

“YOLO” - LESSON 1

“Lessons From Mordecai”

Main Focus:

Do the right thing,
even when it is hard!



Power Verse:

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” – Galatians 6:9



Watt’s Up:

“God Will Honor Those Who
Do What’s Right!”

LEADER’S INFO

In this lesson, the children will begin to learn some lessons about making our life count! Since we only live once, we need to make sure we do our very best to honor God with our life and remain faithful to Him.

In the Bible Story, the children will learn from a man named Mordecai in the book of Esther. We will learn from his example of caring for others, doing the right thing no matter what, and remaining faithful to God.

They will learn that they should never grow tired from doing the right thing. Instead, they should stay faithful to God because, just at the right time, God will honor and bless their faithfulness.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“YOLO”



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”



Offering Time



Game On!

“You Make the Choice”



Bible Story

“Mordecai’s Story”



Power Verse Video

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” – Galatians 6:9



Call To Action

“Lessons From Mordecai”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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even when it is hard!



Power Verse:

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Watt’s Up:

“God Will Honor Those Who
Do What’s Right!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 The Spark Intro Video”

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt’s Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Wacky Wally” Theme Graphic/Music
- Superhero cape
- Mask

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “You Make the Choice” Graphic
- Twelve different envelopes
- Twelve pieces of copy paper

Bible Story

- “Mordecai’s Story” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Lessons From Mordecai” Graphics
- Power Verse Graphic
- Pot with soil
- Garden shovel
- Seeds
- Watering can
- Fully-bloomed flower or picture of fully-bloomed flower

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Read To The Right Print Piece
- Right Card Print Piece
- A way to keep time
- Paper and pen (to keep score)
- The Right Reasons Print Piece
- Bibles (several for the group to share)
- Pencils, crayons, or markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

“YOLO”

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”

Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”

Offering Time

Game On!

“You Make the Choice”

Bible Story

“Mordecai’s Story”

Power Verse Video

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” – Galatians 6:9

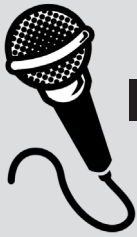
Call To Action

“Lessons From Mordecai”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey kids! Welcome to our series called “You Only Live Once.” It’s true! We only have one life - one chance to make a difference - and we need to do our best to make it count! Today, we’re learning from a man named Mordecai from the book of Esther in the Bible. He was known for doing the right thing, even when no one noticed.

Have you ever done the right thing, hoping someone would see it and reward you, but they didn’t? What did you do that no one noticed? *(allow a few children to raise their hands and respond)* Well, today, we’re going to learn about doing the right thing, but before we get into our lesson, I want you to watch this awesome video!

(play “The Spark” Intro Video)

Leader: Wow! She totally faced her fears! She realized the importance of making her life count! Today, we’re going to learn that when we are faithful to God and doing right, God will honor us. But, before we get too far into that, we need to find out “Watt’s Up?”

(play “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Wacky Wally” *(A quirky young man who dreams of being a superhero. What he lacks in superpowers he makes up for with enthusiasm.)*

WALLY: *(runs out in a makeshift “superhero” costume with his arms outstretched, making “whooshing” noises and pretending to fly)* There’s no need to fear! *(strikes a pose, flips his cape so that it covers the leader’s face)*
Wacky Wally is here!

Leader: *(gets out from under cape)* Um, hi there. What can we do for you today?

Wally: No, citizen! The real question is what can I do for YOU?

Leader: What do you mean?

Wally: Just a second. *(pulls out a small notebook and flips through the pages, stops on a page and reads aloud)*
Dear Citizen, can I help you get your cat out of a tree?

Leader: Nope. No cats. No trees. We are inside a building.

Wally: Oh, right. *(flips to another page, reads aloud)* Can I assist you in crossing the street, Ms. Old Lady?

Leader: I’m not an old lady.

Wally: *(laughs, snorts)* Oh yeah, DUH. Sorry. *(stops at another page, reads aloud)* Fear not! I’ll untie you from those ropes before I punch that Doomsday Bomb into the sun!

