

Children's Sunday School

Sunday's from 9:45 – 10:30am

Children's Sunday School with Kim Ridenour is offered in-person and virtually every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am for children ages 4-18. For more information, contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net or the Church Office at 301.739.7244. Those wishing to participate virtually can join by Zoom by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **865 7471 1577** and Passcode: **YouthSS**.

Children's Church

Available In-Person Only

Children's Church is available during worship for those worshipping in-person after the Children's Moment is over in Sunday Worship.



Worship @ 11 am Sunday Mornings in-person at



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
201 N Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
www.ZionReformed.church

or virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>

Hearing God's Word:



Today in church, the scriptures reminded us to focus on God, to be compassionate of others through prayer and action, and that God is always at work behind the scenes. Some of the scriptures we explored in church today included Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, and 20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; and Mark 9:38-50.

Esther's Request

(Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, and 20-22, *International Children's Bible*®, ©2015 by Tommy Nelson Inc)

So the king and Haman went in to eat with Queen Esther. They were drinking wine. And the king said to Esther on this second day also, "What are you asking for? I will give it to you. What is it you want? I will give you as much as half of my kingdom." Then Queen Esther answered, "My king, I hope you are pleased with me. If it pleases you, let me live. This is what I ask. And let my people live, too. This is what I want. I ask this because my people and I have been sold to be destroyed. We are to be killed and completely wiped out. If we had been sold as slaves, I would have kept quiet. That would not be enough of a problem to bother the king." Then King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he? Who has done such a thing?" Esther said, "A man who is against us! Our enemy is this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was filled with terror before the king and queen. Harbona was one of the eunuchs there serving the king. He said, "Look, a platform for hanging people stands near Haman's house. It is 75 feet high. This is the one Haman had prepared for Mordecai, who gave the warning that saved the king." The king said, "Hang Haman on it!" So they hanged Haman on the platform he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king was not so angry anymore. Mordecai wrote down everything that had happened. Then he sent letters to all the Jews in all the empire of King Xerxes. He sent letters to places far and near. Mordecai did this to have the Jews celebrate every year. They were to celebrate on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar. It was to celebrate a time when the Jews got rid of their



enemies. They were also to celebrate it as the month their sadness was turned to joy. It was the month when their crying for the dead was turned into celebration. Mordecai wrote letters to all the Jews. He wrote to tell them to celebrate those days as days of joyful feasting. It was to be a time of giving food to each other. And it was a time of giving presents to the poor.

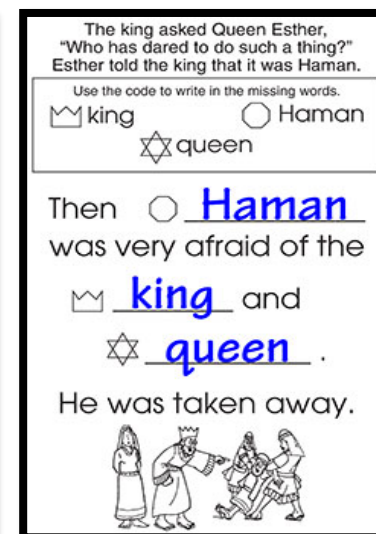
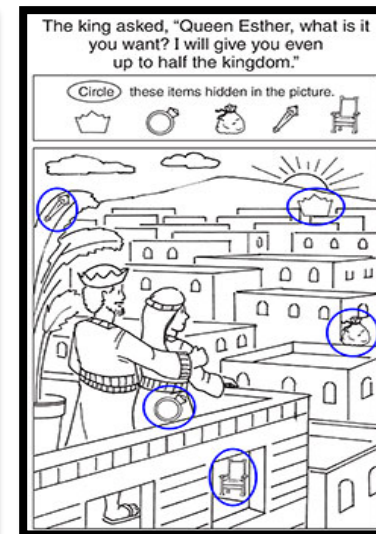
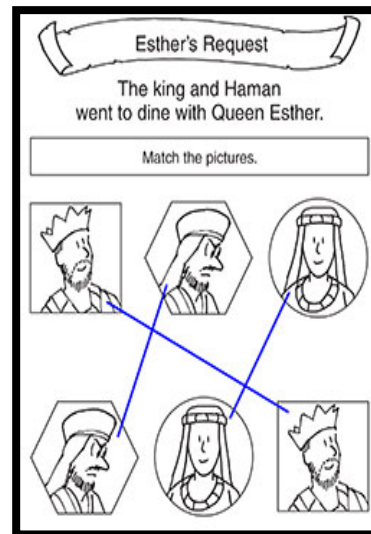
Family Reflection: Women who Made a Difference

Let's talk about strong, wise women. You may have many strong, wise women in your life – your mother, grandmother, an aunt, neighbor, or friend. Let's remember some other strong, wise women from history and what they did to make a difference.

