



SPECIAL OBSERVANCE SUNDAY



YOUTH  
SUNDAY

SPRING 2021



## **SPECIAL OBSERVANCE SUNDAY • 2020-2021**

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# YOUTH SUNDAY

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## AIM AND INTENT

This service is geared toward youth. It is for youth and by youth. Its purpose is to celebrate and empower the youth of the corps, and to have the youth involved as much as possible.

The aim of these resources is to bring the youth of the corps into the fold of worship, and to recognize their commitment to the corps. The teaching for the day is centered around standing up for what's right when it is difficult. We will dive into the book of Esther, where Mordecai could have been discouraged by Haman, yet he reached out for help. Esther, the queen, could have been complacent, but she stood up for Mordecai, and ultimately for her people. She didn't have to approach the king on their behalf, but she did so courageously. The aim is to encourage the youth of the corps to do the same, and to express their faith with the same courage.

## CREATIVE RESOURCES

The following resources are included in this packet:

- Responsive Reading
- Drama 1: "Grounded"
- Drama 2: "Tomorrow's Freedom is Today's Surrender"
- Drama 3: "News of the Week"
- Lyrics/Chord Chart: See A Victory
- Lyrics/Chord Chart: Stand Up Stand Up For Jesus
- Lyrics/Chord Chart: No Longer Slaves

## RESPONSIVE READING (1 CHRONICLES 16:28-36)

**Leader:** Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him.

**All:** Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

**Leader:** Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

**Women:** Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

**Men:** Let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

**Leader:** Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them! Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

**Men:** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

**Women:** His love endures forever.

**Leader:** Cry out, "Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise." Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

Then all the people said .....

**All:** "Amen" and "Praise the LORD."



# DRAMA 1

## “Grounded”

By Martyn Scott Thomas - © Copyright 2014 by Martyn Scott Thomas.  
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**Topic:** Hope

**Scripture:** Psalm 31:1-3; Colossians 1:26-27

**Synopsis and Characters:** Two readers examine life and hope.

**Characters:** Reader 1 and Reader 2

**Props, Costumes, and Setting:** None; bare stage.

**Running time:** 2 minutes

**Reader 1:** Life is so unfair. Sometimes I just want to give up.

**Reader 2:** My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness,

**Reader 1:** The economy is awful. I'm lucky to have a job; too many of my friends have been laid off.

**Reader 2:** I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**Reader 1:** And there seems to be so much hatred and violence in the world; even in my neighborhood.

**Reader 2:** When darkness seems to veil his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;

**Reader 1:** Shootings, stabbings, war - and all for no good reason. Can't we all just get along?

**Reader 2:** In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

**Reader 1:** So much sickness and death. I don't know if I can handle one more of my friends getting cancer.

**Reader 2:** His oath, his covenant and blood, support me in the 'whelming flood;

**Reader 1:** A couple I know is getting divorced and it's going to be a messy one. I feel bad for their kids. I really wish they could work it out.

**Reader 2:** When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

**Reader 1:** Life seems to be crumbling all around me. What's the point?

**Reader 2:** On Christ, the solid rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

**Reader 1:** Sometimes I just want to give up. I have no hope.

**Reader 2:** [*moves to Reader 1 and puts arm around his shoulder*] On Christ, the solid rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

[Blackout]

*\*Optional segue*

*O Lord, I have come to you for protection;  
don't let me be disgraced.*

*Save me, for you do what is right.*

*Turn your ear to listen to me;*

*rescue me quickly.*

*Be my rock of protection,*

*a fortress where I will be safe.*

*You are my rock and my fortress.*

*For the honor of your name, lead me out of this  
danger.*

Psalm 31:1-3 NLT



## DRAMA 2

### “Tomorrow’s Freedom is Today’s Surrender”

Written for the Candidates’ Seminar, January, 2016. Several lines are excerpts from the NIV and ESV New Testament, Merriam-webster.com, and a blog post from [upisbetter.com](http://upisbetter.com).

The feel of this piece is relaxed and contemplative. All lines should be delivered honestly, considering the mystery of surrender being the pathway to freedom.