Leader: Wally, I’m not tied up, there’s no Doomsday Whatever! We’re good here! We don’t really need any assistance.

Wally: Aw, man. Ironing Man isn’t gonna like this.

Leader: *(gasps)* You know Iron Man?!

Wally: What? No! I said IRONING man. He was bitten by a radioactive iron board and now has the power to de-wrinkle anything. He’s very popular at retirement homes.

Leader: Bitten by a- WHAT? That’s ridiculous!

Wally: I can’t help it! You know how hard it is to get a superhero sponsorship these days? All the good ones are taken! Being a superhero in training is NOT easy!

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: Wow! You're a superhero in training?! That's so cool!

Wally: You think so?

Leader: Of course! In fact, I KNOW how you can assist us!

Wally: SWEET! What can I do for you?

Leader: Well, as part of your training, you probably learn a ton about caring for others, right?

Wally: I sure do! That's the very first thing we learn! Care for others - always put them first! And the second rule is to do the right thing - NO MATTER WHAT!

Leader: Those are good rules to follow!

Wally: Yeah, but sometimes they're not easy to follow. It's tough to care about some people, especially if you don't always get along with them.

Leader: That's true, but we have to remember: God honors FAITHFULNESS! In fact, we're going to talk about someone in the Bible who was VERY faithful, and God honored them BIG TIME!

Wally: OOH! Is it Aquaman?

Leader: Aquaman isn't in the Bible.

Wally: Oh, that's fine, I guess. I'm allergic to fish. *(strikes a heroic pose)* I shall run backstage and listen to today's lesson! *(flips his cape so that it covers the leader's face again)* HEROICALLY! WACKY WALLY AWWAAAAAAAAAYYY! *(Runs away with his arms outstretched, making "whooshing" noises)*



GAME ON!

“You Make the Choice”

Items Needed For Game:

twelve different envelopes; twelve pieces of copy paper

Preparation:

Choose 3 boys and 3 girls to compete in this game. BEFORE THE GAME, write a letter “A” on six of the envelopes and a letter “B” on the other six. Write the following point values on the twelve pieces of copy paper (one value on each piece of paper): 25, 50, 75, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 1000, then fold them and stick them individually AT RANDOM in the envelopes and seal them *(don’t pay attention to which envelopes get which points)*.

How To Play:

Have a stack of “A” envelopes and a stack of “B” envelopes that are sealed. Decide whether the boys or the girls will go first, then alternate each round. One at a time, display an “A” envelope and a “B” envelope and have the contestant choose which of the two they want to open. Once they have chosen (between A or B), read aloud the point total that is written on the piece of paper they chose. Each round, add the amount revealed to the team’s total score.

To make the game more interesting, offer for a player to “make a tough choice” by trading their envelope for 100 points. There’s not a definite advantage to doing this (it might, but it might not). But, it helps reinforce the “CHOICES” concept of the game.

The team to have the most total points at the end of the game is declared the winner!



Bible Story

“Mordecai’s Story”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the book of Esther; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Esther. Esther was a young Jewish girl who had quite an interesting life! It’s a long story, but today, we’re going to look at just one part of it.

When Esther was young, her mom and dad died, so her older cousin, Mordecai, adopted her. He raised her as his own, providing for her every need. (*show pic*) He provided her a place to call home, a seat at the dinner table, and he raised her to love God with all her heart.

In the land where Mordecai and Esther lived, there was a king. His name was King Xerxes, and one day, he decided to have a beauty contest so he could choose a new queen. Esther was very beautiful and was chosen to be a part of the contest. King Xerxes really liked Esther and ended up choosing her to become the queen! Mordecai stayed close to Esther and continued to care for her like a father. He even worked at the king’s palace as a gatekeeper.



