

I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life

Unit 3: A Singing Heart

Lesson 3: God's Power

The Cave of Wisdom

The Burning Bush: Anything you ask

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of Prejudice and Bigotry. This is the dark part of a person's heart that hates a group of people and seeks their destruction. In the last century, the Germans tried to annihilate the Jews in Europe. In Cambodia, millions of people were killed by a brutal regime after the fall of Vietnam. In Yugoslavia, thousands of Serbians were killed in a genocide attempt. In Dalfur, Sudan today, mass killings are creating an international crisis.

A Singing Heart: Courageously love all people.

Scripture: Esther 5:1-3; Mark 14: 12-14

Biblical Character: Haman of Persia

Haman was a rich ruler in the Persian empire. He sought to be the right hand ruler to Xerxes, the ruler of Persia. Xerxes gave Haman a royal ring, giving Haman the power of the king's authority. Haman decreed that all people should show him honor and bow down to him. But Mordecai refused. This enraged Haman. He conspired to have the king decree a law that all Jews be killed on the 13th day of the

10th month. Haman's outrage against Mordecai was transferred to all people of Mordecai's religion.

Today we call this person a bigot: one who regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance. But God provided a way for the Jews to be spared. He placed Esther in the king's palace.

Act out the story of Haman's hatred for Mordecai the Jew.

Show the video of Esther approaching the king. Tell that anyone approaching uninvited before the king was to be killed unless the king spared the person.

Show the video of Esther's banquet and the undoing of Haman.

Reality Character(s): Nelson Mandela - born 18 July 1918) was the first President of South Africa to be elected in fully representative democratic elections, serving from 1994–1999. Before his presidency, Mandela was an anti-apartheid activist and leader of the African National Congress and its armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe. He was convicted for sabotage and other crimes committed while he spearheaded the struggle against apartheid. He spent 27 years in prison for this, with many of those years being spent on Robben Island. In South Africa and internationally, Mandela became a symbol of freedom and equality for his opposition to apartheid, while the apartheid government and nations sympathetic to it condemned him and the ANC as communists and terrorists.

Following his release from prison on 11 February 1990, his support for reconciliation and negotiation helped lead the transition to multi-racial democracy in South Africa. Since the end of apartheid, he has been widely praised, even by former opponents.

NY Subway Hero saved a man who had a seizure and fell onto the tracks with a train coming.

Davy Crocket boldly faced the Mexican army and demanded they surrender.

Show the Mandela, NY Subway Hero, and Davy Crocket videos.

The Tribe: The Power of our God. If only we have the courage to selflessly ask God, anything will be granted.

Craft:

Recreation Activity: “Hang Haman” word game. Use this activity to review the “I AM” course to date with the words provided in the resource.