



**Book of Esther/ Lesson 9**  
**The Jews Rejoice And Declare A Feast**

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**Esther 9:18-32**

**Feast of Purim**

**Servants Preparation instructions:**

- Pray, read the chapters in the bible and the lesson thoroughly.
- Within the lesson you will find actual verses of the chapter and explanation of the part
- Make sure to use the maps and the intro info [from lesson1] for all the upcoming lessons as reminder.
- **Attention gritter** is an ice breaker and intro to the lesson, use your discretion for age appropriation; if it does not suit your class age try tweaking it a bit to fit
- There are **activities and crafts**; they are meant to engage the class and have them pay more attention; , use your discretion for age appropriation; if it does not suit your class age try tweaking it a bit to fit
- Announce the **Lesson goal** and have the kids point out where is the goal in the passages you read together.
- There are video resources/ games resources at the intro [from lesson1] make sure to incorporate some for each lesson.
- Questions and assignment at the end: you don't need to do all of them, but you can use them either during class for checking on comprehension/ or at the beginning of the next class for revision/ as a home work or at the end of the book as a competition assignment with rewards.

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|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 | The banquet of the feast of Purim | Chapters<br>8 – 10 |
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**Chapter outline:**

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| <b>1. The conquest and dominion of the Jews</b>  | 1 -10 |
| <b>2. Esther doubles the strike</b>              | 11-19 |
| <b>3. Mordecai institutes the feast of Purim</b> | 20-32 |

**MEMORY VERSE**

PSALM 126:5

“Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

One round lollipop for each young youth in your class, construction paper, markers, and glue.

One straw per child, pinto beans, and four quart-size bowls. Snack crackers, cheese, apple slices or popcorn.

**ATTENTION GETTER!**

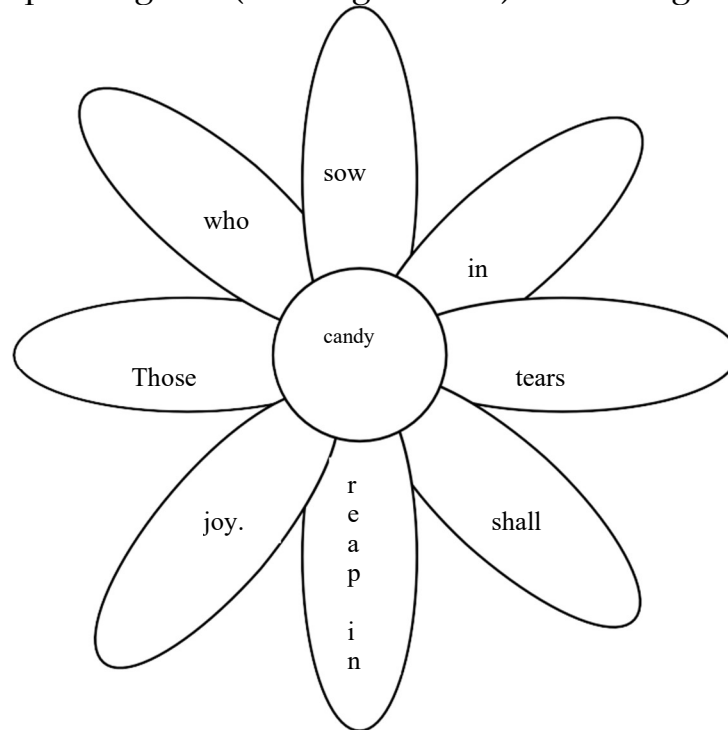
**Grow Where You Are Planted! [ Age appropriation discretion].**

**Life Application:**

The Jews in the book of Esther were living in a land other than Israel. Even though Esther and Mordecai were not “home,” they were still fruitful where they were. God wants us to grow in the place He puts us. This craft will help us to remember that and

will also give you a treat to enjoy later.

