

# Punished for Doing Wrong

April 19, 2020—Lesson 8

**Background Scripture:** Esther 3; 5; 7 • **Lesson Scripture:** Esther 7:1-10

**Key Verse:** King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?” (*Esther 7:5*)

**Faith Block:** God punishes us when we do wrong.

**Lesson Objective:** The children will begin to understand that people who wish to harm or be mean to others will be punished.

**Materials Needed:** *Picture Lesson Cards*, Bible, rug, line-art coloring pictures related to today’s lesson, markers, crayons, coloring pencils, blocks, books, other toddler toys, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 8 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

**Welcome:** Greet the parents as they bring their children into the room. Engage any children who arrive early in order to maintain their attention. Gather the children and help them settle down when you are ready to begin class.

**Opening Worship and Activity:** Tell the children to bow their heads and close their eyes, and then lead them in prayer. Have the children stand.

**Say:** We will sing a song about Queen Esther, who is in the Bible story for today.

Lead the children in reciting the following words while marching in place: “Queen Esther bravely went to the king (*make strong muscles*); / Queen Esther wisely spoke at the right time (*point to your head*); / Queen Esther fought for justice (*make a fist*)!”

Lead the children in marching and singing a few rounds of the rhyme; then prepare the class for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

**The Bible Story:** Hold up the lesson 8 Picture Lesson Card for all the children to see. Read or tell the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Punished for Doing Wrong

In today’s Bible verses, the king and Haman went to a banquet prepared by Queen Esther. The king asked Queen Esther what it is that she wished for from him. Esther explained to him that someone wanted to kill all her people, the Israelites.

The king asked her who would want to do such a thing. Esther bravely told him that *wicked* (bad) Haman was to blame. Haman had previously built gallows on which to hang

Mordecai, Esther’s cousin. The king commanded that Haman should be hanged on those same gallows.

God punishes people who do wrong.

## C STACKS OF FUN

**A Freeze Dance:** **Say:** Esther pleased God. When I say a sentence, you must dance if the action from Esther’s story makes God happy. If the action displeases God, then you must “freeze”!

When you feel the children understand the assignment, say the following sentences and allow a brief amount of time for them to respond appropriately: (1) Haman wants to kill all Jews (*freeze*). (2) Haman builds gallows for Mordecai (*freeze*). (3) Haman is punished for doing wrong (*dance*). (4) Esther saves her people (*dance*).

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** Present Pax to the class. (See the *Early Elementary* teacher book, *pages 35–36*, for suggestions on how to present Pax.) The script for Pax appears below.

**Pax:** Hello, girls and boys! In today’s story, did God save Esther and her people? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, God did. Does God punish those who do wrong, like Haman? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, God does. Now, let’s thank God for protecting us. Repeat after me: “Thank You, God (*pause*), for keeping us safe.” Good job, boys and girls.

Let Pax wave good-bye and/or hug the children.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

Review the lesson with the children, using the Picture Lesson Card. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you. Afterward, say the prayer on the Picture Lesson Card. Distribute the Picture Lesson Cards to parents/guardians when they arrive to pick up their children.

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**Key Verse:** King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?” (*Esther 7:5*)

**Faith Block:** Queen Esther helped save God’s people!

**Lesson Objective:** The children will hear about how Queen Esther saved her people.

**Materials Needed:** *Preschool* student books, Bibles, star-shaped stickers, pencils, crayons or markers, coloring pencils, masking or transparent tape, white copy paper, tissues for the “Walk like Royalty” game, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 8 materials]).

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## A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ Prior to class, secure facial tissues for the children to use during the opening activity. Also, designate an area in the classroom that can be used for the activity; mark a starting spot and an ending spot for the relay.

**Welcome:** Greet the children and parents with a warm and inviting smile. Tell the children how glad you are to see them.

**Opening Worship and Activity:** After the students are seated, open the session with prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Briefly tell the children that today they will hear about a special queen.

Lead the children in a game of “Walk like Royalty.” When it is someone’s turn, place a tissue on his or her head and see how fast he or she can walk before the tissue placed on top of his or her head blows off. Let each child take a turn walking from one end of a designated area to the other.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

**The Bible Story: Say:** Let’s listen carefully to the story to find out how Queen Esther saved her people from harm.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Punished for Doing Wrong

Haman planned to hurt God’s people. He did not know that the queen, Esther, was one of God’s people too! When Esther heard this news, she came up with a plan.

She invited the king and Haman to dinner. As they ate, the king asked, “What would you like, Esther? I will give you anything!” She answered, “Please do not let harm come to my people! That is what I ask for. We have been sold as slaves.”

