

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

THE STORY OF

QUEEN ESTHER

A BIBLE LESSON FOR KIDS IN 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD GRADES



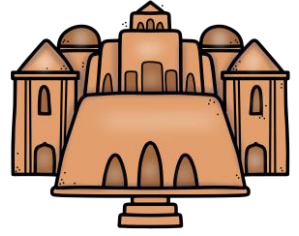
The Story of Queen Esther

This packet was designed to be an easy way to teach foundational Bible stories to kids in first, second, and third grades. Each lesson in this series is structured the same and can be taught in about 40 minutes!

Step One: Read or watch the Bible story.

Gather your group together and read the story of Esther from your children's Bible.

Would you rather watch it? Many animated Bible stories are available for free on YouTube. Try searching "Esther Bible Story for Kids" in the YouTube search bar. Watch it fully before showing it to your class to ensure it's appropriate.



Background Information:

Who was Esther?

Esther's parents died, so she was adopted by her cousin, Mordecai. Esther was just an ordinary girl who God chose to save the Israelites. King Xerxes married Esther without knowing that she was a Jew. You might hear her called Hadassah, which was her Hebrew name. She changed her name to Esther before going to the palace so she could hide that she was a Jew.

Why did Haman want the Jews killed?

Haman was a powerful man and he wanted people to bow down to him. Mordecai refused to bow down because that would be an act of worship, and Mordecai would only worship God. This made Haman furious, so he tricked the king into authorizing all Jews to be killed. Neither the king nor Haman knew that Esther was a Jew.

The Scepter

No one could go to visit the king without an invitation. If someone went to the throne room without an invitation, the king could have that person killed. They would be spared only if he lowered the golden scepter toward the person.

Was the King named Xerxes or Ahasuerus?

NOTE: This information is just in case kids notice a discrepancy in the name. Don't delve into this unless a student asks because it can get complicated:

Depending on which translation of the Bible you are reading, you will see different names for the king. NIV says 'Xerxes,' and KJV says 'Ahasuerus.' The original Hebrew story used the name 'Ahasuerus,' but there is no record in other historical documents of a king with this name. Many people think this name refers to King Xerxes, an actual historical King of Persia. So simply put, scholars believe 'Ahasuerus' was his Hebrew name. and Xerxes was his Persian name. Some historians argue about this, but in this story, both names refer to the same person – the King of Persia.

Step Two: Explore the story.

After reading or watching the story, use the retell the story worksheet to retell the main parts of today's story. You could also try mapping out the story together on a piece of large paper or a whiteboard.

Esther the Brave Queen: Quickly map out the four main parts of the Story.

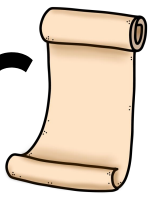
1. Esther is chosen to be Queen.
2. Haman makes a plan to kill all the Jews.
3. Esther approaches the King to tell him about Haman's plan.
4. The Jews are saved.

Then, talk through the discussion questions as a group.

The Story of Queen Esther	
1	2
3	4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	
QUESTION #1 Who was Esther and how did she show bravery in this story?	QUESTION #2 Who was Mordecai and how did he show bravery in this story?
QUESTION #3 How did the king respond to Esther?	QUESTION #4 Is there a time you had to show bravery?

The Story of Queen Esther



Step Three: Dive Deeper

In our story, Esther had a choice to make: Would she risk her life to approach the king without being invited, or would she let her people die?

In Esther Chapter 4, we can read letters written between Esther and Mordecai as she was thinking about what to do. In Mordecai's final letter to Esther, he asks her: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

God often places us in a situation where we can do His work right where we are. God placed Esther in the palace because he knew that she would be in the right place at the right time to save the Jews. She was there *"for such a time as this."*

While we might not be saving lives or appearing before a King, there are so many ways to serve God where he has placed us.

Ask your kids, "How can you serve God right where you are? Where have you been placed *for such a time as this?*" Talk together about ways to serve God in things your kids already do.

- At soccer, I can help the coach set up the cones
- At school, I can be a friend to someone who is lonely
- At church, I can look for someone who is nervous and play blocks with them
- In my neighborhood, I can clean up trash while I'm out on a walk

You will use these ideas in the craft. Mention to students that they don't have to travel far to serve God and that He can find big jobs for us right where we are!

Craft: I Can Serve God...

Before the craft begins, gather construction paper, scissors, and coloring supplies. Cut out a heart template for each child.

Instruct students to trace their hands on paper and cut out each one. Then, cut out the heart template. In the heart template, kids should draw at least one way to serve God right where they are.

When kids are done drawing, glue the heart into the hands you just cut out!

Don't want to trace and cut out hands? Printable hands in varying skin tones are also included.



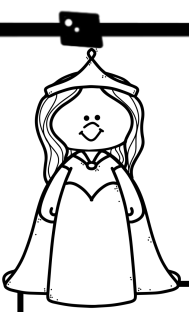
Step Four: Finish with the take-home worksheet.

The 'Story of Queen Esther' coloring page is the perfect way to wrap up the lesson and create a take-home page that includes caregivers in what you have learned. Students will color a picture, write down their memory verse, and add the key takeaway (a "big idea") from the story.

Memory verse suggestion from the story:

...And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?
- Esther 4:14b NIV

Big idea suggestion: God makes us brave.



The Story of Queen Esther

Name: _____

1

2

3

4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

Who was Esther and how did she show bravery in this story?