You will need one round lollipop for each child in your class, construction paper, markers, and glue. Have the children cut out “flower petal shapes” from their construction paper. They should cut out 8-10 shapes depending on the size they choose to go with. Once they have cut out their shapes, have them put their petals together to form a flower. They should lay them flat on a table to make a round shape. The hole in the center should be very small (just big enough to fit the lollipop stick through). The petals may be taped or glued (with a glue stick) to hold together as they overlap.



Next, hold the petals and insert the lollipop through the hole. The round top of the lollipop should rest on top of the petals and the stick through the other side. Glue the flower to the lollipop (make sure the lollipop is still wrapped!). Set aside for the glue to dry until the end of class. Optional: Write “Grow Where You Are Planted” or the Memory Verse on the various petals. See example below.

## LESSON TIME!

*Note: You may want to structure the class, today, in such a way that you can have a celebration. Perhaps have a blanket on the floor (like a picnic blanket) and have the children sit around it. For ideas, see “Queen Esther’s Celebration Feast” below.*

### Overview of the Story of Esther:

**Lesson Goal:** Let us give thanks to the beneficent and Merciful God for He had saved us

The story of Esther now comes to a beautiful close. God has delivered His people who were sentenced to death! He worked behind the scenes, orchestrating the events. He placed Esther in the *right place* at the *right time* as Queen of Persia, giving her a position to approach the king on behalf of her people. He gave Mordecai an opportunity to demonstrate loyalty to the king by saving his life, to be remembered later at just the right *time*--as wicked Haman came to seek the king’s permission to destroy him. God had worked all things together for His good purpose—the deliverance of His people.

Once Haman, the wicked enemy of the Jews, was destroyed, God moved to resolve the last remaining concern to the Jews—the king’s decree, which by law could not be reversed. Do you remember how God handled that one? Mordecai and Esther wrote a new decree giving the Jews the right to assemble and protect themselves which, when approved by the king, went through all the land, to every province and city. The Bible says then, “The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honor.”

## Esther 9:18-21

The Feast of Purim

<sup>18</sup> But the Jews who *were* at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth *day*, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of <sup>Ⓜ</sup>*the month* they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. <sup>19</sup> Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar *with* gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.

<sup>20</sup> And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who *were* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, <sup>21</sup> to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar,

The Jews defended themselves against the attacks of their enemies on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> day of Adar. Many who sought to harm the Jews were destroyed. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day, they rested. It was time to celebrate God’s goodness.

So, the Jewish people set aside the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> day of Adar, the last month on the sacred calendar, to celebrate God’s deliverance from the wicked plot of their enemy. They feasted and exchanged gifts as they remembered the time when God turned “sorrow to joy” and “mourning to a holiday.” With great cause, they were a thankful people! **Let us celebrate our salvation!**

## Esther 9:23-28

<sup>23</sup> So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them, <sup>24</sup> because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that *is*, the lot), to consume them and destroy them; <sup>25</sup> but when <sup>Ⓜ</sup>*Esther* came before the king, he commanded by letter that <sup>Ⓜ</sup>this wicked plot which *Haman* had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

<sup>26</sup> So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them, <sup>27</sup> the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written *instructions* and according to the *prescribed* time, <sup>28</sup> *that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.*

The Pur is the casting of lots—similar to how dice is rolled to make determinations while playing games today. The Feast of Purim is a Feast of Lots. Remember, Haman had determined by casting lots which days the Jews would be destroyed. No lot cast against God's people will stand!

The Jewish people still celebrate the Feast of Purim, today. The 13<sup>th</sup> of March is a day of fasting. On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March, Jewish celebration consists of parties and even children's plays depicting the story of Esther and God's deliverance. Little girls dress up as Esther. Boys dress as Haman.

As Christians, we celebrate our salvation. The sentence of death was upon us! Our condition was described in Ephesians: "...having no hope and without God in the world." Yet our redeemer, Jesus Christ, gave His life to save us. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Let us celebrate our salvation!**

**Just a revision; go over the below in a form of questions since it was mentioned last lesson:**

### **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FEAST OF PURIM**

**What does 'Purim' mean:** the word Purim is plural of 'Pur', meaning (a lot).

#### **Background of the reason to celebrate:**

This day was set to celebrate God's exalted work with His people, having saved them from the collective slaughter, prepared by Haman against the Jews, all over the Persian empire, after the magicians and the diviners cast 'pur' (that is a lot) before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar (February – March).

