



God's Heroes Are Willing to be Used by God

LESSON 2



THE MISSION AIM

God's people are willing to let God equip and use them for His purposes.



KEY VERSE

Philippians 2:13 (NIV): "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."



Pre-Mission Activity



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Large space
- CD player and music

DIRECTIONS

DO: Have the recruits get into pairs and form one circle inside another with partners facing each other; one person from the pair in the inside circle and the other in the outside circle. When the music begins the inside circle walks clockwise around the circle and the outside circle walks counter clockwise around the circle taking the pairs away from each other. When the music stops, the partners must find each other. One of the partners must go down on one knee, the other sits on their leg and yells out something special about their partner. I.e., Courtney is kind; George is a good hockey player; etc.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Bible Heroes Episode 2: God's Heroes Are Willing to be Used by God"

Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 2 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have BT-Episode_2-Heroes_Used_by_God.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Scripts for each character (see attachment on pages 7-9).



MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: Well recruits it looks like we have received our first mission for today. Let's have a drumroll as we read it together. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, look at the story of Esther to find out how God works out His plans through His people. How did Esther become a hero for her people?"

SAY: Esther is a wonderful story. Let's work together to hear her story using these scripts that I have from the Recon Team. I believe there are enough roles that we can all be involved in the telling of her story.

DO: Have the recruits act out the story of Esther 2 – 4:11 using the script provided. Squad Leader, you also have a part in the drama presentation. For smaller squads you may need to combine roles. i.e., squad leader may also be the narrator; recruits can take on roles of King's Officer and King's personal attendants.

DO: Once the character roles have been assigned dramatically read through Esther's story as found on the script.

SAY: I believe it is time for us to send our report in to the Recon Team and find out what they have next for us. Before we do, let's recap this story of Esther. In what way is she a hero so far? She was in the right place at the right time, but what does that mean? What was the right place and why was it the right time? By looking into God's word at the story of Esther we were able to complete our mission. Let's get back to the Recon Team and see how they are doing. Maybe they have more for us to do.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 2 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission #2.



Mission #2



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Paper
- Markers/crayons/pencil crayons
- List of names of people who are shut in from within your church
- Treat – small candy or treasure chest item





MISSION ASSIGNMENT

SAY: Recruits we have out next mission, let's read it together (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Local squads look at the rest of the story of Esther. Find out if Esther had the courage to trust God."

SAY: Well recruits, before we look into the rest of the story of Esther, I have a five minute job for you to do. I need each of you to choose a name from my list and to make a card to send to that person. The card should let them know that we care about them and that they are missed at the church but that they are not forgotten. While you are making your card, I need to step out of the room for just a moment. When I return, your card needs to be finished or almost finished. Any questions? Okay, I will be back in just a moment."

DO: Be sure to leave all supplies out so that those children wanting to complete the task do in fact have the opportunity to do so. Do not go far and be sure to leave the door to the room open so that you can hear if something begins to get out of hand or go wrong.

SAY: Some of you have begun the task as I requested. I am very happy that you did follow the directions. For those of you that started I do have a little treat for you.

DO: Hand out the treats to those that began the task.

SAY: This was a bit of a trick. I asked you to make cards but then I left you to work on this alone. There are times when we are given a task and we know what we need to do but we hesitate to do it. We sometimes are unsure of how to complete the job and at times we are afraid of not doing the job well enough and we therefore don't begin. I tricked you because I wanted you to get a sense of what it was like for Esther. She knew what she needed to do; however, she was not exactly sure how she should follow through with the task that Mordecai had given her. She hesitated to go before the King. She hesitated as some of you did with your task. She was not sure what she should do. Is that how some of you felt with the task I left you?

DO: Part of this lesson is formed as a Reader's Theatre. You will be reading the story to the recruits and they will be listening for the names of Esther and Mordecai. When they hear these names they will respond with a line for each character. You will need to pause at each name to allow the recruits to respond appropriately. It is very important that you read the story ahead of time and are able to add to the reading using your voice to add excitement, anticipation and drama.

SAY: I am going to tell you the rest of the story of Esther. As I do, I want you to listen carefully. Every time you hear Esther's name say, "Ah, what a beauty." And every time you hear the name Mordecai say, "Shalom, God is faithful."

SAY: Let's practice this first, Esther (recruits respond with, "Ah, what a beauty.") now Mordecai (recruits respond with "Shalom, God is faithful."). Great job recruits, let's begin.



SAY: "Esther knows that Mordecai and all of the Jews, her people, are going to be destroyed. They only way for this to be stopped is for Esther to speak with the King. Esther hesitated because she was afraid. She knows that for her to go before the King she should first be summoned. Esther has not been summoned and there is a chance that the King could order her killed for coming before him without that request. Esther however, sends a message back to Mordecai and asks that he and all of the Jews fast and pray. Esther tells them that she too will fast and pray. When this is done, Esther does in fact go before the King. Surprisingly, the King was happy to see Esther and offers her anything that she would like. Esther does not ask that the King change the order to kill the Jews. She instead asks that the King and Haman come to her house for dinner. They do just that and again the king tells Esther that she can have whatever it is that she wishes. Esther asks the King and Haman for dinner a second time.

