Bible Story 134
The Jews Rejoice and Declare a Feast
Esther 9:18-32

OPENING ACTIVITIES

• Craft
  - Have the children make cards for people who are hurt or in need. These cards can be added to the basket that will be assembled later in the lesson

WORSHIP

PRAYER

STORY
Esther 9:18-32

• Summarize the events of Esther 9:1-17
• Pretend the children are the Jews and you are a messenger. Using Esther 9:18-32 as your text, excitedly enter the room and tell the children all about the letters Mordecai and Esther have written establishing the new holiday of Purim
• Celebrate the holiday of Purim (See activities section of the lesson)

MEMORY VERSE
Psalm 126:5

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

• The Jews wept, fasted, and prayed. God worked on their behalf and now they have great joy and reason to celebrate. We should cry out to God in our distress and give thanks and praise to God when He works on our behalf
• Practice the verse by doing actions
  - “sow” – pretend to be working in a field
  - “tears” – make a very sad face and run your pointer fingers down your cheeks as if tracing tear lines
  - “reap” – reach down and gather an armful of imaginary vegetables
  - “joy” – make a big smile and point to your dimples
ACTIVITIES

• The following activities are some of the things the Jews do to celebrate Purim. They were adapted from Walk with Y’shua Through the Jewish Year by Janie-sue Wertheim and Kathy Shapiro
• As you celebrate and praise God for what He did for the Jews. Encourage the children to celebrate and praise God for what He has done for them

  o Interactive story
    ▪ Read the story of Esther from a children's Bible
    ▪ When Haman’s name is mentioned, have the children boo and stamp their feet
    ▪ When Esther and Mordecai’s names are mentioned, have the children cheer

  o Act
    ▪ Choose volunteers to be the main characters in the story
    ▪ Read the story of Esther from a children's Bible as the children pantomime what the narrator is reading

  o Make a gift basket
    ▪ The Jews celebrate by making special "Shalach Manot” baskets for people they love or for people in need
    ▪ Have the children each bring a piece of fruit or something else they could put into a basket
    ▪ Fill and decorate the basket
    ▪ Take the basket to a nursing home or a family in need

  o Snack
    ▪ Give the children Hamantashen (You can find various recipes on-line)

• Color
  o Color the paper with the memory verse on it

MATERIALS

- Coloring paper with memory verse on it (Print the coloring page from http://www.calvaryknoxville.org/OTTableOfContents.pdf and cut and paste the memory verse onto the bottom)
- Costume and scroll for the messenger
- Costumes & props for the children to act out the story
- Children's Bible with the story of Esther in it
- Construction paper for each child
- Paper plates
- Crayons
- Markers
- Basket
- Basket fillers & decorations
- Hamantashen