QUESTION #2

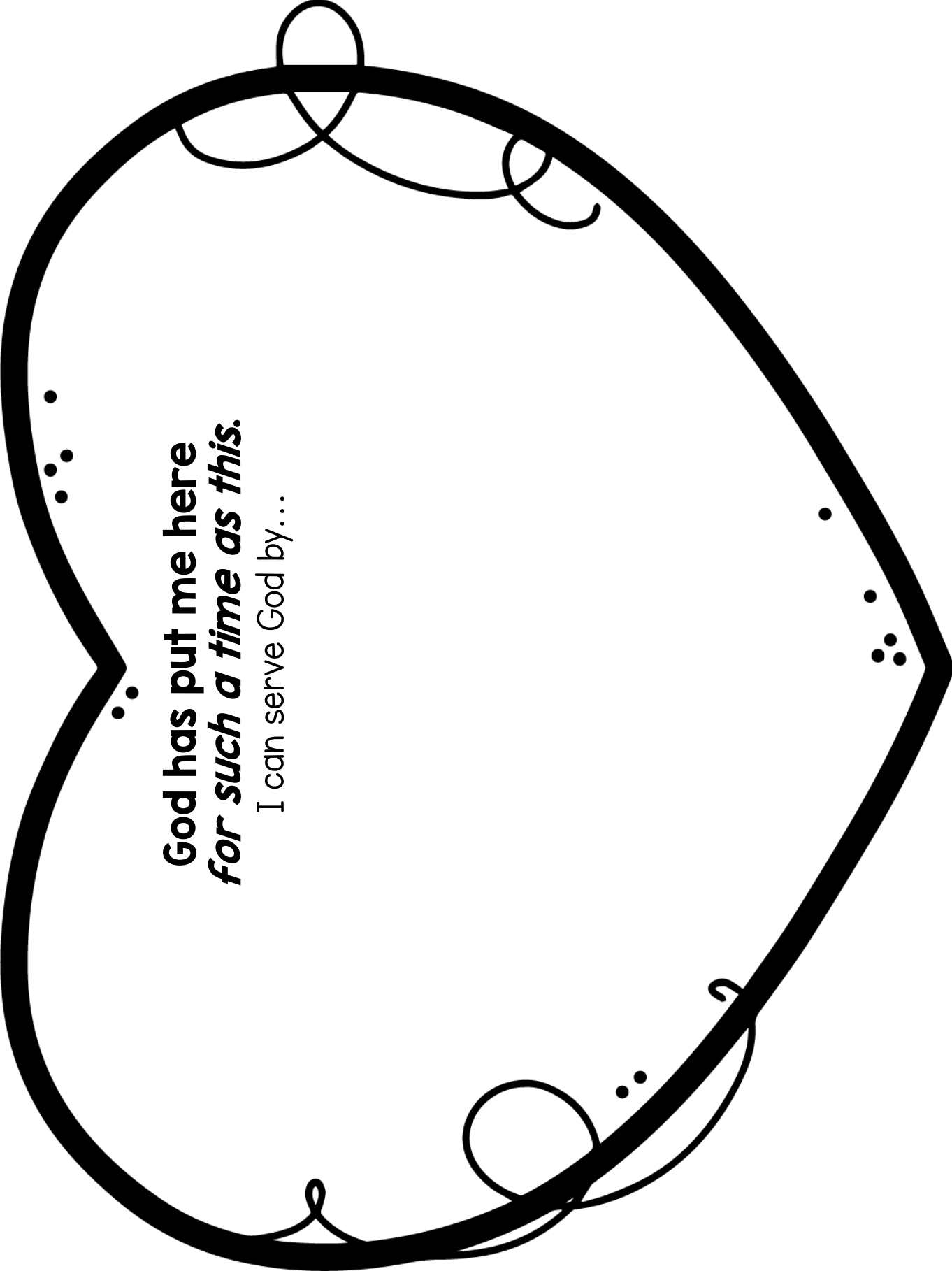
Who was Mordecai and how did he show bravery in this story?

QUESTION #3

How did the king respond to Esther?

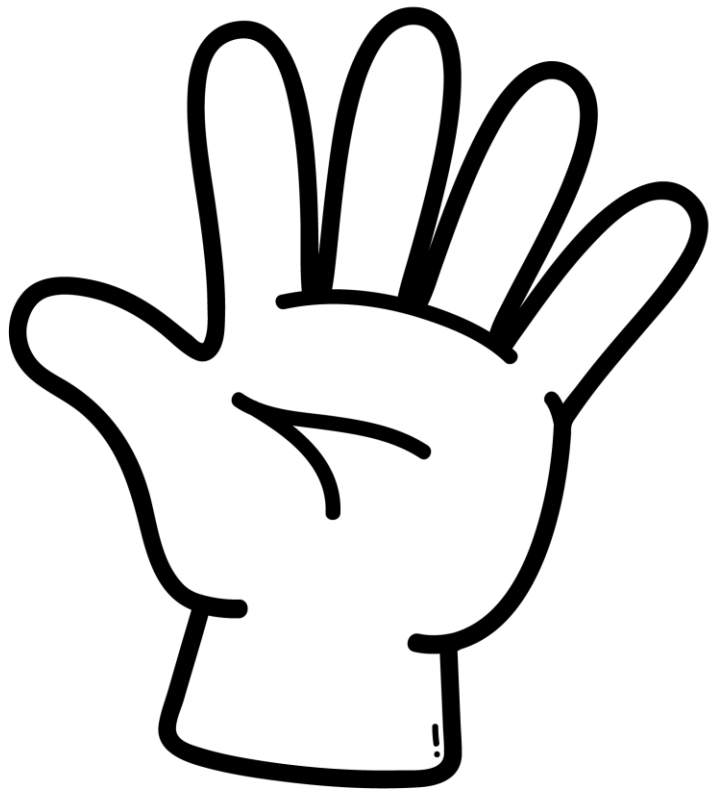
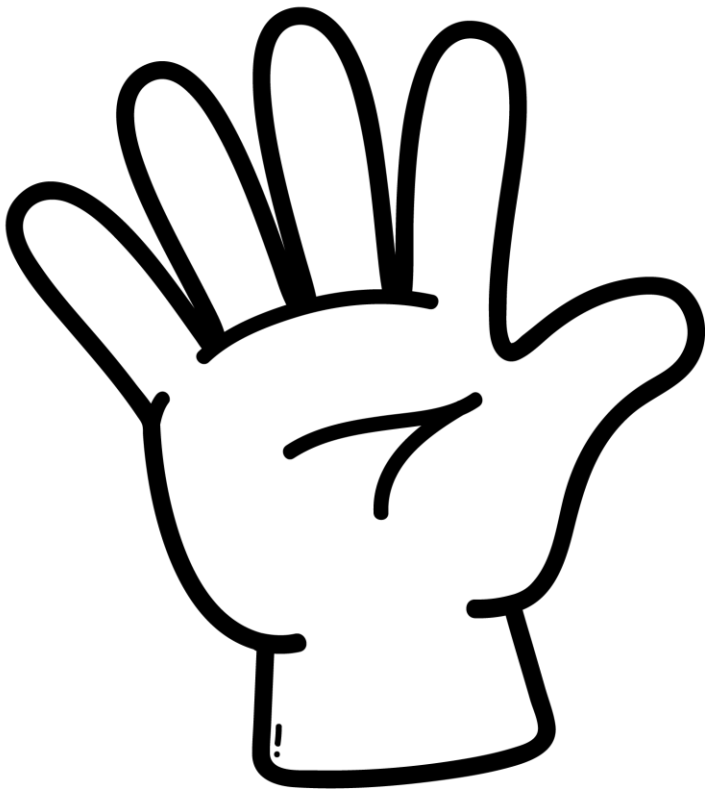
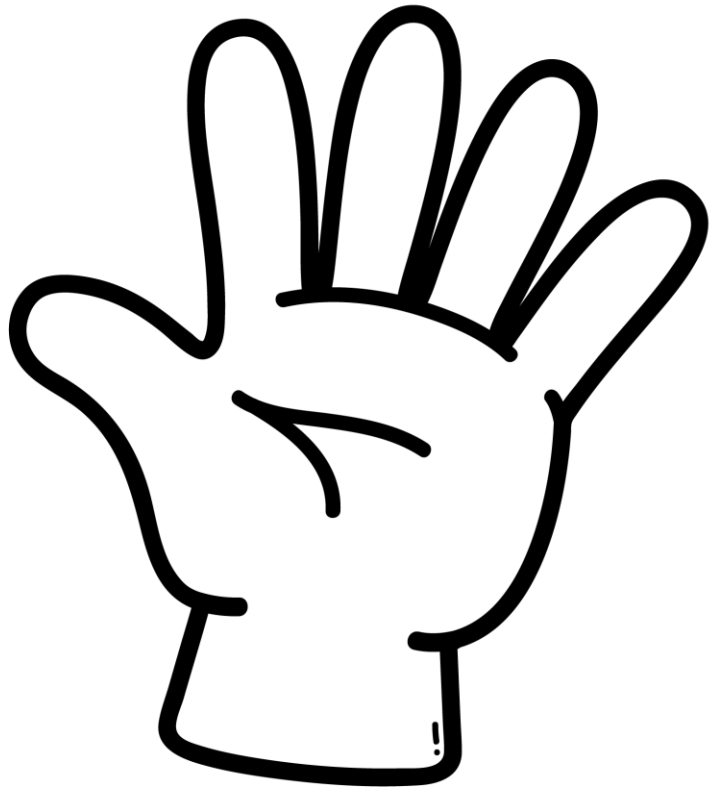
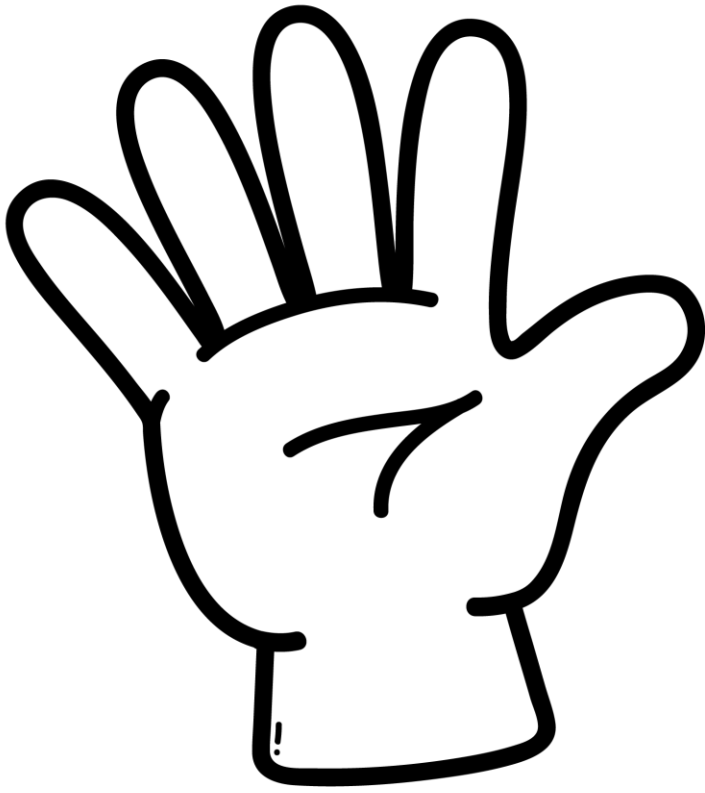
QUESTION #4