(*show pic*) One day, while working at the palace gates, Mordecai overheard two of the king’s guards plotting to kill King Xerxes. When Mordecai heard their plans, he immediately told Queen Esther to warn the king. Esther told the king and made sure to let him know it was Mordecai who helped save his life. In the history book of the king, it was recorded that Mordecai helped save his life, but other than that, nothing else was done to honor Mordecai’s right decision...until a LONG time later.



YEARS later, King Xerxes was sitting on his throne listening to one of his servants read from the history book of the king. (*show pic*) He read about how Mordecai saved King Xerxes’ life years ago. Hearing that, King Xerxes asked, “What did we ever do to honor Mordecai?” “Nothing,” said the servant. So King Xerxes decided to honor Mordecai in a big way!



Mordecai was finally honored for doing the right thing and helping save the king’s life. (*show pic*) Mordecai was paraded through the city on the king’s horse. While he paraded around the city, Haman, one of the king’s officials, walked in front of the horse announcing to everyone, “This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honor!”

Today, in your lesson, you are going to learn about the importance of doing the right thing, no matter what! When you do, God will honor your faithfulness!



Call To Action

“Lessons From Mordecai”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; Power Verse graphic; pot with soil; garden shovel; seeds; watering can; fully-bloomed flower or picture of fully-bloomed flower

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Lessons From Mordecai”; prepare gardening illustration

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we’re learning some great lessons from the life of Mordecai that will help us make our lives really count - after all, You Only Live Once! Remember, Mordecai was the man from our Bible Story, Esther’s cousin that raised her like a daughter. Mordecai was a very good man and he’s a great example for us to learn from. It’s always good to have someone set an example of doing right. In fact, I’d love to know some of the people in your life that are good examples of always doing the right thing. *(go around the room and allow a few children to share someone in their life that is a good example of doing right, such as parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, etc.)*

Chances are, if we lived in the day of our Bible Story, one of us would have mentioned Mordecai. He was a great example of doing the right thing and making his life count. We can learn several lessons from Mordecai, and the first one is...

Care For Others *(slide)*



Mordecai truly cared for others. Remember in our Bible Story? Mordecai’s cousin, Esther, lost both of her parents, and she was in need of a father to love her and raise her up. Mordecai cared for her by taking her into his family like his own daughter. He showed her love and care when she needed it most. He also cared for King Xerxes - he saved his life, even when he wasn’t honored for it for years to come. What a selfless person!

We need to care for others too! See, it’s easy to care for people we like - people that we’re already close to like our friends and family - but we need to care for EVERYONE! That means even our worst enemies and the people no one else seems to care about. If God cares about us, we must care for others! It’s the right thing to do! And - we can learn another lesson from Mordecai all about doing right!

Do The Right Thing – No Matter What! *(slide)* *(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)*





Call To Action (Continued)

It's important we always do what's right - no matter what! No matter how hard it might be - or how easy it might be to do the wrong thing. We need to follow Mordecai's example! He heard those two men plotting to kill the king and he didn't wait for a second to make the right choice. He immediately told Queen Esther so she could warn the king. Mordecai was ready to do right no matter what. He was a Christian, and he knew God wanted him to do the right thing and be faithful to the king.

Remember our PowerVerse? (show PowerVerse graphic) “So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.” – Galatians 6:9



That leads us to the last lesson we can learn from Mordecai...

Remember: God Honors Faithfulness (slide)



Mordecai was faithful to the king, and he was faithful to doing what was right. That goes to show - he was ultimately faithful to God, and God honors faithfulness. Mordecai may not have been honored by King Xerxes immediately for doing the right thing, but he still remained faithful. He still stayed loyal to the king. He still kept doing right, and because of his faithfulness, King Xerxes honored him in a huge way.

It's the same for you and me! When you are faithful to God and continually do what's right, God will honor you - God will bless you.

