed in God’s sovereign plan for placing Esther in the role of queen so she could save God’s people.
- ◆ Haman offered an enormous sum of money to the men who would annihilate the Jews. The sum of 10,000 talents of silver was nearly two-thirds of the annual income of the entire kingdom. Scholars assume this money would have come from the plunder taken from the slain Jews.
- ◆ King Xerxes gave Mordecai a distinctive honor when he allowed Mordecai to wear a robe the king had worn. In ancient times, such an act signified a sharing of the king’s power, status, and honor.
- ◆ The book of Esther ends with a festival called Purim. Today, Jews still celebrate Purim, usually in March. Leaders read the book of Esther in the synagogue. Congregants cheer when they hear Mordecai’s name and hiss when they hear Haman’s name.

Why It Matters...

Being chosen feels special, doesn’t it? But it’s likely that Esther felt unprepared for the task for which God chose her. As much as kids *love* being selected for something special, they *may* feel a bit like Esther when they’re called on to befriend a newcomer at school, stand up to a bully, or share their faith. Kids may wonder if God *really* knows what he’s doing...and if they *really* can do such bold feats. Yet God didn’t only choose to love us—he chooses each of us to do his amazing work! Use today’s activities to encourage kids that they’ve been handpicked by God to be an integral, important part of his kingdom work!



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Make Me!

Set out the play dough.

Say: Today we're learning that **God chooses you.** (You are treasured!) Use the dough to make yourself and show how special you are.

Use the modeling dough to make themselves. Encourage them to add features that show what makes them special and why God would choose them.



Supplies

- ◆ play dough

Supplies

- ◆ play food

Prepare a Meal

Set out the play food.

Say: **Today we're talking about how someone named Esther made a feast for the king so she could tell him something very important. God chose Esther to give the message to the king. *God chooses us, too. (You are treasured!)* Let's pretend to make a feast for the king.**

Let children use the play food to make a feast for the king.



Supplies

- ◆ blocks

Written in the Blocks

Set out the blocks.

Say: ***God chooses us! (You are treasured!)* God knows your name, and he has a special plan for you. Let's try to form the shape of our names with these blocks.**

Encourage kids to use the blocks to shape the first letter of their names, or their whole names if they're able.