Is there a time you had to show bravery?

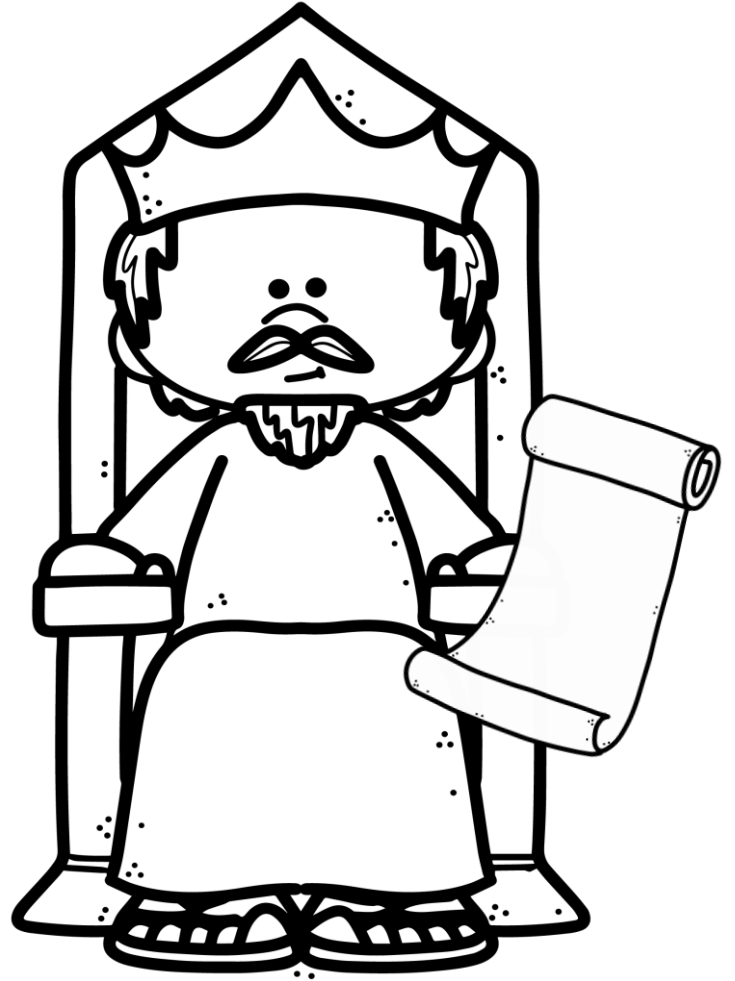
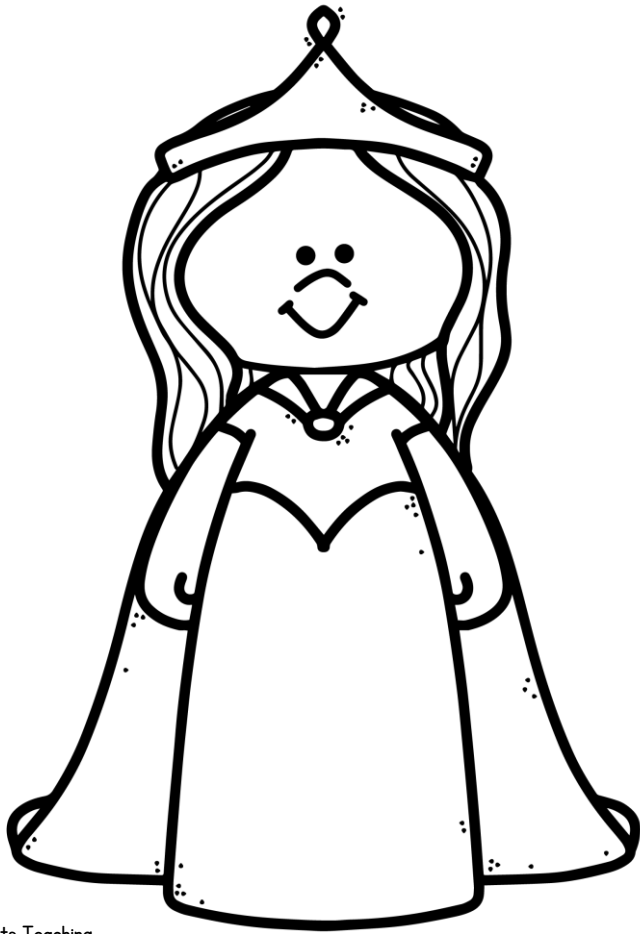