*Reader 1 is center stage, holding arms out like a scale, moving with the alternating lines at first. Reader 2 and Reader 3 are downstage on either side of Reader 1.*

**Reader 1 & Reader 2:** Surrender:

**Reader 2:** To agree to stop fighting. (*Surrender hands, like being handcuffed*)

**Reader 1 & Reader 3:** Freedom:

**Reader 3:** The quality or state of being free... (*Hands out and turnownstage*)

**Reader 1 & Reader 2:** Surrender:

**Reader 2:** To stop hiding, resisting...to agree to stop, because you know that you will not win or succeed. (*Hold up white flag*)

**Reader 1 & Reader 3:** Freedom:

**Reader 3:** The absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in a choice or action. (*Mime pulling open curtains and stepping forward and seeing open space*)

**Reader 1 & Reader 2:** Surrender:

**Reader 2:** To give the control or use of something to someone else. (*Hands up like being taken captive, then turn palms up*)

**Reader 1 & Reader 3:** Freedom:

**Reader 3:** Liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another. (*Hands up over head, being released, like chains breaking*)

*Beat (pondering)*

**Reader 1, Reader 2 & Reader 3:** Freedom: (*Deeo breath together*) Unrestricted use.

*Beat. Reader 2 & Reader 3 move slowly downstage, standing on the same plane. Reader 1 stays center and begins humming the melody of “Tomorrow’s freedom is today’s surrender” as underscoring for the next section, which is conversational. In this first bit, Reader 1 is weighing these words with his/her hands as he/she hums, representing the human condition.*

**Reader 3:** There’s the initial release and surrender, leading to salvation.

**Reader 2:** “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” We let go of our attempts to earn God’s favor, and rely on the finished work of Christ. (*Move arms out into the cross*)

**Reader 3:** “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

**Reader 2:** (*with wonder*) To be called a child of God. By God.

**Reader 3:** Yes. (*joyfully*) We rejoice in our salvation! And...there’s more...

**Reader 2:** Yes. Even greater surrender... the only way... in the adoration of Him and continued release, we give up more and more of ourselves, making room...

**Reader 3:** For the Holy Spirit. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

**Reader 1:** *(Singing now with words: "Tomorrow's freedom is today's surrender, we come before you, lay our burdens down. We come to you as our hearts remember, you are the only God. You are our only God." Continues singing underneath the following, more personal lines...then, if it works, Reader 1 beginning to move as he/she sings.)*

**Reader 2:** The measure in which I walk in freedom tomorrow—

**Reader 3:** is contingent on the measure in which I surrender today.

**Reader 2:** The key is to identify the things that need to be let go of.

**Reader 3:** It is a spirit-led recognition of —

**Reader 2 & Reader 3:** every thought

**Reader 3:** that gets elevated above the thought of Him.

**Reader 2:** Can I surrender to His sovereignty here?

**Reader 3:** Can I surrender to His goodness here?

**Reader 2:** Can I surrender to His loving kindness here?

**Reader 2 & Reader 3:** If not, I just might have to walk in fear tomorrow.

**Reader 3:** Or striving.

**Reader 2:** Or sadness.

**Reader 2 & Reader 3:** Or hopelessness.

**Reader 2 & Reader 3:** Or whatever my emotions or soul dictates.

**Reader 3:** He came that we would have life.

**Reader 2 & Reader 3:** Abundant life. Freedom.

**Reader 2:** I choose surrender.

**Reader 3:** I lay every burden down

**Reader 2:** and elevate Your Name above

**Reader 3:** every thought

**Reader 2:** and every circumstance

**Reader 2 & Reader 3:** so that I may be free,

**Reader 3:** consumed with the one to whom I surrender.

**Reader 2:** Throwing off anything that hinders me,

**Reader 3:** so that I may run with perseverance the race marked out for me,

**Reader 2 & Reader 3:** and light the path for others to this abundant life.

*Depending on what works best, Reader 1 will sing out before or after the last line.*





## DRAMA 3

### “News of the Week”

(This first appeared in Seasons of the Spirit - Congregational Life for October 1, 2006. Used by permission.)

