Exile

“Esther Pt. 2”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The call of the Prophet Jeremiah
* The story of Esther
* The life and message of Jeremiah

Series Theme Verse: “And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time

as this?” – Esther 4:14

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God us wherever we are to accomplish God’s

purposes.

Lesson Passage: Esther 5:1-8, 7:1-10, 10:1-3

Materials Needed: Bibles, Scenarios for The Story Retold, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: Esther 5:1-8

* For students who might have not been in class last week, catch them up with the first four chapters of Esther.
* Remind them of the main characters:
  + Mordecai – Esther’s Uncle and a Jew
  + Queen Vashti – First wife of King Xerxes
  + King Xerxes – King of Persia
  + Esther – Jewish Niece of Mordecai
  + Haman – Royal Official hated Mordecai
* When Esther went before the King without being summoned, she could have been put to death, but what did the King say? (He asked what her request was and was willing to give her up to half of his kingdom)
* What was her request? (For the King and Haman to attend a banquet she had prepared)
* Did they go to the banquet? (Yes, and at the banquet, the King again asked what Esther’s request was)
* What did Esther request? (For the King and Haman to attend a second banquet she would prepare and then she would make her request)

Talking Points: Esther 7:1-10

* Did the King and Haman go to the second banquet? (Yes)
* The King asked again what her request was, and she told a story, what was it? (She asked for the King to save her life and the lives of her people because they have been sold for destruction. She said she would not have asked if they were sold as slaves, but they are being led to be killed.)
* How did the King reply? (Who is the man and where is he who has developed such an evil plan?)
* Who did Esther say was the guy plotting the evil plan? (Haman)
* When the King heard it was Haman, what did he do? (He stormed out to the garden)
* How did Haman react? (He was terrified because he knew the King was angry. He stayed behind to try to convince Esther to save his life)
* When the King came back and saw Haman on the couch with Esther, he assumed Haman was trying to seduce Esther away from the King. What did the King decide? (To have Haman hung for his evil plan)
* Was Haman hung? (Yes and the King was no longer angry because Haman had been punished for his evil plan)

The Story Retold:

* Read Esther 10.
* Ask students what happened to Mordecai in the end.
* Tell students that Mordecai was rewarded for doing the right thing, even though it might have been easier to run away in the face of such danger to his life.
* Help students see that god wants us to be like Esther and Mordecai and do the right thing, especially when it is hard to do. In the story of Esther, they stood up for those who could not protect themselves.
* Have students break up into groups of two or three.
* Give each group a scenario that brings the story of Esther to modern day experience. Scenarios could include, but are not limited to:
  + A new student moves to town and does not know anyone at school. What do you do, and why?
  + A fight is happening because a bully has chosen to pick on someone who is smaller than them or different from them. What do you do, and why?
  + You find out that a friend is being hurt by someone at home. What do you do, and why?
  + You see someone sitting alone at lunch. What do you do, and why?
* After students have had time to come up with a plan, have them share their situation and their answer.
* These scenarios can be difficult, but sadly are real life. Help students to see that in every situation, we have the same choice that Esther and Mordecai had: to stand up for others, or to ignore the situation.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series Theme Verse written on butcher paper with only a few words and numerous blanks, like:
  + “And who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to royal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for such a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as this?” – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4:14
* Let students attempt to fill in the blanks and correctly complete the verse.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Ask students how this verse relates to our own lives? (God uses us to accomplish God’s purposes wherever we are. For Esther it was in the palace, for us it is in our homes, schools, church, etc.)