**God has put me here
for *such a time as this.***

I can serve God by...



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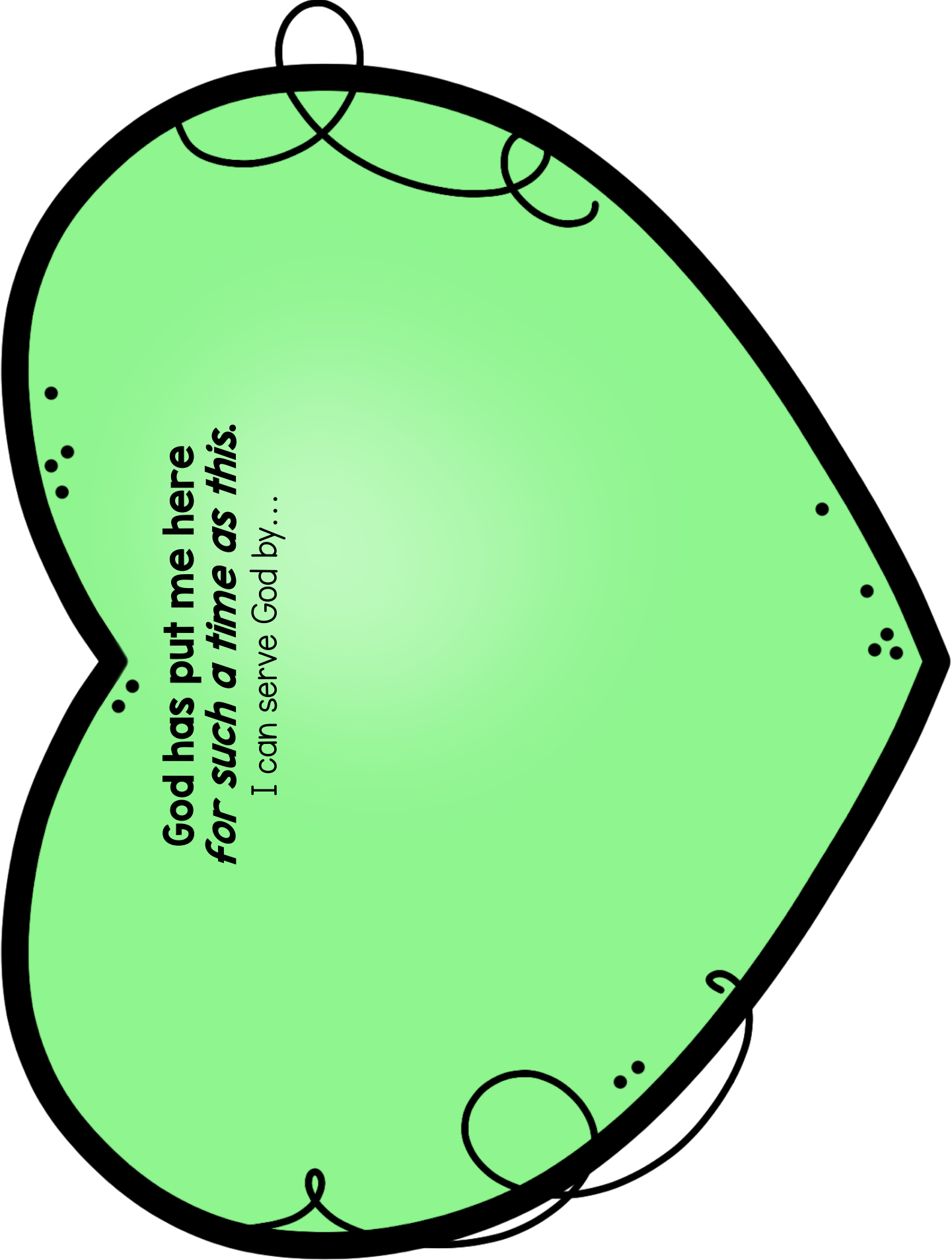


