

LESSON: SPEAK UP: Jesus Speaks Up, Esther

BIG IDEA: Jesus speaks up for me to God the Father.

GATHER/PREP: Bell

OPENING: Did you know that your **words matter**?!
Did you know that what you **speak** matters?
Jesus says that “**out of the heart, the mouth speaks**”
That means: What’s really going on in here (*indicate your heart*)
Will eventually come out of here (*indicate your mouth*)
Let’s learn our new memory verse...

(****Take time now to teach the new verse**)

Sometimes other people are hurt and we need to **tell someone**,
like a teacher or a parent.

This is called “**speaking up**” for that person.

Say, “**speak up**” (*children*)

Today, we will meet a queen from the Bible named Esther.

She will **speak up** to the King for God’s people, Israel.

And just like Esther **speaks up** for God’s people to the King.

Jesus speaks up for us to God the Father.

LESSON: Read **Queen Esther Speaks Up** from *The Beginner’s Gospel Story Bible* p.144

****WATCH: “Esther” (on USB in BIBLE folder)****

Have you ever had to **speak up** for someone to help them?

Queen Esther did what was right by **speaking up** for God’s people.

GOSPEL We were enemies of God because of sin.

But God the Father sent Jesus, His Son, to save us from sin.

Now God the Son, Jesus, **speaks up** for us to God the Father,
so that we can have peace with God forever!

Just like Queen Esther **spoke up** for God’s people to the King,
Jesus **speaks up** for us to God the Father.

Say this after me...

Jesus speaks up for me (*children*) **to God the Father** (*children*)

PRAYER: *Focused prayer on theme with the lesson.*

****NEW MEMORY VERSE:**

• The words you speak come from the heart. (Matthew 15:18)

Actions: The words you speak (*hand puppet talking in front of mouth*)

Come from the heart (*trace a line with a finger from your heart and out of your mouth*)

SONG: Sing “**THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE - Motions**” (**on USB**)

CRAFT/ACTIVITY/GAME: *Esther Maze/Coloring Sheet*