Having saved His people on the hands of Mordecai and Esther, the day set for their slaughter turned into a day of destruction for their enemies, and instead of disgrace, the Jews enjoyed glory.

#### **When is the Purim feast celebrated?**

The Jews used to celebrate that feast on the fourteenth and the fifteenth of that month. In the days of the Maccabees in the second century B.C., it was celebrated as the 'the day of Mordecai'; And the historian Josephus wrote that in his days the Jews celebrated that

feast all over the world.

**The rites of celebrating that feast are as follows:**

- (1) The Jews fast on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And if it is a Sabbath, they would start on the eleventh of the month.
- (2) In the evening, when the new day begins, according to the Jewish rite, the Jews gather together in their synagogues all over the world; and after the evening prayer, they read the book of Esther.  
Once the name 'Haman' is said during the reading of the book, all those present used to cry out, saying: 'Let his name be blot out'; or 'let the name of the wicked be blot out' And the names of Haman's ten sons are read quickly in one breath, as a reference to their crucifixion together.
- (3) The people return to the synagogue the next day to consummate the religious statutes of the day, then spend the rest of it with joy and gladness before the Lord. And the rich give gifts to the poor.

### **Running the Race/ Activity: [ Age appropriation discretion]**

You will need one straw per child and four quart-size bowls. Split up your class into two teams. Ask them to line up at one end of the room. Make a starting line using tape. At the beginning of each line have one bowl filled with pinto beans. At the other end of the room, place an empty bowl.

When you say, "Go!" have the first child in each line get on their hands and knees over the bowl with their straw. Have them get a bean at the end of the straw and have them suck so that the bean will hold at the opposite end of their straw. Here is the catch. The children may not use their hands or touch the bean in any way. They may hold their hands under the bean just in case it falls, but they must pick it up again with the straw. Hold the bean at the bottom of the straw by suction. Have them go to the other end of the room as fast as they can. Drop the bean into the bowl on the other side of the room. The child should run back to the line and tag the next child in line. Then the next child can do the same thing.

For younger children, you may allow them to use their hands or take a small piece of tape and wrap it, so all sides are sticky. Stick one side to the end of the straw and the other side can stick to a bean.

The first team that is done (and/or has the most beans in a given period of time) is declared as the winner. Perhaps, they could be given the privilege of serving during the "Queen Esther Celebration Feast."

## **Esther 9:29-32**

<sup>29</sup> Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. <sup>30</sup> And *Mordecai* sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, *with* words of peace and

truth,<sup>31</sup> to confirm these days of Purim at their *appointed* time, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had prescribed for them, and as they had decreed for themselves and their descendants' concerning matters of their fasting and lamenting.<sup>32</sup> So the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

Queen Esther and Mordecai had risen to a place of authority and honor in Persia. God used them as leaders of His people. Queen Esther and Mordecai officially recorded the "**matters of Purim.**" It was their desire that the Jewish people never forget what God had done for them. **According to St. Jerome:** [Esther is a symbol of the church, whose congregation were saved from danger; Having slain Haman, whose name means (oppression), she delivered to the generations to come a great Memorial Day and feast1]

### **Keep track of God's work in your life [ collect your Jordan stones:]**

It is good for us to write down ways that God has been faithful in our lives. Some people call this journaling. David set a good example in Psalm 103. He begins, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:" David proceeds with a quite a list of the many ways God has been good to him! Let us never forget all that God has done for us. **Let us celebrate our salvation!**

*Note to servants: You may want to give the children some paper and ask them to begin a journal by writing down some ways that God has been faithful in their lives. With a supply of construction paper or other materials and markers to decorate their journals, this could become a craft. They can take them home and continue to log the ways that God shows Himself faithful in their lives. OR give them a journal and ask them to start praying and adding their Jordan stones accordingly.*

