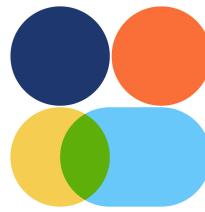


LESSON PLAN



Theme Personal Boundaries and the Purim Story

Grade Level(s)

Middle School- High School

Time of lesson 45 Minutes

Key Ideas

- Standing up for yourself, your friends, or your beliefs may come at a personal cost.
- Vashti and Esther both have admirable qualities.
- It is important to celebrate those who speak up for themselves and others
- Knowing personal boundaries make it easier to be courageous to stand up for them.
- Boundary development encourages autonomy and independence.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Identify at least three personal boundaries
- Identify one of Vashti's and Esther's personal boundaries and what the consequences were for their actions.
- Practice boundary setting phrases.

Materials & Resources

- Writing tools
- Blank or lined paper
- Copies of your class purim story
- Scissors and adaptive scissors (optional)
- Glue (optional)

Warm-up and Overview

- As students arrive, display or hand out information about Esther and Vashti and have students work in groups or by themselves to remember who Esther and Vashti were and what boundaries they set that set the course for the Purim story

Introduction

- Once the class has reviewed the stories of Esther and Vashti, introduce the word "boundaries" to students. Ask if they are familiar with it and give a definition for students to understand
- Boundary definition- A boundary is a limit that one sets for themselves or for how they would like to be treated by others

Specific Accomodations

- Provide boundary definition on a hand out or with a visual
- have examples of boundaries so students can understand what they are and how they apply to every day life

Activity

- Once students are introduced to Esther, Vashti, and the term boundary, have students identify what boundaries Esther and Vashti set for themselves in the story. Ex:
 - The Purim story begins with Vashti's boundaries being crossed when she is summoned to dance/meet/perform in front of the king.
 - Esther must pretend to not be Jewish during her time in the kingdom.
- Discuss how Esther and Vashti both responded to their boundaries being crossed differently and ultimately how both of them stood up for themselves in the story
- Have students apply this to their own lives. Spend time having them come up with their own personal boundaries and how they would stand up for them in a variety of situations

Specific

Accommodations

- students have the option to write down their answers, talk about them in large groups or in partners
- give examples of boundaries that would be appropriate for teens in case some have a hard time coming up with them

Options for Extensions

- have students write a how to guide for others about how to stand up for their boundaries

Options for Remediation

- focus on the boundaries Esther and Vashti set and have students choose one of the characters to focus on

Review and Closing

- Close the lesson by giving students examples of phrases they can use to set boundaries:
 - "Let me think about that and get back to you"
 - "No thank you. I'm not comfortable with that"
 - "Let me talk to my parents and let you know tomorrow."
- Have students practice and role play using these in a variety of situations

Specific Accommodations

- Print these lines out and have visuals for students to help them remember
- allow some students to practice using the phrases by writing them down in response to a situation instead of having to act them out and role play

Checking for Understanding

- Check for understanding throughout the lesson by noting who is answering questions and sharing thoughts.
- Note what students choose as the boundaries they have set and push them to come up with some for a variety of situations

Vashti



Who Was She: Achashverosh's first wife

What Is She Known For: Refusing Achashverosh's request to dance for him and his friends, resulting in him banishing her from the kingdom

Why is She Significant: If she had not been banished, Esther would not have become queen. She also demonstrates bravery in standing up for herself and refusing to follow directions of her husband that made her feel uncomfortable

Different Interpretations of Vashti's Story: Some interpret the ancient text to say that Vashti was asked to dance naked for the king and that is why she refused. Some also disagree on if she was banished or killed for disobeying. Either way, Vashti was brave for standing up for herself!

Esther



Who Was She: A young Jewish women that Achashverosh chooses to marry after banishing Vashti

What Is She Known For: Becoming queen and concealing her Jewish identity from the king until she uses it to save the Jewish people from persecution

Why is She Significant: Esther risks her life to save her people as she appears before the king without being summoned (something that is against the law). She eventually reveals that she is Jewish and Haman intends to kill her people. Because of her bravery, Haman is executed and the Jewish people are saved.

Different Interpretations of Esther's Story:

Some interpret the ancient text to say that Esther continued to keep kosher even once she was queen by refraining from eating meat.