King Xerxes said, “Who has dared to do this?” Esther answered, “This wicked man Haman!”

When the king heard this, he ordered Haman to be punished right away!

**Bible Story Application:** Refer to the lesson 8 Bible Story Application (*page 66*) and teach the children the sing-along “Esther Spoke Up.”

☺ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** If you purchased Pax the Penguin, use the script printed in the *Early Elementary* teacher book for lesson 8 (*page 52*). See suggestions on how to present Pax on *pages 35–36* of this teacher book.

## C STACKS OF FUN

**Where Is the Queen’s Crown?:** Have the children complete the activity, connecting the dots of the crown and then coloring it. As they work, emphasize how brave the queen was, and explain the story of how Esther became queen.

**Haman Is Punished!:** Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

## D CLOSING BLOCK

Say the Key Verse, and let the children repeat it after you. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you: “Queen Esther helped save God’s people!” Then close the class session with prayer.

**Ask:** How did the women try to show kindness to Jesus after He died? (*They went to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body.*)

### Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 7 Bible Story Application (page 66) and teach the children the read-aloud poem “Jesus Is Risen!”

### ☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, make preparations to present Pax. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears below.

*(Pax enters singing the song “He Arose.”)*

**Pax:** Hello, everyone!

**Teacher (and Children):** Hello, Pax.

**Pax:** I heard you all singing about how Jesus is alive. That is great news! I have some more great news—I have a new friend. We met at the community center. When I saw her, she looked very sad. So, I spoke to her and asked her if she was okay. She said that she was sad because her grandmother died, and she missed her a lot. I asked her to tell me something wonderful about her grandmother . . . and pretty soon she was laughing about a fun time they had together. Then she said, “Thank you for being kind to me. I feel a little better.” And now we are friends.

**Teacher:** That is great, Pax! Boys and girls, have you ever been kind to someone and made him or her feel better? (*Pause for responses.*)

**Pax:** Wow, you all are really kind to others! That is great news too! Well, I have to go. See you next week.

### STACKS OF FUN A Path to the Tomb

**Say:** The women in today’s lesson went to put spices on

Jesus’ body—but He was not in the tomb! Trace the path from the women to the empty tomb.

Pass out crayons and allow time for the students to complete the activity. As they work, reiterate the importance of the Resurrection.

### Jesus Has Risen!

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible lesson with them.

### D CLOSING BLOCK

**Say:** In today’s Bible story, we heard about three women who took time to show kindness to Jesus after His burial. They found out that Jesus had risen from the grave—that He was alive! Jesus appreciated their kindness so much that He appeared first to one of the women, Mary Magdalene. It is important to know that Jesus arose from the dead to help us be forgiven for the wrong things that we do. It is also important to be like the women in today’s story, who showed kindness to Jesus.

Read the Key Verse to the children and help them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank You for the kindness and love You show to us every day. And thank You for Jesus, who is alive! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child’s name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.

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**Key Verse:** King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?” (*Esther 7:5*)

**Faith Block:** I will do right, not wrong!

**Lesson Objective:** The children will commit to doing good deeds with the assurance that good triumphs over evil.

**Materials Needed:** *Early Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV translation), pencils, crayons or coloring pencils, coloring markers, construction paper, copier paper, happy-face stickers, masking or transparent tape (to post attendance chart), reward stickers, puzzles or coloring pages, a praise and worship music CD, CD player, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 8 materials]).



## A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer’s hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children’s view.

✂ Prior to class, list some good and bad actions that the children can relate to. Using two sheets of paper, on one sheet write “Good Choice,” and on the other sheet write “Bad Choice”; post the sheets at opposite corners of the room.

## Welcome

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians. Take attendance, placing a sticker beside the name of each child (that is present) on the attendance chart. Engage early arrivers with activities until you are ready to begin class.

## Opening Worship and Activity

**Say:** It is now prayer time. When we pray we talk to God. Let’s close our eyes and bow our heads.

Lead the children in prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Thank them for bringing their offerings.

**Say:** Raise your hand if you have ever done something wrong and been punished for it. (*Pause for action.*) We all have—even me! Let’s play a game called “Good or Bad Choice?” I am going to read some sentences to you of actions that may be good or bad. If you think it is a good action, run to the “Good Choice” corner. But if you think

it is a bad action, run to the “Bad Choice” corner and do three jumping jacks.

