



Undercover Queen – A 4-Week Series

The Story of Queen Esther

Welcome to **Undercover Queen: Being God's Kid in God's Place**

Esther is one of the most inspiring stories in the entire Bible. While it is often considered a great story for young girls – understandably, since it features a queen – it can be just as appealing to boys as it features a great villain, an evil king, conspiracy and plots, and plenty of suspense! At the heart of this story is a young girl who was in the right place at the right time to do something that really mattered, BUT she had to choose to step up when it mattered most!

The most powerful part of the story took place when her adoptive dad essentially told her, “God will save his people. The question is only whether He will use you or someone else. Perhaps the very reason He placed you here was for such a time as this. Perhaps you became queen for this very purpose! Are you going to step up? Or will someone else have to do it instead?”

When I was in college, I got a chance to meet with the president of my Bible college who was (and still is) a well-known author and world-traveled speaker. Getting to enjoy a meal with him one-on-one is a life-long memory I will always cherish. I still remember every detail of the conversation we enjoyed, but toward the end, knowing this special time was concluding, I asked him, “If there was just one thing you could share with me, the most important advice you could give a young man that could guide him for the rest of his life, what would it be?” He considered my question thoughtfully and then said, “Karl, **be God's man in God's place**. If you are who God wants you to be, and you are where God wants you to be, then nothing else matters. Just always ask yourself, ‘Am I God's man in God's place?’ If the answer is yes, nothing else matters. If the answer is no, fix it, as difficult as it may be.” Throughout my life, that has continued to be the best advice I have ever received and proven to be true over and over, both when I was God's man in God's place, and when I was not.

Esther was God's girl in God's place – and the rest, as they say, is history! That's why a big theme in this series that I'll be hitting with my kids is to **Be God's Kid in God's Place**. I will share with my kids my story in greater detail – and challenge them to be God's kid in God's place. They never know when God might need them for a mission for His Kingdom. Like Queen Esther, God will need them “For such a time as this.” Will they be ready to be God's kid in God's place and accomplish the mission He has for them?

SERIES OVERVIEW:

1 A Queen is Chosen

Because of God's PLAN I can be CERTAIN.

2 A Queen in Danger

Because of God's PROTECTION I can be COURAGEOUS.

3 A Queen's Choice

Because of God's PEACE I can be CALM.

4 God Save the Queen

Because of God's PROMISE I can be CONFIDENT.

GO WITH THE THEME!

There are so many fun things you can do with this theme! We have provided many ideas, but we try to keep it simple so we aren't asking too much and never want to overwhelm you with ideas, but feel free to have fun with it, be creative, and if you come up with ideas not in the materials, please DO SHARE in our Kidology Facebook Group. I just might use your idea myself!

You can give the kids code names if you want. An easy formula is to take their first and last name initials and add their birthdate. Mine would be Agent KB0919 (Karl Bastian, September 19th). I did this years ago in a ministry and still remember some grown kids' birthdays because I can still remember their secret agent code names! You can have a spy deliver instructions, briefcases, etc. – make it exciting for the kids. You can turn out lights, have strobes or flashing lights turn on, fun mission music can play. The spy needs to *really* be into it, sneaking around the room, shades, hat, trench coat, nervously looking around, etc. Use secret handshakes, use the spy lingo in the curriculum, and have fun with it! Kids engage more when you immerse yourself in the theme.

FOR TEAMS: We have provided two team names. The BOYS are the GUM SHOES and the GIRLS are the SUPER SLUETHS.



HIDDEN AGENTS! In your Every Week Files you'll find a collection of spy images. Print a bunch, cut them out, and hide them around the room and have kids who arrive early try to find them all. Make sure YOU know how many there are, and if a kid can tell you how many there are, award a prize after they show them you where they're all hidden (so they aren't just guessing). I hid 87 during Agents of Acts! Just use poster putty to hide them around the room!

SMALL GROUP OPTIONS?

If you incorporate small group discussion time into your service, there are several options available to you. Small Group leaders can use the TAKE IT form to lead a discussion. Kids can do the activity, look up the verses, review the theme verse, and answer the discussion questions. You can still send the TAKE IT paper home for parents to use as well. You may also find an activity from the lesson that small groups can use instead of during large group. Typically, it Bible Curriculum offers more ideas than time allows so you should be able to find extra activities to do during a small group time.

LESSON FLOW?

If you are new to it Bible Curriculum, be sure to review the HOW TO USE IT BIBLE CURRICULUM document first for an overview of all the lesson elements.

Undercover Queen opens with Whyit (a puppet or an actor) a wanna-be secret agent who always has a silly secret agent name that the leader struggles to understand, but that the kids will understand instantly. The humor is based on classic Abbot and Costello "Who's on First." If you aren't familiar with that classic routine, it's worth looking up online and enjoying! Or watch this clip of Pastor Karl and his puppet Gus doing a routine from Agents of Acts at Kidology.org/agentwho

Next, he will have a Secret Code for the kids to help decode which will introduce a character from the story of Esther.

The PLAY IT is the game time between the Gumshoes (boys) and the Super Sleuths (girls) to introduce the lesson. They are all agent themed: Crack the Safe, Crack the Code, Crack the Crook, and Crack the Case.

Next, you can use the WATCH IT video which is focused on Character. Since so much of this series centers on a girl character, Queen Esther, we used a boy puppet to provide a character the boys could connect with. Luke is a young boy as he video blogs and shares lessons he is learning about Character and what it means to have Character – being God's kid in God's place at school and at home.

After the Watch It video is the TELL IT segment, which tells the Bible Story. Rather than a continuation of the story week to week, because many kids don't make it to church every week, we recommend giving a summary of the entire story, focusing in detail each week on one character from the story. To do this, there is an interview – a 'debriefing' – with a character in the story. Several recordings are offered in your downloads. The recordings ONLY include the 'agent' or Bible character being interviewed. The Leader is the interviewer. So, use the script to read the interviewer's lines, and use the recording to play the character as if they are "on the phone". You can use a live person if you have extras to dress up in character. Practice will be key to pull these off well.

Finally, the TEACH IT is where you drive home the application of the lesson followed by a SHOW IT illustration, and if time permits, use the FIND IT and HIDE IT to reinforce the lesson with additional Scripture.

The LIVE IT is the practical application of the lesson. It's always good to give the kids something they can DO in response to the lesson you have presented.

The TAKE IT is what they take home which will guide them to an ONLINE experience for kids and families to engage with and review the lesson together, re-watch the video, and have a family conversation about the church experience. This can also be used for the child to catch up if they were unable to attend church one week.

WE REALLY WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU DO!

We LOVE to see how you use these lessons! Please post pictures in our Facebook Group (link below), or if you are hesitant to post pictures publicly, feel free to just send to Karl directly at karl.bastian@kidology.org – yes, that's my e-mail. I'd love to hear from you.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, IDEAS or see any corrections we need to make to the curriculum, please do not hesitate to let us know through our Kidology Facebook Group: [Kidology.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kidology.org/) will take you right there!

See the *HOW TO USE it* document included in your downloads for a detailed description of every element each lesson.

I had a BLAST writing this series for you and pray that God will use it to help your kids get excited about Being God's Kid in God's Place!

Pastor Karl Bastian