

# Lesson One: God Is Always At Work

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 29:11

**Summary:** This lesson introduces the Esther unit. The children will meet the main characters of the story and will learn about the exciting things that happened to Esther. In this lesson they will see that God is always at work, even when He can't be seen.

**Lesson Aim:** The aim of this lesson is that children will remember that although they cannot see God, He is always working out His best plan for them.

## WARMING UP: The Voice of the Creator

### Supplies Needed:

- Walt Disney cartoon on video or DVD
- Walt Disney picture

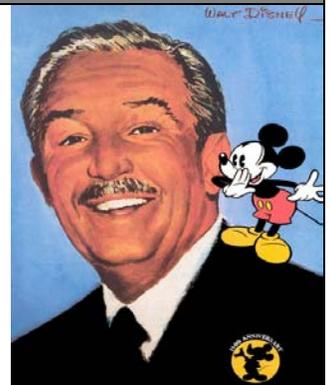
Welcome the children to class and tell them to **IMAGINE** what life would be like without cartoons. It wouldn't be very fun would it? To begin the class, show a short clip from your favorite Walt Disney cartoon. An old Mickey Mouse cartoon will work best if you can find one.

Say: **Do you like cartoons? What did you see on the cartoon we watched?**

**You saw the main characters of the cartoon and began to follow the plot of the story. Cartoons are fun to watch because of all the neat things you see.**

**Did you know there are some things you *did not* see when you watched this cartoon? One thing you did not see was the writer of the cartoon. You also did not see the people that created the cartoon. Without the creators of a cartoon you would never be able to enjoy it.**

**How many of you watch the Disney channel? Walt Disney was the creator of many cartoons, including Mickey Mouse. (Show PowerPoint slide.) Did you know that the voice for the original Mickey Mouse was Mr. Disney himself? Although you cannot see the creator of the Mickey Mouse cartoons, if you listen carefully you can hear his voice. As we learn about Esther, remember that like Mr. Disney and Mickey Mouse, God's voice can be heard throughout the whole story.**



## **THINGAMABOB ZONE: Lucky Foot? Unlucky Rabbit!**

### **Supplies needed:**

- Rabbit foot

Say: **A rabbit's foot is considered lucky in many countries, but especially in America! Can you guess how many rabbit's feet are sold in America every year? If you guessed over 10 million you are right! That is almost 20 every minute!**

**A rabbit's foot is supposed to bring good luck to their owners, especially if it is the left foot. It doesn't seem very lucky for the rabbit though, does it? The rabbit's foot is usually worn on a necklace or put on a key chain and can be found in many colors.**

**Some actors are known to keep a rabbit's foot in their make-up box and some even put on their make-up using the rabbit foot! Does that sound silly?**

**Do you have a good luck charm at home? Have you ever met someone who always seems to be lucky? Is there really such a thing as luck? As we study the life of Esther remember that God doesn't work by luck. God never gets lucky because He is God and is in control of everything. He had a plan for Esther's life and he has a plan for yours too!**

## **GAME ZONE: Lucky Charms Luau**

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Table and 2 chairs
- Lucky Charms cereal (General Mills)
- Milk
- Bowls and spoons
- Measuring cup

Kids love breakfast cereal, especially healthy cereal with marshmallows! Do you have any hungry kids in your class? Any serious cereal eaters? In this fun game children compete to see who can finish a bowl of cereal the fastest!

### **Playing the Game:**

To prepare for the game, set up a table with two chairs. Pick two children to compete against each other. The two contestants sit down and are given a bowl of cereal with milk with a spoon. Keep it fair by measuring out the cereal and milk.

When you say "go" it is a race to see who can eat their cereal and drink all the milk the fastest! To win, the child must stand up and open his mouth, showing that the cereal and milk are all gone.

### **The Point:**

Say: **Although Lucky Charms is good cereal to eat, the Bible teaches that luck doesn't amount to much. Leprechauns like the one on this cereal box are known for their good luck. In our story of**

**Esther, we will discover that God's children don't get lucky.**

**God is always at work and has a plan for every detail of your life. He knows your name and everything about you. Even though you can't see Him you know He is doing everything for your good.**

**Romans 8:28 says "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."**

### **LESSON ZONE: My God is Always at Work**

#### **Supplies needed:**

- PowerPoint file
- King and Queen crowns (available in most department or party stores)
- Play money
- Star sunglasses
- Bible
- Fortune Fish

#### **Introduction:**

**Say: Let's Imagine Together. (PowerPoint Slide 1) Imagine if you owned every McDonalds in the world and got all the free food you wanted. (PowerPoint Slide 2) You could have a French fry party for your friends and eat fries all night long!**