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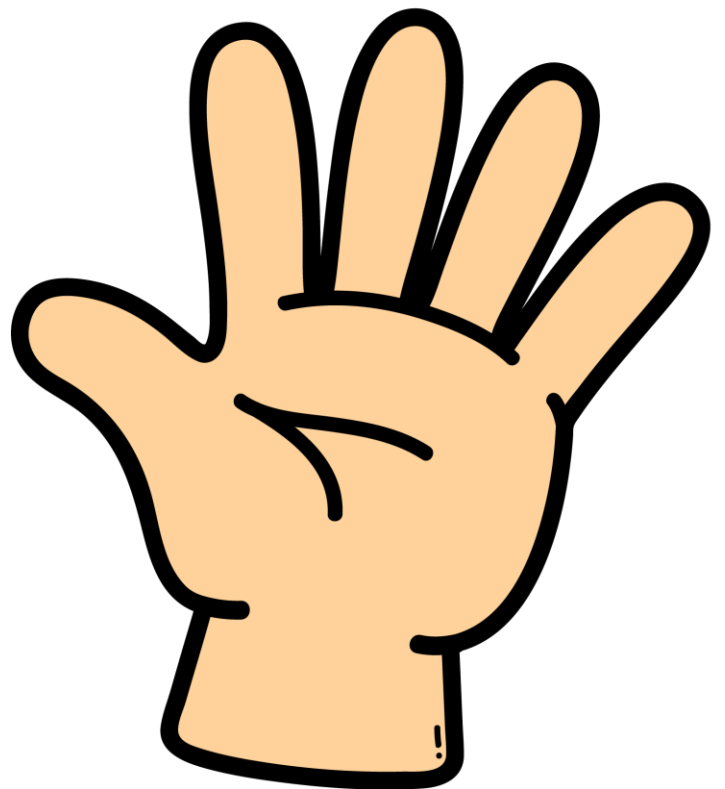
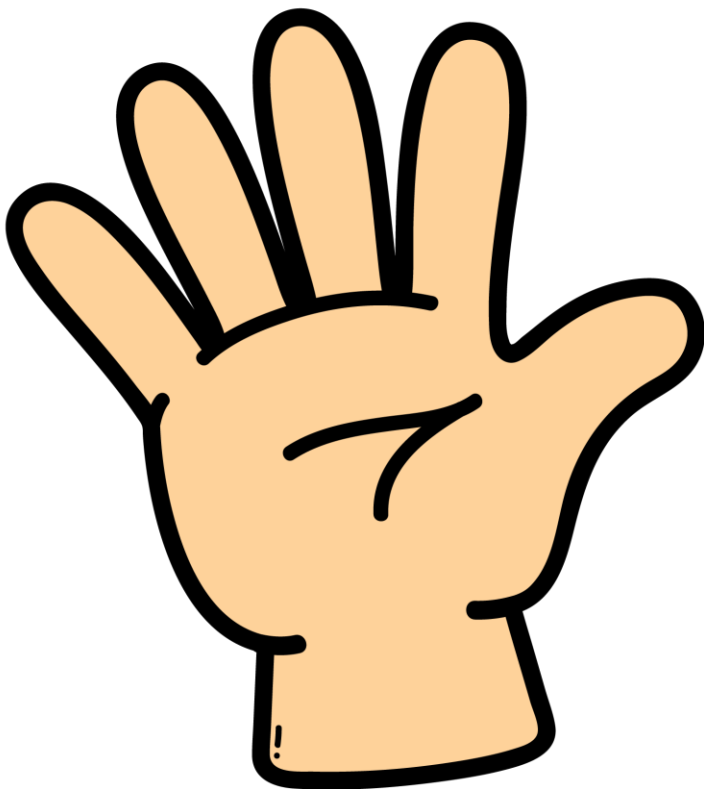
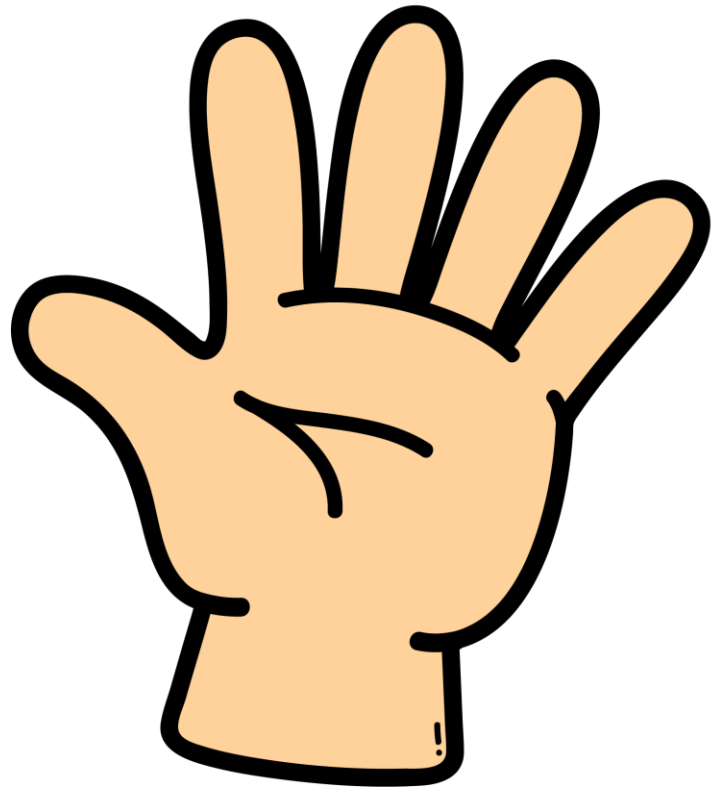
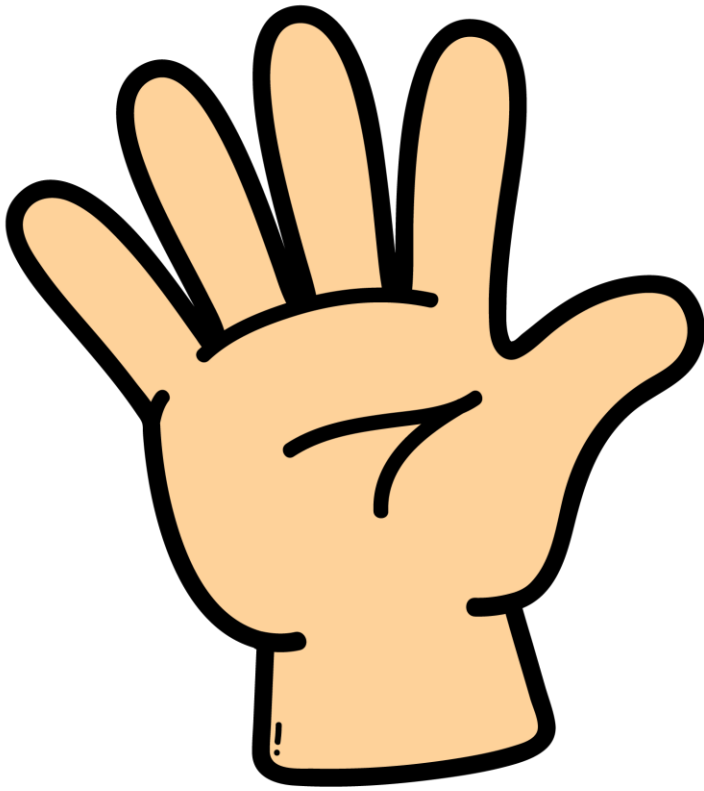
MEMORIZE THIS:

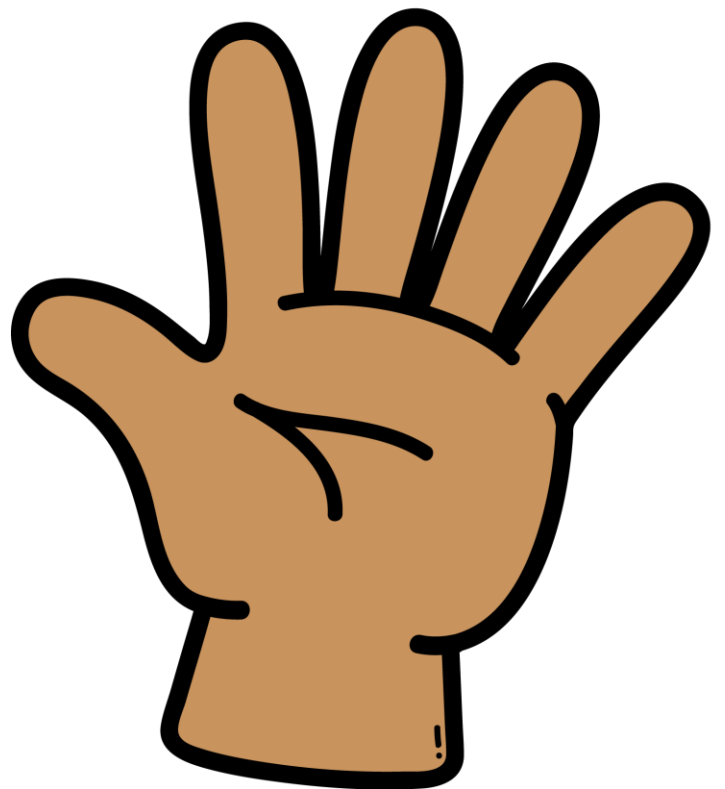
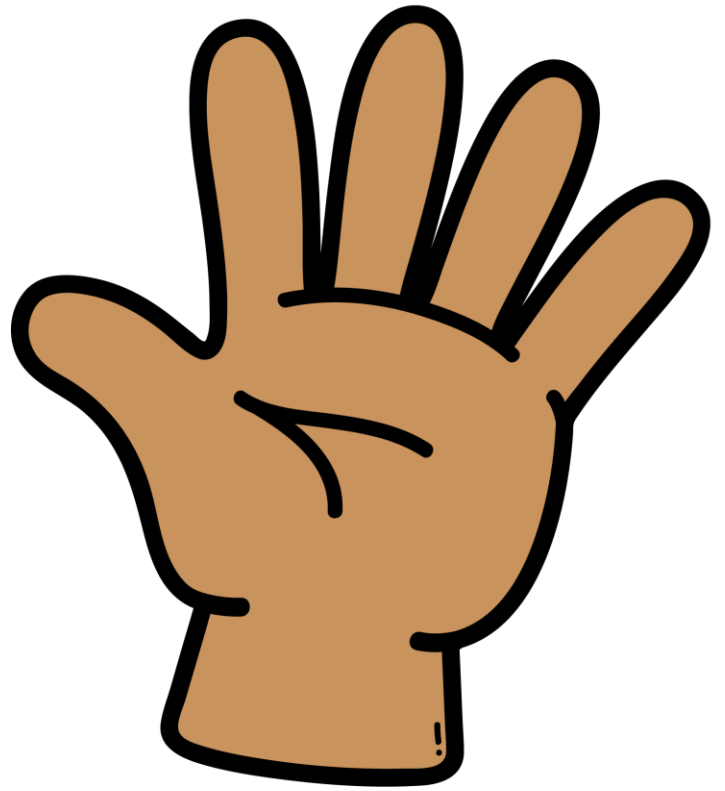
THE BIG IDEA

