

**GOD CREATED
YOU FOR A
PURPOSE**



Bible Story: This Is Me (Esther) • *Esther*

Bottom Line: God created you for a purpose.

Memory Verse: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14

Life App:— Identity—Knowing who God made us to be

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Read **Esther**
- *For older kids, work through the passages of scripture— spend time engaging in the passages with the kids. Think of questions you can ask them as you read these verses (Who, what, when, where, why how questions)*
- Ask guiding questions to review the story. Try to touch on the following points:
 - Esther was from a Jewish family. One day, King Xerxes chose Esther to be his queen.
 - When Mordecai, Esther's cousin, wouldn't bow down to Haman, Haman was so angry that he made a terrible plan to destroy all the Jews.
 - When Mordecai learned of Haman's plan, he told Esther that God had made her queen for a purpose.
 - Even though it wasn't safe, Esther went to the king and invited him to a banquet.
 - At a second banquet, Esther told the king about Haman's evil plan and asked the king to save her people.

2. Created for a Purpose

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

- Have kids brainstorm words that describe themselves or people they know. For example: funny, kind, athletic, musical, artistic, encouraging, good listener, organized, writer, storyteller, actor, builder, teacher, nature lover, patient, or animal lover.
- As kids give examples, write each down.
- As you read a scenario from the list below, instruct kids to select a word you brainstormed that describes someone who could help in the scenario.
- Let kids know there will probably be several possible answers for each scenario.
- Choose a couple of kids to share why they chose the descriptions they did and how someone who has that characteristic could help in the given situation.
- Scenarios:
 - The jump ropes used for gym class are a tangled mess. Who can help?
 - It's time for the Christmas pageant. The director needs help with creating the set and the costumes. Who can help?

- A kid on the soccer team struggles with getting the ball to where it's supposed to go. Who can help? (*The obvious answer is someone athletic, but someone who is encouraging or a good teacher could also help.*)
- The local animal shelter needs someone to care for the animals and walk the dogs. Who can help?
- There's a bake sale to raise money for the youth group's mission trip. Who can help?
- Two friends are in a fight. Who can help them work out their differences?
- The teacher has left the room, and the class is getting crazy. Who can help everybody calm down and follow the rules?
- Somebody on the playground fell, and their hand is bleeding. Who can help?
- *If there is an outreach or service organization that your church supports, is there an opportunity for kids to use their talents to serve that organization? If so, create a scenario incorporating the organization.*

What You Say:

"Figuring out your purpose can take some time. Esther didn't know her purpose as queen right away, but it eventually became clear to her. Recognizing what you like to do and what you are good at can help you discover God's purpose for you. Maybe, you're a good listener and you see an opportunity to listen to a friend who is sad and needs to talk. If you're funny and a great storyteller, you might see opportunities to make people around you smile. **[Bottom Line] God created you for a purpose.** Keeping your eyes open for problems that you have the skills or ideas to solve can help find your purpose. Being aware of the people around you who may need the kind of help you can offer can help you figure out your purpose."

3. Handy Purpose

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

- **Give** kids a sheet of paper and a pen.
- **Direct** the group to place one hand down on their paper and trace their handprint.
- **Ask** kids to write on each finger something they would like to do in the future such as play a sport in high school, lead a small group of preschoolers, serve in the military, study animals, fly a plane, etc.
 - If they have ideas of what they would like to do as a career when they are adults, invite them to include that as well.
- **Provide** a few minutes for kids to share some or all of the things they wrote on their handprint.

Wrap Up and Say:

"You probably have more than a 'handful' of things you'd like to do someday. It's pretty cool that God creates us each of us with a unique purpose and plan, and He often the things He's created us to do are some of the same things we like doing! But you weren't created simply to do what YOU want to do —you're also part of God's big picture. You have a purpose within God's plan. It might be exactly what you want to do or it might be completely different. If you keep following Jesus, you'll discover the purpose and plan God has designed just for you. No one else can do it. It's all yours."

4. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What does the following statement mean to you? "Everyone was made to do something . . . and whatever that something is, no one can do it quite like you."
- Is it possible to miss the purpose God has for you? Explain.
- Is there one specific purpose God has that is the same for EVERYONE? If so, what is it?
- How do you think our purpose changes at different times or in different places?
- What do you think your purpose might be?

5. Lesson Recap and Prayer Journal:

What You Need: Prayer journal, paper, something to write with, Bible

What You Do:

- As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
 - The Bible teaches us that the “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (*James 5:16b*). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answer your prayers.
- **Pray** about the things they wrote on their handprints, asking God’s help and direction as they follow Him in the plans He has for their life.

“Dear God, thank You for creating each of us with a purpose. Help us follow You as we follow our hopes and dreams. Above all, help us to fulfill the ONE greatest purpose You have for everyone—to believe in Jesus and invite Him to be our Savior. As You open the way for us to do what You made us to do, help us serve You the way Esther did, with courage, faith, and creativity. In Jesus’ name. Amen”