Now during this time, the King has a night when he is struggling falling asleep. To help him rest and relax the King orders to have his books brought in and be read to him. The books have all the stories and details of past events within the kingdom. It is during this time that the King is reminded how Mordecai had once saved him.

I believe that once again, this is showing us how God is working to fulfill His plan. He reminds the King of Mordecai and of his loyalty to the King in the past. He chooses to do something special for Mordecai. Haman, without knowing it, plans this special treatment for Mordecai. He thinks he is planning something special for himself and not for the one he truly hates and wants destroyed.

As the King and Haman come to have dinner with Esther once again, the King asks Esther what it is that she would like. Esther begins to explain that she would like the King to spare her life and the lives of her people, the Jews. The story unfolds and soon the King knows all that Haman has done. The King is very angry and orders Haman to be hung and the order against the Jews is removed.

God had placed all of His people in the places they needed to be. He had Esther made Queen and placed Mordecai in the right place, by the city gates, at just the right time. Even though Esther was afraid and hesitated before going before the King, Esther went before her Lord in fasting and prayer and then using the wisdom and insight that God had provided, Esther went before the King."

SAY: This story of Queen Esther does remind me of young Esther. Esther is in a new town and wants to make new friends, but she knows that the song they want her to sing is not an appropriate one nor is it one her parents would want her singing. She has hesitated, but will she now make the right choice? Let's check back in with the Recon Team and see what has happened.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 2 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.





Field Mission Project



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Bibles
- Paper for each recruit
- Pencils

MISSION PROJECT

SAY: Let's see what our final mission for today is. (reading mission card from satellite uplink)
"Recruits, check out Psalm 139 and discover what it tells us about how God equips us for the tasks He wants us to complete. How did he equip Esther?"

SAY: During our time together today we have seen how God prepared Esther. She grew up in a loving home with Mordecai who taught her about God and protected her as she grew into a young lady. When Esther went into the kingdom, Mordecai gave her words of wisdom and Esther followed these words. When called into a dangerous position, Esther hesitated before stepping up but she then went before God and fasted and prayed. She allowed God to use her.

SAY: Psalm 139: 1-16 are great verses to remind us that God knows us and has a plan for us. Let's look up these verses together and read them in unison.

DO: Have the recruits find Psalm 139:1-16 and read it together.

SAY: Let's look again at Psalm 139:13-16.

DO: Have an older recruit read Psalm 139:13-16 to the squad.

SAY: How does it make each of you feel knowing that God created us and from the very beginning knows our life story? (Allow the recruits to express their feelings.) God wants to use us as He did Queen Esther. What are some things that God has asked you to do? (Allow the recruits to share some of the ideas that they have. Some answers will include: to share, be kind, tell the truth, obey your parents, speak up against injustices.)

DO: Give each recruit a piece of paper. Have them fold the paper in half. Instruct them to quickly sketch a picture of something they feel they are good at doing on one half of the page. When they are done, have them sketch a second picture, on the other half of the page, of them using this "gift" to help someone else.

SAY: Often, when we are able to do something well it is because God has given us this "gift". He asks us to use these gifts to serve Him and to serve others. Let's share our pictures and ideas of how we can use these gifts to serve others.

DO: Have the recruits share what they have drawn on their papers. Examples could include: I can sing well – sing praises to God, sing at church, sing at a seniors' residence; I am good a soccer – help to work with other boys and girls to teach them the skills needed to play soccer, etc.





Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 2 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Pictures drawn by recruits during the Field Mission

DIRECTIONS

SAY: What is one thing that Queen Esther did so that she would know what it was God wanted her to do for him? (*She prayed and invited others to pray*) Before we can use our gifts for God we need to follow her example and pray. We're going to "stop, talk and do". That means we're going to stop what we're doing, talk to God before we do what he asks us to do, and then go out and do it. Let's stand together in a circle. Holding your drawing in your right hand, place your left hand on the shoulder of the person next to you. First let's stop, talk to God about what he might have asked you to do; then we're going to stop and talk to God about the person on our left and ask God to help them to do what He has asked them to do.

DO: Have the recruits stand in a circle with their drawing in hand and their left hand on the shoulder of the recruit beside them. Lead them in a time of quiet prayer for themselves and their shoulder buddy.

SAY: Recruits, I'd like you to take your drawings home with you this week as a reminder that God's heroes are willing to be used by him. Put your drawing somewhere where you can see it and be reminded to use the "gifts" you have to serve God and others. Don't forget to "stop, talk and do" this week.