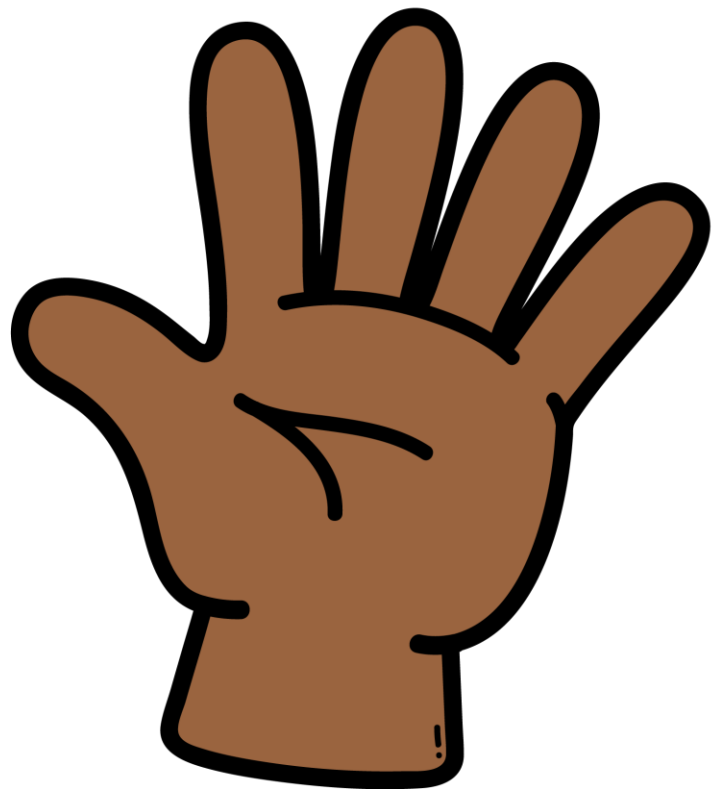
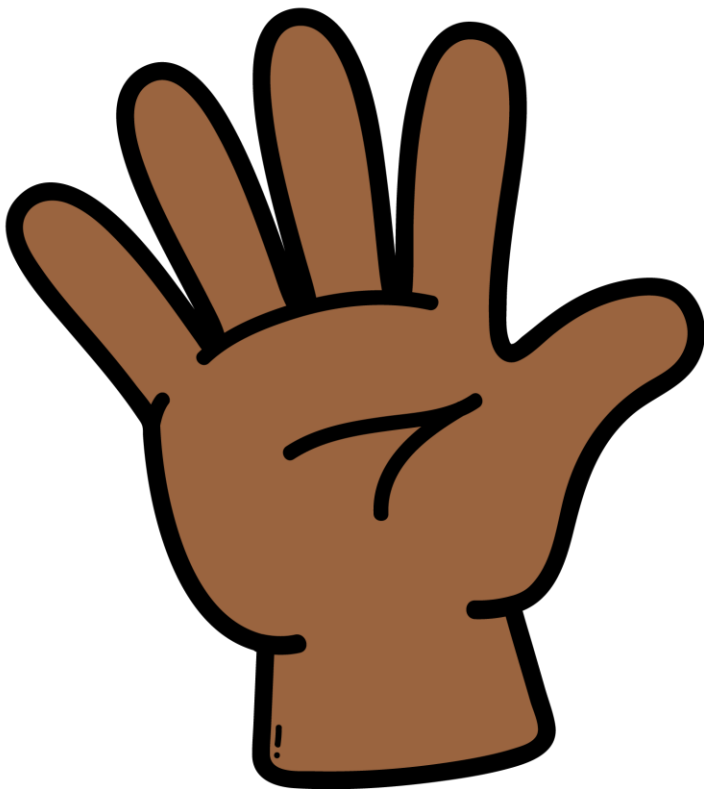
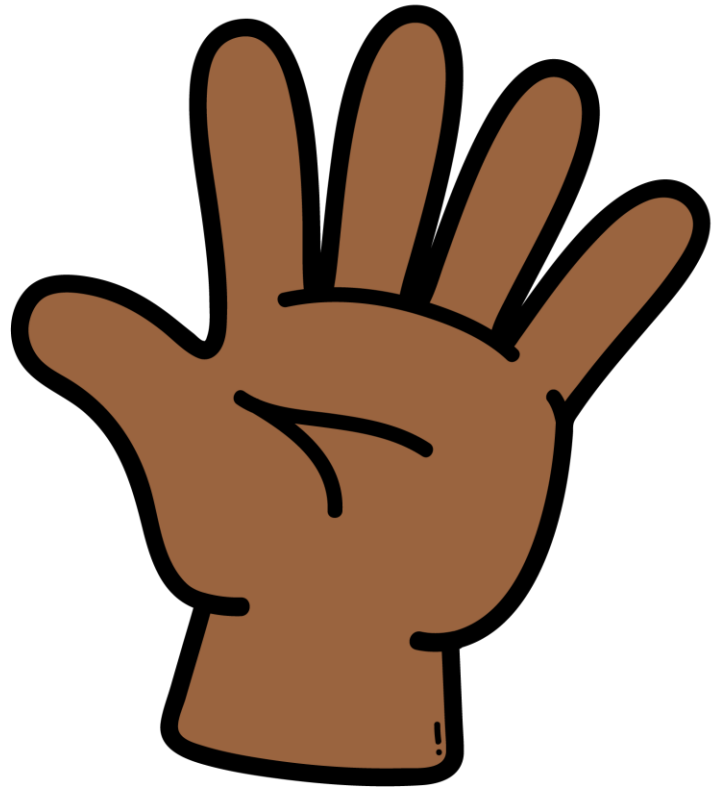
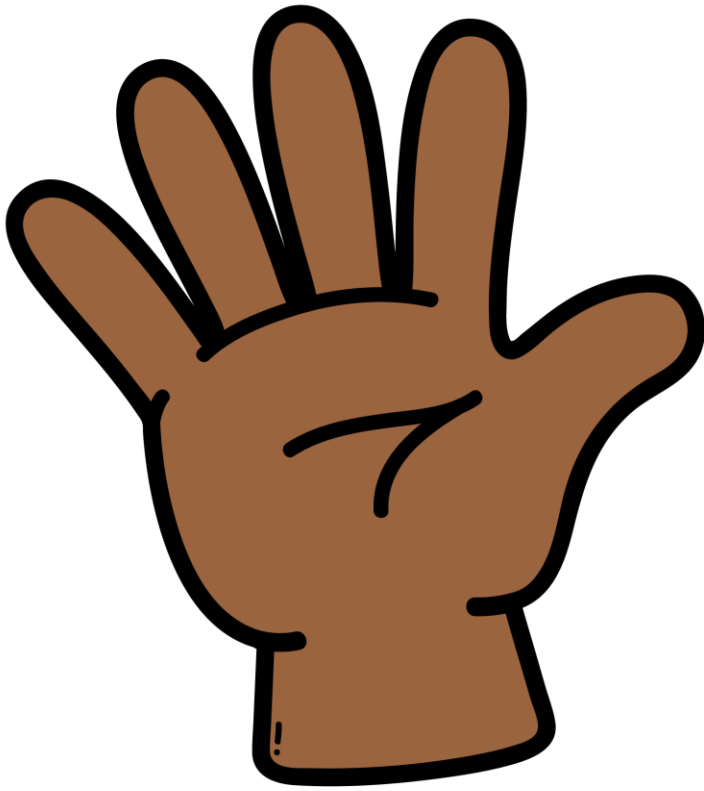
What does this story teach us about God?



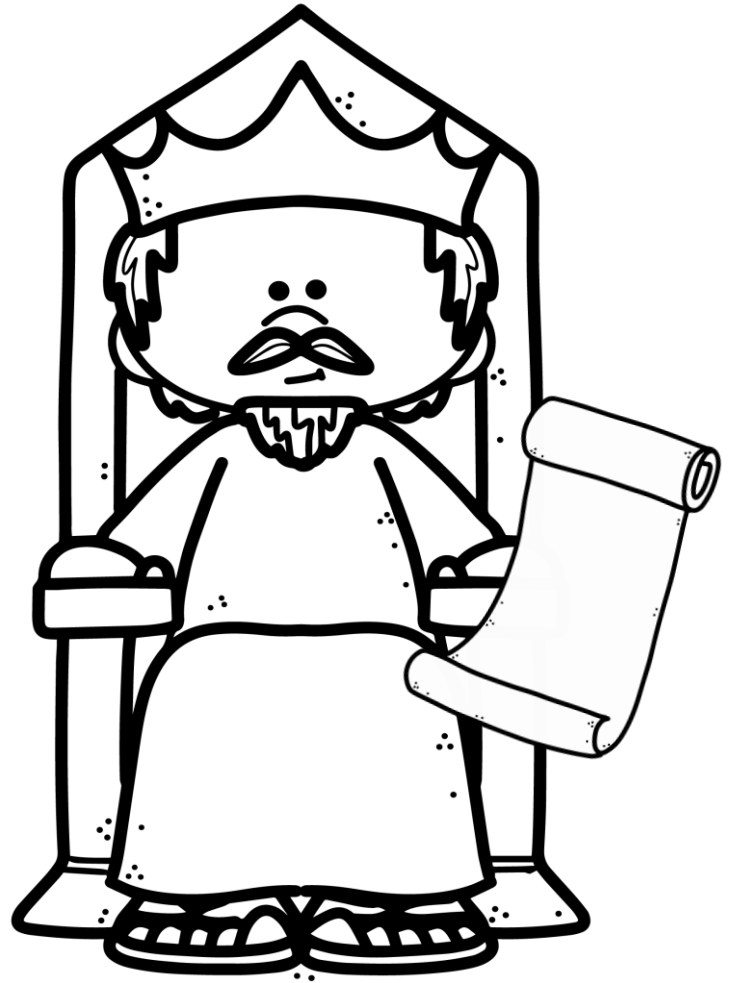
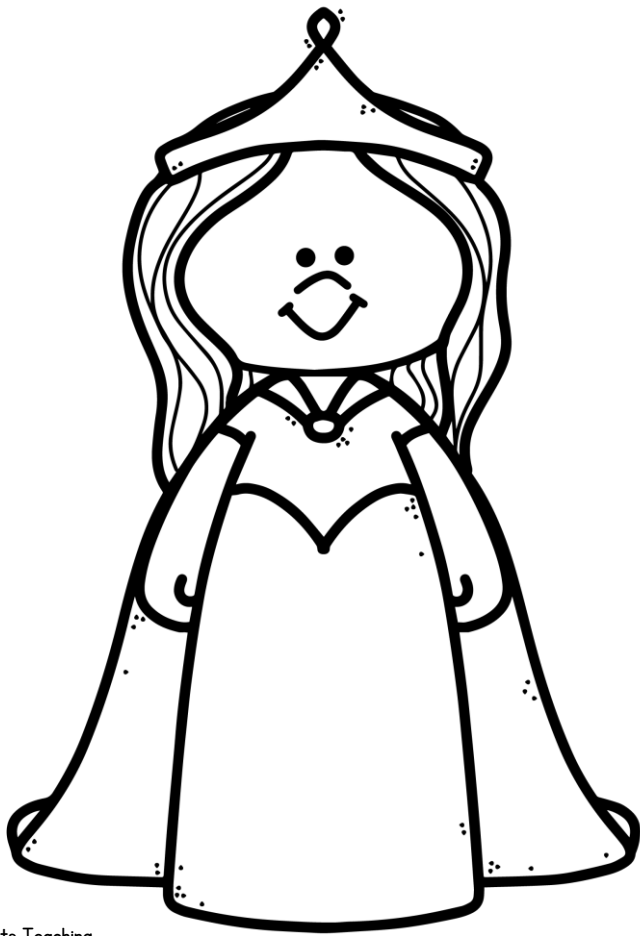
**God has put me here
for *such a time as this*.**
I can serve God by...