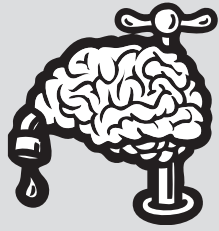
It's like planting a flower. When you decide to plant seeds to grow a flower, you do all the right things - dig a hole (use a garden shovel to dig a hole in the potted soil), place the seeds in the hole and cover it back with soil (place seeds in the hole and recover with soil), and then you water the soil (water the soil with a small watering can) and make sure it's getting plenty of sunlight.

After you put the seeds in the ground and water it, will the flower grow immediately? (allow response) No - it takes time for the reward! You may have done right by planting the seeds and watering it, but it's important that you don't stop there. You have to remain faithful to the flower. You have to remain faithful by continuing to water it every day. That's what I've done with this flower (reveal a fully-bloomed, potted flower) Because I was faithful to watering this for quite some time, eventually, a beautiful flower emerged from the soil!

Sometimes that's how life is. When you do right and nothing comes of it right away, don't give up. Don't “get tired of doing what is good” because “at just the right time [you] will reap a harvest of blessing if [you] don't give up.”

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Pray for the children to care for others and always do the right thing - no matter what. Pray, as they care for others and do right, God will honor their faithfulness.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “God Will Honor Those Who Do What’s Right!”

2. Who was Esther’s cousin?

Answer: Mordecai

3. What did Mordecai overhear at the palace gates?

Answer: Two Men Plotting To Kill The King

4. What did Mordecai do when he overheard the men plotting to kill the king?

Answer: He Asked Esther To Warn The King

5. Did the king honor Mordecai immediately?

Answer: No

6. True or False: I don’t have to do the right thing if it’s too hard.

Answer: False

7. According to our lesson today, “Care For _____. ”

Answer: Others

8. According to our lesson today, “Do The _____ Thing – No Matter What!”

Answer: Right

9. According to our lesson today, “Remember: God Honors _____. ”

Answer: Faithfulness

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Galatians 6:9

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - “Lessons From Mordecai”



Watt's Up:

“God Will Honor Those Who Do What's Right!”



Power Verse:

“So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.”

-Galatians 6:9

SUPPLY LIST:

* Read To The Right Print Piece (*provided; print one*)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Read To The Right Print Piece. Once small group begins, tell the kids to sit in a circle. To review the Bible Story, kids will take turn reading portions of the story aloud. They will read until they get to the arrow that says RIGHT, and then pass the story to the person on their right to continue reading. The group should continue on this way until the story is complete.

Say - What a FAITHFUL group! You all made the RIGHT choice and joined us today. You are all going to be a part of our Bible Story review. Before we can go any further, I need you to sit side by side and form a group circle.

-Allow time for the group to complete the task-

Say - It's time to do the right thing, and by right thing, I mean review this Bible Story! I am handing a copy of the story to one of you. Read the first section of the story and stop when you come to the arrow that says RIGHT. At that point, you should pass the story to the person on your right, and they will repeat the process. Keep being faithful readers and going right until the story is complete. I am here to help as needed.

-Hand the print piece to one kid and begin the Bible Story review process-

Say - Thank you for reading the story aloud and for being a part of the review process! Mordecai is such a great example of a person who did what's right no matter what the circumstance. Let's take some time and discuss Mordecai and his RIGHT choices.

Ask - Mordecai chose to adopt Esther. Why do you think he did this? How do you think this affected his life?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - When Esther was chosen to be queen, Mordecai chose to stay close to Esther. He even got a job at the palace. Why do you think he did this? How do you think this affected his life?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Mordecai overheard a plot to kill the King and had Esther warn the King. Why do you think he did this? How do you think this affected his life?

(Continued on next page)

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Right Card Print Piece (provided; print one set)
- * A way to keep time
- * Paper and pen (to keep score)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Right Card Print Pieces. Mix them up and place them in a pile face down. Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams. Teams will compete in a game of charades. One at a time each team will send one team member to choose a Right Card from the top of the pile. They should look at the card and not show it to anyone except for you. The player must do their best to get their team members to guess what is written on the card by using gestures, motions, and movement. They may NOT make any noise with their mouth or point to certain objects that make the answer obvious. For instance, if their word is dog, they should not point to a picture of a dog in the room. The team will have 30 seconds to try and guess the word. Guess correctly and their team earns one point. When time is up, if the team has guessed incorrectly, allow the other team one guess. If they get the correct answer, that team wins a point. The team with the most points wins!