### **The Queen Esther Celebration Feast [ Activity]**

At the Feast of Purim, God's people were celebrating His faithfulness and deliverance. Create an example of the celebration in the class Bring to class snack crackers, cheese, apple slices or popcorn. Pick a part of a chapter and read it in the class

*Please make sure to notify parents before class that you are serving food in order to give them an opportunity to notify you about any possible allergies or other problems that their children may have with the food you are serving.*

Jewish people continue to celebrate the Feast of Purim, today, by reading the entire book of Esther. Perhaps, you could just read the passages in this lesson for your class celebration. During the reading, Jewish people make noise at the mention of "Haman" so as to blot out his name and memory. You may want to encourage participation during the story by having the class cheer when they hear the name "Mordecai" and "Esther." Every time they hear the name "Haman," the class can "boo."

To continue celebration, you may want to play games. You may want to consider a small skit from a section of Esther. You may consider serving communion to give the children an opportunity to reflect on all God has done for them. **[ Suggestions: Ask a group of them to write the skit to be performed in all saints day to younger ages/ Run that by the ministry Ameen for approval first.]**

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be thankful for the great salvation God has given us.

### CHAPTER 9 Questions:

1. How many sons did Haman have? a) 3 b) 5 c) 7 d) 10
2. Mordecai and the Jews started celebrating a new feast called:  
a) Passover b) Christmas c) Purim d) Hanukah

### Application Questions

What does it mean to be "estranged from the mercy of God?" (Esther 9:1)

What can we learn from the story of Purim? (Esther 9:20-22)

What can we learn from Esther's example? (Esther 9:29)

Why is it important to have a positive attitude? (Esther 9:16)

What does it mean to be chosen by God? (Esther 9:4)

How can we trust God when things are going bad? (Esther 9:8)

How can we overcome our enemies? (Esther 9:3)

How can we apply the lessons of Purim in our lives? (Esther 9:27-28)

### Exegetical Questions

What are the theological implications of the events in Esther 9?

What does Esther 9 teach us about human responsibility?

How do the events in Esther 9 contribute to our understanding of God's character?

What does Esther 9 teach us about the importance of prayer?

What does Esther 9 teach us about God's sovereignty?

How does Esther 9 contribute to our understanding of the Gospel?

What does Esther 9 teach us about the nature of evil?

What can we learn from Esther's example in Esther 9?

### Observation Questions

What does Esther ask of the king? (v. 5)

Who is Haman? (v. 10)

What does Haman want to do? (v. 10)

What does Mordecai do? (v. 11)

Why does Haman want to do this? (v. 10)

What does Mordecai tell Esther to do? (v. 4)

What does the king allow Esther to do? (v. 6)

What does Esther do? (v. 12)

### **Group Discussion Questions**

What does the book of Esther teach us about God's character?

What are the different opinions in the group about the book of Esther?

How does the story of Esther contrast with other stories in the Bible?

What do we learn about human nature from the book of Esther?

What can we learn from Esther's example of faith?

What do we learn about the dangers of pride from the book of Esther?

What lessons can we learn about forgiveness from the book of Esther?

How does the book of Esther help us to understand the human condition?

### **Assignments on Esther 9**

Please read Esther 9 and answer the following questions.

1. What day arrived? What had the Jews' enemies hoped to achieve then – 9:1?
2. Where did the Jews meet? Why could no one withstand them – 9:2?
3. Who helped the Jews? Why – 9:3,4?
4. Describe the respect shown to Mordecai.
5. What did Jews do to their enemies? What happened in Shushan – 9:5-10?
6. What did the king ask Esther, and how did she respond – 9:11-13?
7. What happened to Haman's sons, and what happened in Shushan on the second day –9:14,15?
8. What did the Jews in the rest of the provinces do? How many died – 9:16,17?
9. What days were involved for conflict and rest in the empire? How did this differ from the days for the Jews in Shushan – 9:18,19?

10. What proclamation did Mordecai make? What did Jews do on those days—9:20-25?

11. What was the feast called, and what did it commemorate – 9:26-31?