

Take a Stand

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 **Lesson 7****Focus:**Take a stand for
God.**Lesson 7****Bible Basis:**

Esther 2:17—9:5

Lesson 7**Memory Verse:**“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and
you will see the deliverance the
LORD will bring you today.” —
Exodus 14:13

Students will watch a video made by some elementary students who decided to take a stand against bullying as they discuss what it looks like to take a stand for God.

Materials:

- Internet access

➤ **Have you ever had to stand up for something that was important to you? Tell us about it.** (Be prepared to share your own experience. Answers will vary and may include: I stood up to someone who was bullying my friend; I participated in the March for Life with my family; my class wrote letters to help stop animal cruelty, etc.)

According to the Pew Research Center, around 2-in-10 middle and high school students were bullied in 2019-2020. A group of elementary school students in Virginia took a stand against bullying by creating—with some help from their parents—an anti-bullying campaign video. Let’s take a look at the video and see how these students show how bullying can affect those around them and how they took a stand to make change for the better.

Share the following video [9:01; If you are short on time, show 3:20-5:40]:

NEW NEIGHBOR GETS BULLIED | INSTANT REGRET ! #nobullying
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W57jbCVuwJA>

➤ **The girl in the video saw a problem she didn’t like and took a stand to try to change it. What was she risking by standing up to a bully?** (Answers may include: She could’ve been bullied as well; she could’ve lost friendships over her decision to take a stand, etc.)

➤ **What positive changes might happen because of her decision to stand up against a bully?** (Some possible answers: Making a positive difference in the bullied student’s life; other friends standing up and speaking out; helping the bully to understand that she can change, making a new friend, etc.)

➤ **Could just anyone take a stand in this situation that would create the same impact? Why or why not?** (People who are involved firsthand can often have more impact than an outsider, but we've all been given voices by God to use when other people are being treated unjustly. We can choose to use the voices and influence we have for good.)

➤ **When we come across situations we know aren't right, how can we take a stand to make them better?** (Answers may include: We can talk to people in charge; we can show God's love to those hurting; we can make our feelings known and follow them up with positive actions, etc.)

Change begins when someone decides to take a stand to make others aware of an injustice. We can stand up for what's right in one-on-one situations with someone we may disagree with, or we can take on larger issues like bullying, etc. that affect us or people we care about.

Today we're going to learn about a woman named Esther who was in the position to take on a very large cause—one that meant life or death for millions, including her own. Let's see whether she stood up for what was right.

Source:

<https://www.suffolknewsherald.com/2023/11/13/elementary-students-honored-for-stand-up-against-bullying/>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/11/17/9-facts-about-bullying-in-the-us/>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 7 / April 21, 2024

Take a Stand

for use as
STEP 4 **Lesson 7****Focus:**Take a stand for
God.**Lesson 7****Bible Basis:**

Esther 2:17—9:5

Lesson 7**Memory Verse:**“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and
you will see the deliverance the
LORD will bring you today.” —
Exodus 14:13**Materials:**

- Pieces of paper (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)
- Colored pencils/markers (optional)

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

Earlier we learned that taking a stand for what is right can cause change. Esther took a stand for God and His people, even though she could have lost her life. Taking a stand can make us scared or nervous because we may receive backlash from others for our viewpoints. However, change doesn't happen unless someone decides to take a stand, no matter the consequences. Read today's memory verse. God says not to be afraid! He promises our deliverance when we stand firm as believers.

➤ **What are ways we can stand up for God?** (Answers will vary but may include: Stand against sin when others are doing the wrong thing by telling them it's wrong and walking away; be a friend to those who are picked on or left out; ask a friend if you can pray for them when they're having a tough time, etc.)

Sometimes the best way to take a stand is to plan out what you're going to do or say. If someone is being mean to the other students at school, how can you plan to stand up against that person? If you want to be a friend to someone who is always made fun of by others, how would you do that? What would you say to them?

It's important to think things through before acting. We learned Esther asked the Jews to fast alongside her for three days before she made her decision to go before the king. Planning and praying before we act can make our attempts at change successful.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Invite your class to write or draw ways they can take a stand for God this week. Students should think about ways they want to stand up for God and the steps for how they plan to do so. For example, if they want to take a stand by showing the new student God's love through friendship, they might draw pictures of them praying to God about the new student, then another picture of them introducing themselves, another of them sitting beside each other at lunch and another of them riding bikes after school together. Tell them the more they think through each action they take, the better the success will be. Remind them prayer should always be part of the process.

➤ **How are you planning to take a stand for God this week? What is your plan of action?** (Have volunteers share.)

By taking our penalty of death, Jesus took the ultimate stand for us. If we believe in Jesus and take Him as our Lord and Savior through faith, repentance, and baptism, we can live in eternity with Him one day. Jesus is the shining example of what it looks like to take a stand for those you love. As believers, our hearts should want to take a stand for God every chance we get.

Place your paper somewhere to remind you of the action steps you've planned. Ask God for His help and wisdom for when to put your plan in action. Remember, Esther had three days of fasting before she acted. Pray, plan, and stand firm, trusting God for His help.

Pray to close.

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