Say - I am dividing you all into teams, so we can play a game of charades. With charades, you must make the RIGHT choices and act out what is on the RIGHT card so your team can guess your word correctly. You almost must stay FAITHFUL to the end because if you give up too soon, your team will lose points. That sounds a lot like what we are learning today, very interesting. Moving along, the goal for your team is to get the most points. How do you accomplish this task? I am glad you asked! I have a stack of cards. On each card is written a word. One at a time, a member from each team will choose the top card, review the word SILENTLY, and show the card to me. Do NOT say the word out loud! I will then start the timer and they will have 30 seconds to get their team members to guess what is written on the card by using gestures, motions, and movement. Do NOT make any noise with your mouth or point to certain objects that make the answer obvious. If their team guesses correctly, they earn a point. Once time is up, if their team has not correctly guessed the word the other team will get one guess. If they guess correctly, they get a point. The team with the most points wins!

-Play the game, this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * The Right Reasons Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- * Bibles (several for the group to share)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut The Right Reasons Print Pieces. Once group sharing begins, give each kid a copy of The Right Reasons Print Piece and something to write with.

(Continued on next page)

Say - The game we just played was very entertaining. Watching you try and figure out what to do to get your teammates to guess your word was great. The right moves sometimes looked silly, but in the end they accomplished the goal. The game and the lessons from Mordecai really relate to our life. I know what you might be thinking, “How can a guy named Mordecai and a game of charades mean anything to me or about me?” Stick with me! We are going to unpack these concepts together. Right choices don’t always make sense. Fill in the blanks on your page.

-Allow time for the kids to write their answers-

Ask - Making the right choice doesn’t always make sense. Why?

-Allow time for the kids to share; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - The right choice might not always make sense to you, or others watching you, because God sometimes works in ways that we don’t fully understand. I would like someone to look up Isaiah 55:8-9 and read it aloud.

-Choose a volunteer and allow them to look up the verse and read it aloud-

Ask - What is this verse saying to us?

-Allow time for the kids to share; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - God has a plan that we cannot fully see or understand. He has a plan for your life, and my life, and everyone. God might ask you to do something that seems crazy, feels uncomfortable, or doesn’t make sense. Your friends might wonder what you are doing, you might even lose friends. Part of following God’s plan is doing the right thing even when it doesn’t make sense, sort of like charades. Playing charades the actions you were taking might have felt silly at the time, or even crazy, but you stuck with it because you were trying to do the right thing so your team could succeed. That’s the next thing we need to learn about right choices. Right choices aren’t about me. Fill in the blanks on your page.

-Allow time for the kids to write their answers-

Ask - Right choices aren’t about us. Why?

-Allow time for the kids to share; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Doing the right thing often means sacrificing your personal preferences. When you decide to follow Jesus, you have to learn to lay down your own desires and pick up the desires and heart of Christ. Mordecai followed this pattern in his decision making. Adopting Esther meant he gave up some freedoms to raise a child. He left his life behind to follow her to the palace and even took a job as a palace gatekeeper. He saved the King’s life never knowing if he would ever receive so much as a thank you. Mordecai laid down everything to follow God’s plan for Esther. This could not have been easy. Often, doing the right thing is hard. Doing the right thing no matter what isn’t popular. Making the right choice can be lonely. I would like someone to look up Galatians 6:9 and read it aloud.

-Choose a volunteer and allow them to look up the verse and read it aloud-

Ask - What is this verse saying to us? How do we stick with right choices when it’s hard?

-Allow time for the kids to share; discuss their answers with the group-

(Continued on next page)

Say - The great news is that we aren't left at the end of the story with a big bitter pill to swallow and no hope. God honors faithfulness. Fill in the blanks on your page.

