



KIDS HOUSE PARTY

PARENT GUIDE

Life App Definition

Creativity — imagining what you could do because you were made in God's image

Main Idea

God's people were in danger. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, knew that she was the new queen of Persia and the perfect person to help save them. Esther and Mordecai put their creativity into action to devise a plan to trap Haman and expose his plot to kill the Jews. Their plan succeeded, and God's people were saved! Kids are just starting to figure out how they are wired, what they enjoy doing, and how God has uniquely gifted them. We pray that as kids discover more about how God created them, they would start to understand the part they play in what God is doing in the world.

Memory Verse

"Lord, you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are" (Psalm 145:3 NIRV).

Bottom Line

God created you for a purpose.

Small-Group Discussion

Review the story and use the following questions to reinforce the lesson learned from the story.

- What was the name of the woman in our story today?
- What religion was Esther?
- When Esther's parents died, who raised her?
- What was the name of the king of Persia?
- Whom did King Xerxes fire for refusing to show up at the party?
- What did the king do to find another queen, and whom did the king choose?
- Whom did the king choose as his new queen?
- Whom did King Xerxes promote higher than all the officials in the kingdom?
- What made Haman angry, and what did he plan to do?
- What did Mordecai tell Esther to do?
- If Esther went before the king, what could happen?
- What did Esther and the Jews do for three days in preparation for her going before the king?

- How did the king react when he saw Esther?
- Esther invited the king to a feast. Whom did she ask the king to bring with him?
- How did Haman feel about being invited to the queen's feast?
- What did the king do about the news Esther told him?
- What does the following statement mean to you?

Everyone was made to do something . . . and whatever that something is, no one can do it quite like you.

- Is it possible to miss the purpose God has for you? Explain.
- Is there one specific purpose God has that is the same for EVERYONE? If so, what is it?
- How do you think our purpose changes at different times or in different places?
- What do you think your purpose might be?

Object Lesson

The following activity is intended to help your children apply the lesson that was learned in today's House Party. Complete the activity as a family by following the steps below.

Supplies Needed

- Index Cards
- Writing Utensils

Activity

- Ask the group to brainstorm words that describe themselves or people they know. For example: funny, kind, athletic, musical, artistic, encouraging, good listener, organized, writer, storyteller, actor, builder, teacher, nature lover, patient, or animal lover.
- As kids give examples, write each one on a separate index card. Ideally, you want at least 15-20 examples.
- After you finish making the cards, lay them face up in the center of the group.
- As you read a scenario from the list below, instruct kids to mentally select a card that describes someone who could help in the scenario.
- Let kids know there will probably be several possible answers for each scenario.
- On the count of three, kids slap the card they mentally selected. (Kids can slap the same card. Instruct them to be careful not to hurt each other's fingers.)
- Choose a couple of kids to share why they chose the descriptions they did and how someone who has that characteristic could help in the given situation.
- Optional for older kids: Challenge kids to be creative by removing the cards slapped and then reading the scenario again. Kids may have to be more creative in the answers they select.
- Scenarios:
 - The jump ropes used for gym class are a tangled mess. Who can help?
 - It's time for the Christmas pageant. The director needs help with creating the set and the costumes. Who can help?

- A kid on the soccer team struggles with getting the ball to where it's supposed to go. Who can help? (The obvious answer is someone athletic, but someone who is encouraging or a good teacher could also help.)
 - The local animal shelter needs someone to care for the animals and walk the dogs. Who can help?
 - There's a bake sale to raise money for the youth group's mission trip. Who can help?
 - Two friends are in a fight. Who can help them work out their differences?
 - The teacher has left the room, and the class is getting crazy. Who can help everybody calm down and follow the rules?
 - Somebody on the playground fell, and their hand is bleeding. Who can help?
 - Is there an outreach or service organization in your church that gives kids the opportunity to use their talents to serve? If so, create a scenario incorporating that organization.
- Share this with your children: Figuring out your purpose can take some time. Esther didn't know her purpose as queen right away, but it eventually became clear to her. Recognizing what you like to do and what you are good at can help you discover God's purpose for you. Maybe you're a good listener and see an opportunity to listen to a friend who is sad and needs to talk. If you're funny and a great storyteller, you might see opportunities to make people around you smile. God created you for a purpose. Keeping your eyes open for problems that you have the skills or ideas to solve can help you find your purpose. Being aware of the people around you who may need the kind of help you can offer can help you figure out your purpose.
 - Take a few minutes to share what you see in each of your children and encourage them in this area.
 - End by sharing about a time you used a skill or talent you have to help others.

Prayer

Take a moment and pray with your children. Thank God that He has a purpose for each of us. Ask Him to help all of us have the courage to do what He wants us to do.

Dear God,

You are great! You made us in Your image, and You created us for a purpose. Thank You for the many gifts and talents You have given each of us. Help us see opportunities to use what You have given us to help and serve others. Thank You, most of all, for Jesus, who came to make a way for us to be with You, now and forever. Amen.