



ESTHER

God is Omniscient

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

GOD KNOWS THE NEED

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The Old Testament books are divided into four groups:

- Books of the Law (Genesis through Deuteronomy)
- Books of History (Joshua through Esther)
- Books of Poetry (Job through Song of Solomon)
- Books of the Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi)

These 39 books were not all written in the indexed order. Certain books were written at approximately the same time, as follows:

Genesis, Job	2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos,
Exodus, Leviticus	Hosea, Micah, Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah,
Numbers, Deuteronomy	Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations
Joshua	Daniel, Ezekiel
Judges, Ruth	1 Kings, 1 Chronicles, Song of Solomon, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
1 Samuel	Ezra, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah
2 Samuel, Psalms	Nehemiah, Malachi

Keep a copy of this list in your notebook. Refer to it frequently. Observe that the books of Ezra and Esther were written at the same time. Esther's experiences fit exactly between chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra. (See Old Testament Volume 27.)

The Jews had been captives of the Babylonians and the Persians. A new Persian king gave the Israelites their freedom. Only about 50,000 of them elected to return to Jerusalem. Many, including Esther and her relatives, chose to stay in Persia. God knows everything. He knew that in time those who remained could be destroyed. To preserve them, He would use Esther, a Jewish girl.

The name of God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. Yet He is in the book. His sovereignty and loving care for His people are obvious. Carefully observe the precise timing of events. As you teach these lessons, continually emphasize the omniscience of God. On a poster print in large letters: *God Is Omniscient*. Add definition: *God Knows Everything*.

As you introduce and review the memory verse, display the poster. Hold it aloft whenever a lesson event emphasizes this truth.

The Lord God created the universe: heavens, earth, everything, everyone. He has perfect knowledge of all His creation (Job 37:16). He knows all that will occur and when it will occur (Acts 15:18). He is omniscient. He knew all about Esther. He knows all about you, Teacher, and each of your students. Make this glorious truth live!

Scripture to be studied: Esther 1:1-2:20; Psalm 139:1-4, 13-16

The aim of the lesson: God knows all about everything.

What your students should know: God has given each of us certain abilities. We should use these gifts to serve Him.

What your students should feel: Thankful that God loved us enough to plan for us.

What your students should do: Determine right now to serve God throughout their lives.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. The king's ambitious plan (Esther 1:1-9).
2. The king's proud demand (Esther 1:10-22).
3. The king's search (Esther 2:1-14).
4. The king's new queen (Esther 2:15-20).

The verse to be memorized:

God . . . knows all things. (1 John 3:20)

THE LESSON

Do you know anyone who is especially beautiful? Pretty girls often receive much attention. Contests are sometimes held to decide which girl is loveliest. Today's lesson describes a beauty contest held hundreds of years ago. The winner won something many girls wanted. And she became important in history. Listen carefully!

Many of God's people, the Israelites, were living in Persia. Years before, the Lord had punished them for disobedience. Their land had been conquered. And the people were taken as captives to a foreign land. There they settled to rear their families. Years later, some wanted to return to their homeland.