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MEMORIZE THIS:

...And who knows
but that you have
come to your royal
position for such a
time as this?

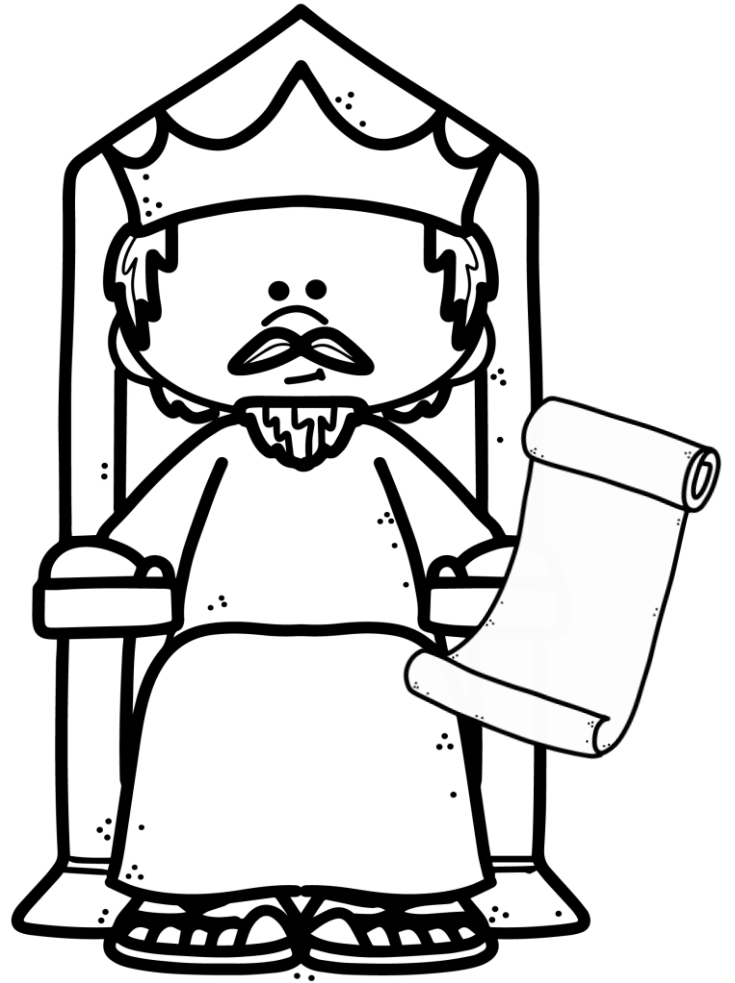
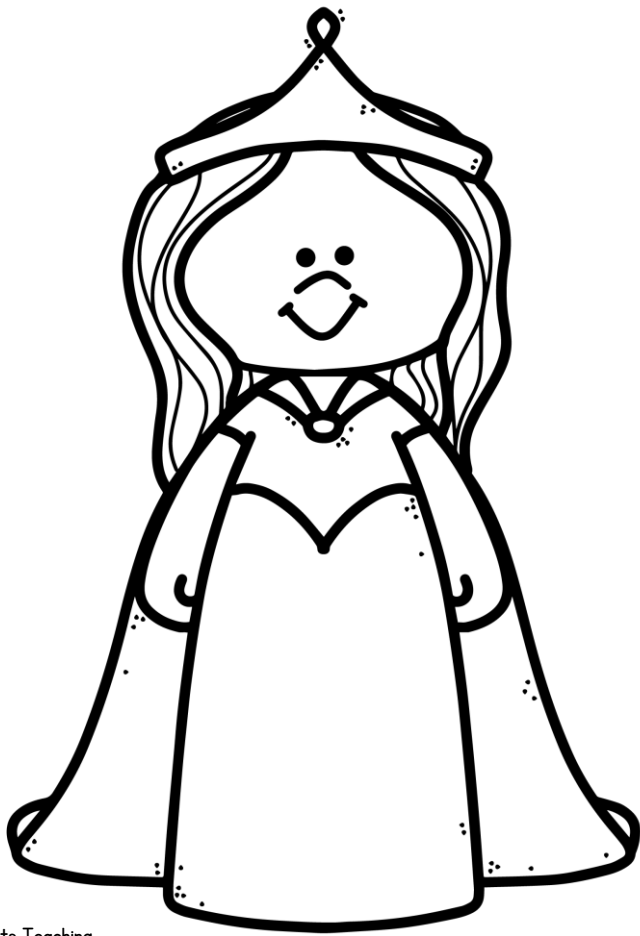
Esther 4:14b NIV

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

We can serve
God where
we are.

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MEMORIZE THIS:

...and who knoweth
whether thou art
come to the
kingdom for such a
time as this?

Esther 4:14b KJV

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

We can serve
God where
we are.