**Imagine if you were youngest president of the USA! (PowerPoint Slide 3) Imagine if you were getting ready for school and someone knocked on your door. When you peaked outside you saw Air Force One waiting to take you to the White House! Your picture would be in newspapers everywhere! (PP Slide 4)**

**Imagine if your favorite Super Hero really lived and was your best friend! (PowerPoint Slide 5) Imagine if Flash was your friend. (PowerPoint Slide 6) On school days you could stay in bed until one-minute before school started. Then you could yell for Flash and he could pick you up for school without being late!**

**Imagine if a new law was instituted that allowed you to get your driver's license when you had your eighth birthday! (PowerPoint Slide 7) Would you be afraid to drive? What kind of car would you like to have?**

**It is fun to imagine isn't it? I hope everyone here has a good imagination. (PowerPoint Slide 8) It is something special that God has given you. Today we are going to begin studying the book of Esther. You are never going to imagine what happened to her! Do you want to know what it was?**

#### **The Main Characters**

**Before I tell you what happened to Esther, let's meet the characters in the story. *As you introduce***

*each character, let a child come to the front and role-play that person using the suggested props.*

**1. King Ahasuerus** (PowerPoint Slide 9)

*Call on a boy and place a crown on his head.*

**King Ahasuerus was the king of Persia. His name sounds funny doesn't it? Can you say Ahasuerus with me? He was also called King Xerxes. Since his name is long and hard to say, we are going to call him "King A". Let's all bow down to the king. He was the most powerful king in the entire world. Although he was very powerful, he did not please God in all that he did. What does a king need? A queen!**

**2. Queen Vashti** (PowerPoint Slide 10)

*Call on a girl and place a crown on her head.*

**Can you say her name with me? Queen Vashti was the most popular queen in the world. She was very pretty and ladies everywhere wanted to be just like her. Although everyone respected her, she was a very strong-willed woman. Have you ever met someone like this? Strong-willed people don't like to do what they are told. If Queen Vashti did not want to do something, she would say a big fat "NO!" as she did to the King.**

**3. Haman** (PowerPoint Slide 11)

*Call on a boy and put the play money in his hand.*

**Haman was a very powerful man that worked for the king. He had a good job and made lots of money! Although he was the most powerful man besides the king, he was wicked and hated God's people, the Jews. In fact, one day he got so mad at one of the Jews that he decided he was going to kill them all! You'll learn more about that later.**

**4. Mordecai** (PowerPoint Slide 12)

*Call on a boy and place a Bible in his hand.*

**I would like for you to meet Mordecai. Does that sound like a funny name? How many of you wish your mom had named you Mordecai? Although he has a funny name, he was a special person who worked as a guard for the king. Mordecai was different than the king, the Queen and Haman. He was a Godly man that loved the Lord and His people.**

**5. Esther** (PowerPoint Slide 13)

*Call on a girl and give her the star sunglasses to hold.*

**Esther is the super hero in our story. Esther was a Jewish lady who was not only pretty on the outside but on the inside as well. Her name is the Persian name for "star". I like that because in our story she shines like a star!**

**In our story Esther was an orphan. An orphan is someone who has no parents to take care of them. Esther was adopted by her cousin. Can you guess who her cousin was? It was Mordecai!**

### What Happened to Esther?

To end our lesson, I am going to tell you the quick story of what happened to Esther. Over the next several weeks we will look at the story more closely.

**King A had a big party that lasted 180 days.** (PowerPoint Slide 14) **That's a long party, isn't it? At the end of the party, the king decided to have a seven-day feast! Imagine how much food you could eat in seven days!**

**During the feast, the king asked Queen Vashti to come and show off her beauty to all his friends. Did Vashti do as the king asked?** (PowerPoint Slide 15) **She said no! This made the king so mad that he fired her and started looking for a new queen.** (PowerPoint Slide 16) **Can you guess whom he chose? It's the hero of our story - Esther.** (PowerPoint Slide 17)

### What's the Point?

**Take your Bible and turn to Jeremiah 29:11.** (PowerPoint Slide 18) **God says in this verse that He has a special plan for your life!** (PowerPoint Slide 19) **Just like your teacher at school plans every part of your day, God plans every detail of your life. God had a special plan for Esther's life and He has a plan for your life too. God doesn't use things like Fortune Fish to decide what His plans are for you.** (Show Fortune Fish.) **That would be silly, wouldn't it?**

**Can you see God right now with your eyes?** (PowerPoint Slide 20) **No, but He is real and powerful!** (PowerPoint Slide 21) **Remember that although you cannot see God, He is always working out His best plan for you. God wants to do great things in your life! Will you let Him?**

### **BIBLE VERSE ZONE: The King's Crowns**

**"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10**

#### **Supplies Needed:**

- Construction paper
- Markers

Make 10 crowns using construction paper. Write each word of the verse and the reference on a crown. Choose 10 volunteers to wear the crowns. Have the kids say the verse several times. One by one have the kids with crowns on turn around, so you can't see their word any more. Repeat the verse with the kids after each crown is turned around.