When you are sure the children understand the game, read each scenario you came up with and allow time for the students to run to the corner of their choice in response to each one. Review why each one is either a good choice or a bad choice. Play several rounds as time permits.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

## B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

### The Bible Story

**Say:** We all know that when we do wrong, we will eventually be punished for it. And no one likes to be punished. In today’s Bible story, you will hear about a man named Haman who did wrong. Listen to find out if he received punishment for his wrongdoing.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

### Punished for Doing Wrong

Queen Esther learned that Haman had planned to destroy all the Jews. So, at a banquet, Queen Esther asked the king to *spare* (save) her and the Jews. She told the king that Haman planned to kill them.

The king was so angry that he left the banquet. Haman stayed to beg Queen Esther for his life. When King Xerxes returned, he saw Haman leaning on the couch where Queen Esther sat. The king became angrier.

The king’s men punished Haman for his wrongdoing. They hung Haman on a pole planned for a Jew named Mordecai. Then the king’s anger went away.

**Ask:** Was Haman punished for his wrongdoing? (*Yes.*) What can we do to avoid punishment? (*We can do the right things.*)

### Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 8 Bible Story Application (page 66) and teach the children the sing-along “Esther Spoke Up.”

### ☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, make preparations to present him to the class. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears below.

(*Pax enters with his head down.*)

**Teacher:** Hello, Pax. I didn’t hear you say hello.

**Pax:** Oh, hello, everybody. I was just thinking about something.

**Teacher:** What is it, Pax?

**Pax:** My cousin was not playing a game right. I got mad at him, and I called him a bad name. He cried and told our moms. And now I’m on punishment. I can’t go outside to play for two weeks!

**Teacher:** I’m sorry to hear that you hurt your cousin’s feelings. We heard today that when you harm others on purpose, you may be punished. Boys and girls, what happened in today’s Bible story? (*Pause for responses from the children; guide them in accurately retelling the events of the story.*)

**Pax:** Wow! Haman did a very wrong thing. Now I see that what I did was wrong too. I am going to tell my cousin I’m sorry and ask him to forgive me. And I will take my punishment without complaining. It will teach me not to do it again. Thanks, boys and girls. You always help me! See you next week.

### C STACKS OF FUN Decode the Message

**Say:** Write the first letter of each picture on the line below it. Then we will read the message together.

Provide time for the children to complete the activity. Assist as needed. After the activity, ask the children to share ways in which they do good. Give each of them a reward sticker.

**Completed Message:** BE GOOD

### Haman Is Punished!

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

### D CLOSING BLOCK

**Say:** In today’s Bible story, we heard how Haman’s plan to destroy all the Jews was stopped. Queen Esther learned about his plan and she asked King Xerxes [ZERK-sees] to spare the lives of the Jews. The king saved the Jews’ lives. Then he punished Haman for his plan to harm the Jews. God does not want us to harm anyone. That includes name calling. So, make good choices to help others. Do not make bad choices to harm others. God will bless you for doing good things.

Read the Key Verse to the children and ask them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank You for the kindness and love that You show to us every day. Help us to remember that when we do wrong, it is punished. And when we do good, it is rewarded. Help us to do good. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child’s name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.



# Reproducible Bible Story Applications

March 29, 2020

## A SING-ALONG

### Returning to God

*(Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb.")*

God sent them a messenger,  
Messenger, messenger;  
God sent them messenger—  
John the Baptist was he.

God sent one that we should seek,  
We should seek, we should seek;  
God sent one that we should seek—  
His name is Jesus Christ!

Jesus will return again,  
Return again, return again;  
Jesus will return again—  
Many will seek Him.

April 5, 2020

## A SING-ALONG

### What Jesus Did

*(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")*

Jesus goes to Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!  
Told the disciples to find a colt.  
Hallelujah!  
Jesus entered on the colt.  
Hallelujah!  
Jesus cleared the Temple.  
Hallelujah!  
Jesus healed the blind and lame.  
Hallelujah!  
He got praised for all He did.  
Hallelujah!

Lesson 5 : April 12, 2020

## A READ-ALOUD POEM

### Jesus Is Risen!

Three women went to the tomb  
to anoint Jesus' body—  
When they arrived, what did they see?  
The stone was rolled away, and an angel spoke  
to the three;  
The angel said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus isn't with me.  
"Go tell the disciples and Peter, 'Jesus is risen;  
He is not dead'"—  
With fear and trembling,  
the women left the tomb and fled.

Lesson 7

April 19, 2020

Lesson 8

## A SING-ALONG

### Esther Spoke Up

*(Sing to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.")*

Esther went before the king.  
Hallelujah!  
"Spare my life and the lives of my people."  
Hallelujah!  
The king asked, "Who wants to harm you?"  
Hallelujah!  
They would not let Haman harm them.  
Hallelujah!  
Because of evil, his life would not be.  
Hallelujah!  
All were saved—the Jews and the queen.  
Hallelujah!