- Madam Curie was the woman who invented x-rays. Because of her we have a way to look inside our bodies and see our bones.
- Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly by herself across the Atlantic Ocean. She loved flying and set many records.
- Pearl S. Buck, a woman who lived in China, wrote wonderful books, helped others, and adopted nine children. She was a wise woman.
- Rosa Parks was a woman who worked to make sure all people had certain rights, no matter what color their skin. This brave woman worked to make freedom possible for all.
- Helen Keller was a brave woman who was blind and deaf. She learned sign language and also read and wrote by using Braille. (Perhaps you have seen Braille on an elevator – tiny bumps arranged so people who are blind can use their hands to read messages.) She worked very hard to help other people who had lost their sight.
- Pocahontas was a wise Indian woman who used friendship to make peace between the Native American people and the settlers.
- Antoinette Brown was the first woman since New Testament times ordained as a Christian minister, and perhaps the first woman in history elected to serve a Christian congregation as pastor.

#UCCfirsts

Answer Key:



Blessing of the Animals Family Activities



Play Animal Charades: One person acts out an animal (without making any noise!) as everyone else guess what creature is being portrayed.

Outside Together: Sit together outside your home and see how many animals you notice. Notice what the animals are doing. Are they searching for food? Are they playing together?

Family Adventure: Visit a petting zoo like the one at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve (<https://catoctinwildlifepreserve.com>) as a family for safe, direct interaction with animals that allows visitors to feed as well as touch the animals.

Waterfront Picnic: Pack a picnic basket and take a trip to a local pond or river. While there Talk about how wildlife is part of the environment that humans enjoy. Share your knowledge about how human actions affect wildlife, for example, share that feeding scraps of bread to waterfowl can actually harm them. Online, find information on encounters with animals in the wild, such as a Wildlife Safety section of the National Park Service website (www.nps.gov/kefj/planyourvisit/wildlife-safety.htm).

Make Vegan Dog Treats: Make vegan dog treats together as a family to give out as gifts or to treat your own furry companion. Consider donating some to the Zion Food Pantry and/or to a no-kill shelter, or for a fundraiser to benefit one (or both) of these places. In addition to the ingredients, you will need small resealable gift bags and stickers to list the ingredients and place any personalized message you desire. Don't forget to have fun decorating the bags together too! *(Recipe included on insert)*

- Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the second woman to serve as an associate justice of the Supreme Court [Sandra Day O'Connor was the first]. She was an advocate for gender equality and womens' rights.

Our Hebrew lesson today spoke of a strong, wise woman. I think she would definitely fit into the category of Super Hero.

*Who is your favorite super hero? Why?
(Go around the room taking turns answering)*

This woman super hero found in the Bible is named Esther. She was a beautiful, Jewish queen and she learned that her people were going to be harmed. She went to the king and asked, in a very brave and wise way, for his help. The king agreed to help her. Even to this day the Jewish people celebrate a holiday each year known as the Feast of Purim which commemorates the Jewish people being saved as a result of Esther's actions.

These are just a few of the women who have made a difference in our world. All of us can learn from these women and give thanks for the strong, wise women in our lives.

*Who is your favorite strong, wise woman that made a difference? Why?
(That you heard of or in your own life – Take turns answering)*



Family Discussion:

Esther used the power given to her to not only benefit herself but all of her people, the Israelites. She is a great example of someone who prayed for others and who lived her life focused on God.

A Question for Adults to ask Children:

Have you ever been frightened?

We all have times that we are afraid, even adults are scared at times. Queen Esther from our Bible story was a young lady who found courage even though she was afraid to talk to the king. She spent much time in prayer and contemplation seeking God's direction before doing so in a wise manner.

A Question for Children to ask Adults:

What is a time that you were frightened?

A Prayer to Say Together:

Dear God,

Thank you for brave people who spread your Word and thank you for all of the heroes of our faith. We thank you for the strong, wise women in our lives who are our very own superheroes.

