

Esther | Lesson Plan

How can I be a good influence on my friends and have courage to stand up for what is right?

Students will understand the importance of being a good influence on their friends. Through the Biblical example of Queen Esther, they will learn what it means to be courageous and stand up for what is right.

Learning Objectives:

- Examine the life of Queen Esther of ancient Persia.
- Analyze the impact of using a position of influence to create positive change.
- Identify qualities of good influence and explore ways to be a positive role model.
- Investigate specific ways to combat negative influence and gossip.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Influence:** The ability or power to affect, change, or guide someone's thoughts, actions, or development, either directly or indirectly.
- **Jewish:** Relating to, associated with, or characteristic of the religion, culture, or people who follow Judaism, an ancient monotheistic religion.
- **Strategy:** A carefully designed plan or method for achieving a specific goal or outcome.
- **Persuasive:** Having the ability to convince someone to do or believe something through reasoning, argument, or appeal.
- **Conspiracy:** A secret plan made by a group of people to do something harmful or illegal.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Bible, Women of History

What You'll Need

- Video: *Esther: The Courageous Jewish Queen* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Esther: The Courageous Jewish Queen* (Click [Here](#))
- Paper plates, one per child (paper can also work)
- Crayons or Markers

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Warm-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Begin by asking students to think of people they know in their everyday lives who have made a positive impact on others. This could include family members, teachers, coaches, or community leaders. Write their suggestions on the board.



2. Ask students to share why they believe these individuals are good influences. What qualities do these people possess that make them positive role models? Encourage the students to think about how these people help others, make good decisions, or stand up for what is right.
3. Explain that today they will learn about a historical figure who used her influence to protect and save her people. Introduce Queen Esther as someone who was courageous and stood up for what was right, even when it was difficult.
4. Tell the students they will watch a video about Queen Esther and then discuss how they can be positive influences in their own lives, just like the people they mentioned at the beginning of the lesson.
5. Distribute the worksheets and explain that they should pay close attention to how Esther used her influence as they watch the video.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Pause the video as needed to allow students to fill in the correct answers as they are mentioned.

Wrap-Up: (20 minutes)

1. Give students time to complete their worksheets.
2. Collect the completed worksheets as a formative assessment or use them to continue class discussion.
3. Begin to bring the lesson to a close by asking students to share one key lesson they learned from Queen Esther's story. Encourage them to think about how Esther's courage and influence made a difference for her people. Discuss how each of them has the ability to influence those around them in positive ways, just like Esther did.
4. Lead a discussion on how students can be positive influences in their own lives. Ask them to think of specific situations where they could stand up for what is right or support a friend who needs help. Encourage them to share these situations with the class.
5. Conclude by reminding students that, like Esther, they all have the power to make a difference in their communities by standing up for what is right and being positive influences on others. Encourage them to take the lessons from today and think about how they can be courageous and supportive friends in their daily lives.

Extension Activity: Make an Influence Tree

Materials Needed:

- A large sheet of construction paper or a printable tree template (one per student)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Leaf cutouts or green paper to create leaf shapes

Give each student a tree template or have them draw a large tree with roots, a trunk, and branches on their paper. Discuss with the students how the roots of the tree represent the

foundational qualities they need to develop, like honesty, kindness, and integrity. Ask them to write these qualities in the roots. The trunk of the tree represents the strength they show in standing up for what is right. Have them write words like courage, determination, and perseverance on the trunk. The branches represent the different areas of their life where they can be a positive influence, such as at home, at school, or in their community. On the branches, students can write specific actions they can take to be a positive influence, like helping a friend, speaking up when something is wrong, or being a good listener. Finally, the leaves represent the positive outcomes of their influence. Have students write or draw what they hope to achieve by being a good influence, like making others feel supported, creating a kind environment, or inspiring others to do good.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.