Ask - God honors faithfulness, what does that mean and why does He honor faithfulness?

-Allow time for the kids to share; discuss their answers with the group-

Prayer Time

Say - I am going to pray over all of you and ask that God would help you be faithful as you make choices throughout your life so that He can use you in amazing ways! (PRAY)

Closing

Say - Mordecai had a life before Esther, but that isn't addressed in the Bible. We meet Mordecai at a time when he has made the tough choice to leave his old life behind and follow God's plan. Mordecai's legacy would be the series of faithful choices he made that aligned a young woman to make a huge impact of the lives of countless thousands of people. He made the right choice when it wasn't easy, he was faithful, and God honored Mordecai. God has amazing plans for you. He plans to use you to make a difference in the lives of others and in our world. Making right choices will set you on a path to be used by God, and He will honor your faithfulness! Thank you for coming! I will see you again soon!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY IS FOUND IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER. MORDECAI WAS A VERY GOOD MAN AND HAPPENS TO BE THE COUSIN OF ESTHER - THE JEWISH WOMAN WHOM THE BOOK OF ESTHER IS NAMED AFTER.

RIGHT!

ESTHER'S MOM AND DAD DIED AT SOME POINT WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, SO HER OLDER COUSIN, MORDECAI, ADOPTED HER AS HIS DAUGHTER AND RAISED HER AS HIS OWN. MORDECAI REALLY CARED ABOUT ESTHER AND HELPED HER LEARN TO DO RIGHT AND MAKE WISE DECISIONS AS SHE GREW UP.

RIGHT!

ONE DAY, ESTHER WAS ASKED TO COME TO THE KING'S PALACE TO POSSIBLY BECOME THE NEXT QUEEN. THE KING, KING XERXES, REALLY LIKED ESTHER AND ENDED UP CHOOSING HER TO BECOME THE QUEEN!

RIGHT!

MORDECAI STAYED CLOSE TO ESTHER WHEN SHE BECAME QUEEN AND CONTINUED TO CARE FOR HER AS A FATHER-FIGURE. HE EVEN WORKED AT THE KING'S PALACE AS A GATEKEEPER.

RIGHT!

ONE DAY, WHILE WORKING AT THE PALACE GATES, MORDECAI OVERHEARD TWO OF THE KING'S GUARDS PLOTTING TO KILL KING XERXES. WHEN MORDECAI HEARD THEIR PLANS, HE IMMEDIATELY TOLD QUEEN ESTHER TO WARN THE KING, SO HIS LIFE COULD BE SPARED.

RIGHT!

ESTHER TOLD THE KING AND MADE SURE TO LET HIM KNOW IT WAS MORDECAI WHO HELPED SAVE HIS LIFE. IN THE HISTORY BOOK OF THE KING, IT WAS RECORDED THAT MORDECAI HELPED SAVE HIS LIFE, BUT OTHER THAN THAT, NOTHING ELSE WAS DONE TO HONOR MORDECAI'S RIGHT DECISION...UNTIL A LONG TIME LATER.

RIGHT!

YEARS LATER, KING XERXES WAS SITTING ON HIS THRONE LISTENING TO ONE OF HIS SERVANTS READ FROM THE HISTORY BOOK OF THE KING.

RIGHT!

HE READ ABOUT HOW MORDECAI HELPED SAVE KING XERXES' LIFE YEARS AGO, AND THEN KING XERXES ASKED, "WHAT DID WE EVER DO TO HONOR MORDECAI?" HE REALIZED HE HADN'T DONE ANYTHING!



AFTER ALL OF THAT TIME, MORDECAI WAS FINALLY HONORED FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING AND HELPING SAVE THE KING'S LIFE. MORDECAI WAS PARADED THROUGH THE CITY ON THE KING'S HORSE.