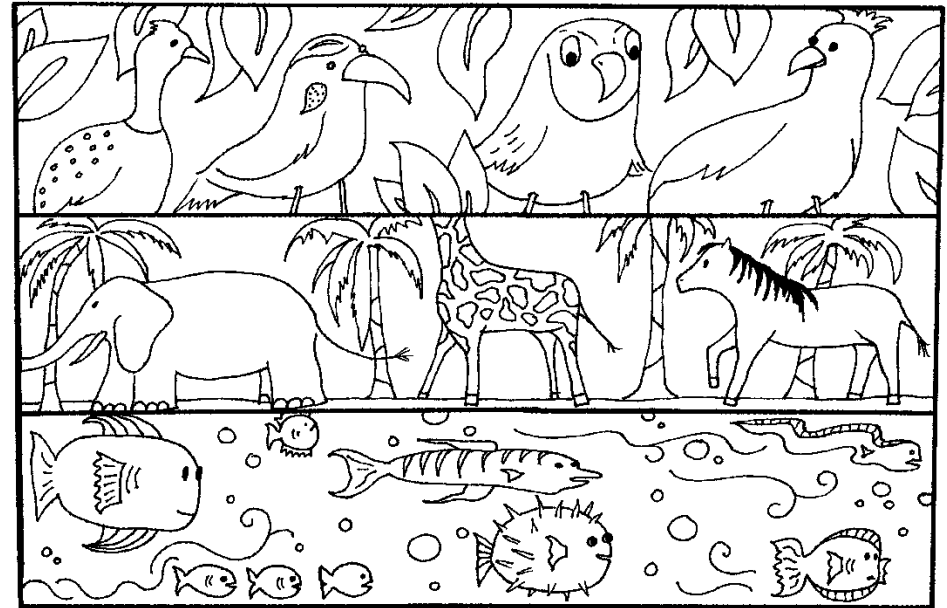
We pray that you help us to be strong and wise living our lives for you by being compassionate to others in action and prayer.

Amen.



Blessing of the Animals

Today at church we had a Blessing of the Animals service during worship where we came together to bless the animals. This tradition comes from our Catholic friends. A blessing shows how we appreciate the animals in our lives. These might be the pets in our families. It can also be animals we think are beautiful to look at or nice to pet on a farm, or animals that give us wool for clothes, pull plows on farms, and even give us their bodies for our food.



In the creation story (Genesis 1:1-31), God creates the entire world and everything in it, even the animals. It was then that God instructed us to care for all of creation.

Do you have a pet?

Why is it important to take care of God's creation?

What do you think God meant by "rule" over the animals and all living things?

Dear God, Thank you for everything you made for us, especially the animals. Help us to take good care of all of your gifts. Amen.

Local Women Making a Difference:

Here are a few women from Washington County who made a difference in our world that could be considered modern-day super heroes.

- Ann Carroll Fitzhugh Smith was a civil rights figure. Born in Hagerstown, Ann Fitzhugh moved to NY state with her family where she married abolitionist and philanthropist Gerrit Smith. Together they were pioneers in the abolition and womens' rights movements. They conducted a station of the underground railroad from their home, purchased the freedom of slaves and helped to establish former slaves with new lives in the north and in Canada. She served as one of 174 delegates in 1837 for the first National Womens' Anti-Slavery Convention in NY city.
- Susan Cox was born in Hagerstown and after marrying moved to Illinois where she enlisted in the 83rd Illinois Infantry Nurse Corps. As a Civil War nurse she did much more than change bandages, tend wounds, and dispense medicine. Her responsibilities also included passing out supplies, writing letters for the injured soldiers, reading to them, cooking and serving meals, laundry and more often while being exposed to enemy fire.
- Gina Marie Groh, a native of Williamsport, MD helps ensure justice in the legal system as the Chief United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia located in Martinsburg, WV.
- Mayor Emily Keller, Hagerstown's current mayor is the first woman mayor of Hagerstown. She acts on behalf of the oppressed and marginalized people of Hagerstown giving them a voice in addition to representing all others. She also is the founder of Washington Goes Purple, an organization that brings awareness to the opioid crisis.



Family Activities:

Here are some activities you can do together as a family and discussion ideas to explore God's Word together.



Hero Masks: Cut out an eye mask and write JESUS IS MY HERO around the edge of the mask. Attach the masked eyes cut out with elastic to hold the mask on your head.

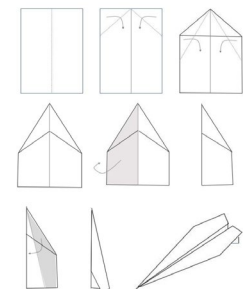
Create a Bag Puppet: Decorate a white or brown paper lunch bag as a woman HERO who serves Jesus or QUEEN ESTHER. Curly ribbon can be used for the hair as well as a crown drawn and colored and taped to the top of the bag puppet.



Decorate a Crown: Decorate a crown fit for Queen Esther. Different colors of tissue paper, sequins, and glitter can be used to decorate it with jewels. Use colorful paints or markers to write special words to remember from today's lesson.