**Say: Esther knew that God was working in Her life for a purpose. To know that purpose, she had to listen to the still, small voice of God. Psalm 46:10 commands us to do the same thing. This verse only has 8 words but they are very important for us to learn.**

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**Supplies needed:**

- Question of the Week cards
- Prizes

**Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?**

Pass out the Question of the Week cards to the children (*included at the end of this lesson*). Encourage them to answer the question this week at home and bring it back next week for a special prize.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Pray and ask God to help the children to realize that God is always at work in their lives. He has a plan and He knows what is best. Thank God for the story of Esther and ask God to teach them over the next several weeks to see the great things God wants do in their lives.

## Pick-N-Choose:

### #1 H.B. and the Lucky Penny

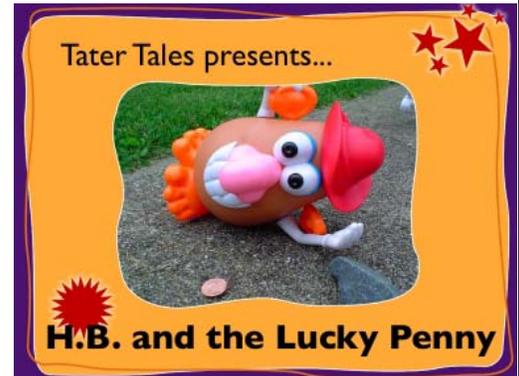
#### Supplies Needed:

- Tater Tale movie

This Tater Tale movie is available online at [tatertales.com](http://tatertales.com) in QuickTime format. It can be shown to the children on a television or through a video projector.

#### Summary:

H.B. finds a penny on the street when he trips over a big rock. He thinks it is going to be his lucky penny. When everything goes his way, he thinks it is because of that shiny new penny he found. Later he finds that luck had nothing to do with it at all. This Tater Tale reminds kids that sometimes it seems like things happen by luck or chance, but God always has a plan.

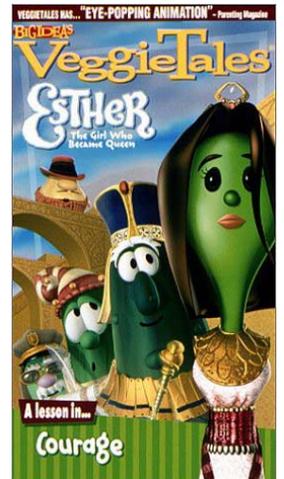


### #2 "Esther: The Girl Who Became Queen"

#### Supplies Needed:

- "Esther: The Girl Who Became Queen" video (Big Idea Productions)

Show the popular Veggie Tale video. Based on the Bible story of Esther, this animated story tosses in the usual cup of Veggie humor to lighten the flavor of its very serious message. Esther, a young green onion, cannot understand why she has been chosen to wed the king (played by the humble pickle, Mr. Nezzar). Her cousin Mordecai (Pa Grape) assures her that God must have a reason. She later discovers that her entire family's fate rests upon her ability to show courage under pressure.



### #3 Esther Word Search

#### Supplies Needed:

- Word search copied
- Pencils

Let this word search be used as a tool for reviewing the lesson. After the kids have completed the search, ask them to tell you something about each word that they found.

<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>	<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>	<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>
<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>	<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>	<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>
<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>	<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>	<p><b>Imagine!</b> <b>Question of the Week</b></p> <p>Today we learned that although you cannot see God, He is always with you. How can this help you at school when you feel all alone?</p>

## Esther Word Search

M O R D E C A I E B  
I L E Q N H L S G A  
L M Z Z P A T M N N  
Q A A W X H M B I Q  
A D P G E T R A K U  
D W I R I H W R H E  
N E E U Q N A K V T  
O X X O T T E J S W  
Y T T F S Q K T T Q  
U S U A L P U N Y H

Imagine  
Esther  
King

Queen  
Haman  
Mordecai

Star  
Banquet