NOTES



Esther 2-4:11

Prop Suggestions

Scarf (for Esther to use to cover her face)
Crown (for King Xerxes)
Old cloak (for Mordecai)
Sashes (for King's attendants, King's personal attendants, Haman)

Characters

Narrator	Mordecai
Esther	2 as King's Officers
King Xerxes (pronounced "Zurk-seez")	2 as King's Personal Attendants (K.P.A.)
Haman	

Narrator – King Xerxes was looking for a new queen to replace Vashti.

K.P.A. #1 – Gather the beautiful women and treat them well.

K.P.A. #2 – Dress them up.

K.P.A. #1 – Do their hair.

K.P.A. #2 – Give them a lot of special attention.

K.P.A. #1 – Then, when they are all ready, have them come before the King.

K.P.A. #2 – He shall choose the one he likes the most to replace Vashti and become his new Queen.

Narrator - And so the plan was put into place. Now, there was a man named Mordecai. He was a Jew. He had taken care of his young relative, Esther, since she was just a little girl. Esther was like a daughter to Mordecai.

Mordecai – Esther, as you go into the kingdom to prepare to meet the King, do not tell anyone where you come from or that you are a Jew. Do not tell them that I am your uncle. I will check in on you. I will be watching and listening to learn how you are and to learn what you are doing. Remember, follow my advice.

Narrator – Esther went into the kingdom and she told no one where she came from. No one knew that she was in fact a Jew. Finally, it was time for Esther to go before the King. The King liked Esther. He decided that he wanted to make her his queen. He held a great banquet in her honour and she was made Queen.

Squad Leader - Now what happens next may surprise you. God works out His plans through His people. As Mordecai was sitting at the King's gate one day, he overheard two of the King's officers speaking.

Officer #1 – The King makes me so angry.

Officer #2 - Me too.

Officer #1 – I think it is time that we have a new king.

Officer #2 – I agree

Officer #1 – Let’s kill the King.

Officer #1 – That is a great idea. We could...

Narrator – Mordecai heard it all. The entire plan to have the King killed.

Squad Leader – It is here where we begin to see God’s plan. He has placed Esther within the Kingdom. She won favour with the King and in fact has become the Queen. There are those though, that want to kill the King. Is it a coincidence that Esther’s relative was the one to overhear the plot to kill the King? I don’t believe so. God’s plan is unfolding as He uses His people.

Mordecai - Esther, you aren’t going to believe this but I overheard two of the King’s officers talking. They are planning to have the King killed. You must tell the King so that he may be safe.

Esther – Of course Mordecai, I will go before the King and speak with him to let him know of the plan right away.

Narrator – And so Esther went before the King and told him all that Mordecai had shared with her, being sure to tell the King that it was Mordecai who shared the information to save the King.

Squad Leader – And so we see God’s people, Mordecai and Esther being used by God to save the king. The story does not end here but continues as a new character is introduced. His name is Haman.

Narrator – The King has become friends with a man named Haman and chooses to give Haman a royal title that is higher than anyone else in the kingdom. Everyone must kneel before Haman however, Mordecai refuses.

Haman – Who is this man who refuses to kneel down before me?

Narrator – Haman learns that Mordecai is a Jew and decides that it is time to destroy not just Mordecai but all the Jews. He goes before the King...

Haman - King, there are people among your kingdom who do not think like the rest of us. They do not follow your commands. It is not good for us to tolerate them. It is time that we are rid of these people. I will even give money to the King’s treasury for the men who carry out the order.

King Xerxes – Keep the money. You may do with these people as you wish.

Narrator – And so the order was given in the King’s name that each Jew, young and old, women and children, all Jews were to be destroyed on the same day. This day was not far in the future.

Squad Leader – Well things have taken a twist. Esther is Queen. She is living in the kingdom and is in fact herself a Jew. Haman does not know this, neither does King Xerxes. However, the King has agreed with Haman and an order has now been given that all Jews are to be destroyed on the same day. It seems to me that the Jews need a hero, someone who can stop this terrible order from actually happening. Who do you think the hero could be? Maybe Esther will be the hero that God has placed as part of His amazing plan.

Narrator – Mordecai has learned of the plan to destroy the Jews. He has torn his clothes, put on sackcloth and wears ashes. He goes out towards the city crying loudly but is not allowed in the city because of what he is wearing. The Jews have now learned of the order for them to be destroyed and many of them have done as Mordecai. Esther learns that Mordecai is wearing sackcloth at the city's gate. She sends out clothes for him but he refuses to wear them.

Esther – Go to the city gate and find out what is troubling Mordecai.

Squad Leader – Mordecai sends a message to Esther filling her in on all that has happened. He urges Esther to go before the King and to plead for the Jewish people. However, Esther does not go immediately. She remembers the laws of the land and knows that if she is to go before the King without being called to go, she herself may be killed. Esther hesitates.