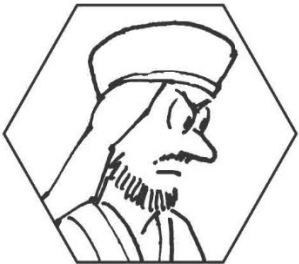
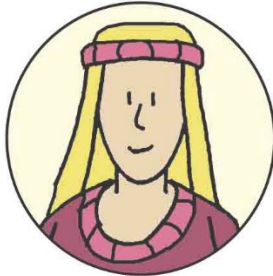
Connect with God Together: In James 5:13 we are told that anyone who is having troubles [or is afraid] should pray. Create paper airplanes to write or draw your worries, fears or troubles that you want to take to God in prayer. Then as an act of prayer throw them to symbolize the release of those concerns to God. James 5:14 goes on to tell us that anyone who is happy should sing praises. After you have given your troubles and fears to God in prayer, put on some worship songs and spend time singing, dancing, and praising God together.



Esther's Request

The king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.

Match the pictures.



Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com **SECRET CODE**
BRFR60



Don't be afraid. God, your God, will be with you
everywhere you go, every step you take.
~ Joshua 1:9b ~

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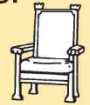


And who knows, you may have been chosen queen
for just such a time as this.

~ Esther 4:14b ~

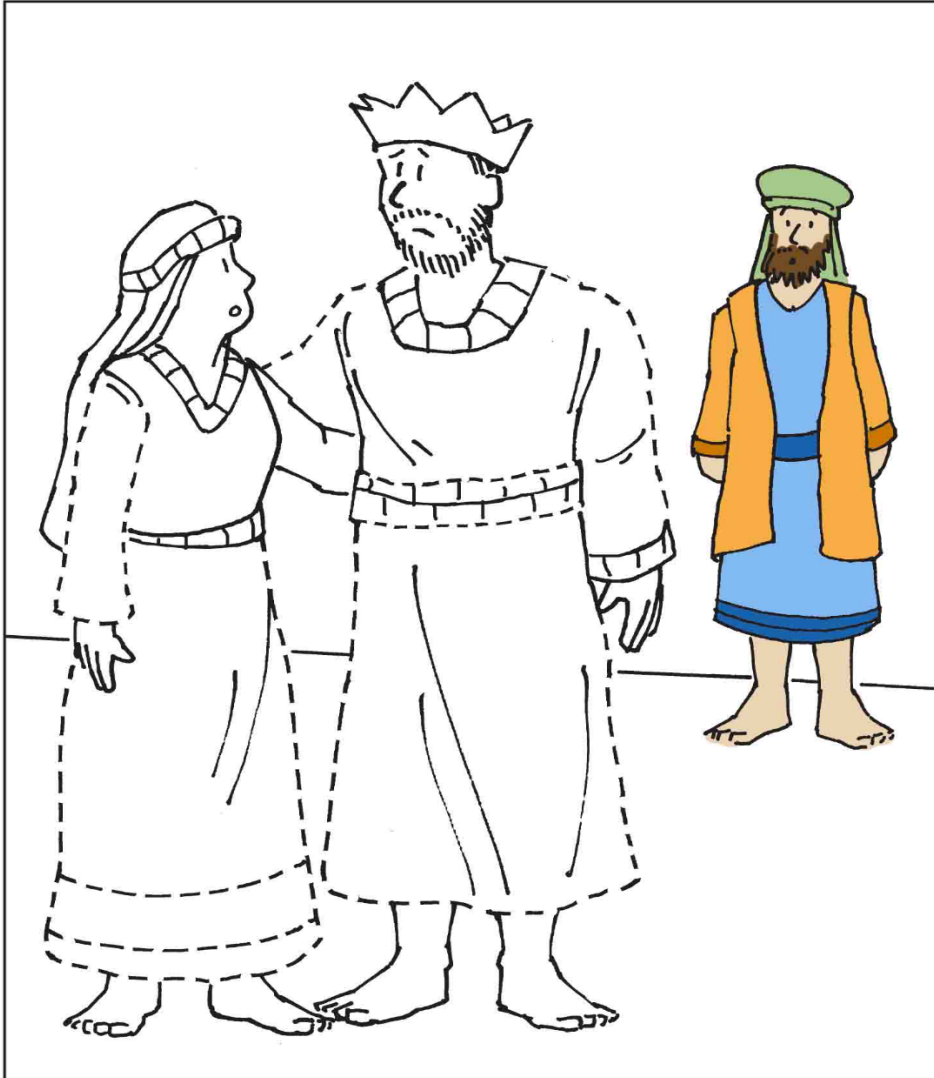
The king asked, "Queen Esther, what is it
you want? I will give you even
up to half the kingdom."

Circle these items hidden in the picture.



The queen asked the king to spare her life and the lives of her people. She told him that they all had been sold to be destroyed.

Finish the picture.



The king asked Queen Esther, "Who has dared to do such a thing?" Esther told the king that it was Haman.

Use the code to write in the missing words.

 king

 Haman

 queen

Then  _____
was very afraid of the

 _____ and

 _____ .

He was taken away.