WHILE HE PARADED AROUND THE CITY, HAMAN, ONE OF THE KING'S OFFICIALS, WALKED IN FRONT OF THE HORSE ANNOUNCING TO EVERYONE, "THIS IS WHAT THE KING DOES FOR SOMEONE HE WISHES TO HONOR!"



DOG



CAT



TEACHER



COW



SINGER



BUTTERFLY



COOKING



RIDING A BIKE



SWIMMING



NAPPING



PRINCESS



TREE



RABBIT



FROG



ELEPHANT



DRIVING



RIDING A ROLLERCOASTER



JUMPING OUT OF A
PLANE



BUMPER CARS



RIDING A HORSE



COWBOY



SNAKE



JUGGLER



TIP TOE



SWORD FIGHT



KING

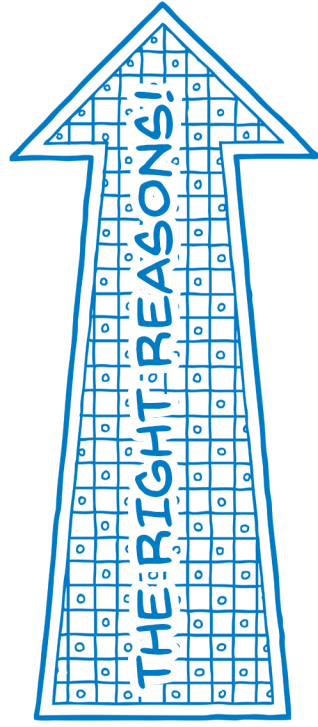


QUEEN



MOWING THE YARD

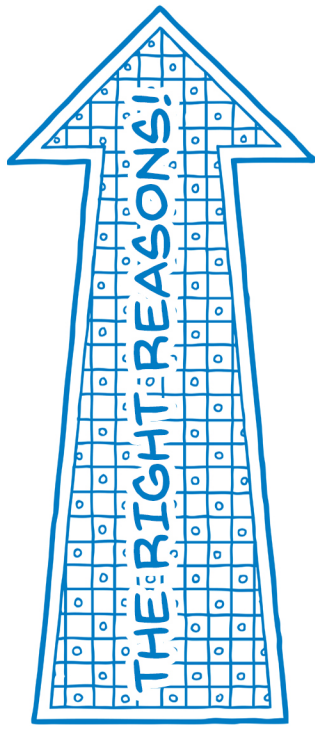




1. RIGHT CHOICES DON'T ALWAYS _____.
-ISAIAH 55:8-9

2. RIGHT CHOICES AREN'T _____.
-THEY'RE ABOUT GOD'S PLAN.

3. GOD _____.
_____.
-GALATIANS 6:9



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FAMILY DEVOTION!

"Lessons From Mordecai"



"God Will Honor Those Who Do What's Right!"



"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." – Galatians 6:9

This week, we start a brand new series called, "You Only Live Once", or "YOLO." We're learning some important lessons about making our lives count! Since we only live once, we need to make sure we do our very best to honor God with our life and remain faithful to Him.

Say:

In the Bible Story this week, we learned from a man named Mordecai in the book of Esther. We learned from his example of caring for others, doing the right thing no matter what, and remaining faithful to God.

Ask/Discuss:

- What are some ways you can show others you care about them?
- What are some things you can do because they're the right things to do, even though you may not enjoy doing them? (i.e. *chores, school, etc.*)

Say:

We should never grow tired from doing the right thing. Instead, we should stay faithful to God because, just at the right time, God will honor and bless our faithfulness.

Activity:

Have your children do some of the things they discussed earlier when asked some ways they could show others they care about them. Perhaps, they could write a card to someone, do a craft to give as a gift to someone, help clean something for someone, lighten someone's load, or simply share kind words with someone who needs encouragement.

Say:

Because you've done these things, God said He'll bless your faithfulness to Him and your faithfulness in doing the right thing no matter what!

Pray:

Pray for your children to care for others and always do the right thing - no matter what. Pray, as they care for others and do right, God will honor their faithfulness.

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