**Reporter one:** Welcome to “News of the Week.” And what a week it’s been.

**Reporter two:** That’s right, (*Reporter one’s name*). Queen Esther has really made a name for herself this week.

**Reporter one:** She certainly has. But before we get to that, how about some background for our viewers?

**Reporter two:** Indeed. Of course, Queen Esther came to the throne after Queen Vashti publicly defied her husband, King Xerxes, at a banquet. The King’s advisers suggested that women everywhere might be inspired by her actions to defy their own husbands – so Vashti had to go!

**Reporter one:** But who could replace Vashti as queen?

**Reporter two:** Beautiful young women were summoned from far and wide and among them was the young Jewish woman named Esther. After a year of makeovers and cosmetic treatments in the royal harem, and –

**Reporter one:** – it was a beauty pageant, really.

**Reporter two:** – the king fell in love with Esther and made her queen. Meanwhile, a villain called Haman is promoted to be the king’s second in command. With his promotion comes a little bit of arrogance. Haman insists that all people bow down to him as a sign of their respect. Esther’s cousin Mordecai, a faithful worshipper of God, refuses to break the laws of his faith. You may recall the first commandment: “you shall have no other gods before me.” Mordecai won’t bow down to Haman. Haman is pretty upset by this disrespect and plans not only the execution of Mordecai, but the genocide of the Jewish people throughout the Persian Empire, from India all the way to Ethiopia.

**Reporter one:** So what does Esther do?

**Reporter two:** Esther is in a dilemma. If she approaches the king without being invited, he has the right to kill her. If she does nothing, she will be killed, along with her people. Esther calls on her people to pray and fast. She approaches the king and is permitted to speak. She invites the king to a banquet that she has prepared for Haman and him. At the banquet Esther invites the two men to a second banquet...

**Reporter one:** ...and that’s where we take up today’s story. Okay.

(*Either Reporter two, or a third person, now reads Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22.*)



# CHORD CHART: "SEE A VICTORY"

Steven Furtick | Ben Fielding | Jason Ingram and Chris Brown  
(based on the recording by Elevation Worship | original key - Bb  
Key - G | Tempo - 77 | Time - 4/4

## INTRO / TURNAROUND

| Em C | G | Em C | G |

## VERSE 1

Em C G  
The weapon may be formed but it won't prosper

Em C G

When the darkness falls it won't pre - vail

Em C G

'Cause the God I serve knows only how to triumph

Em C G

My God will never fail

Em C G

My God will never fail

## CHORUS

Em Cmaj7

I'm gonna see a victory, I'm gonna see a victory

G Dsus

For the battle belongs to You Lord

Em Cmaj7

I'm gonna see a victory, I'm gonna see a victory

G Dsus

For the battle belongs to You Lord

*(1st x to Turnaround / Last x to Bridge 1b)*

## VERSE 2

Em C G

There's power in the mighty Name of Jesus

Em C G

Every war He wages He will win

Em C G

I'm not backing down from any giant

Em C G

I know how this story ends

Em C G *(To Chorus)*

I know how this story ends

## INSTRUMENTAL

| Cmaj7 | D G/B | Cmaj7 Em | D |

## BRIDGE 1A

Cmaj7 D

You take what the enemy meant for evil

G/B Cmaj7 Em D

And You turn it for good, You turn it for good

## BRIDGE 1B

Cmaj7 D

You take what the enemy meant for evil

Em Cmaj7 Em D

And You turn it for good, You turn it for good

*(To Chorus / Last x to Outro)*

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# CHORD CHART: "STAND UP STAND UP FOR JESUS"

Adam Geibel | George Duffield Jr. | Russell Mauldin  
Key - G | Tempo - 114 | Time - 4/4

## INTRO / INSTRUMENTAL

1 | D D2sus D | G/D | C/E G/D C Am | Dsus D

## VERSE 1

G C Am7  
Stand up stand up for Je - sus  
G/B D/E Em7 F D/F#  
Ye soldiers of the cross  
D G C Am7  
Lift high His royal ban - ner  
G/D Am9 D7 Gsus G  
It must not suf - fer loss  
D G/D  
From vict'ry unto vict'ry  
C/E G/D C Am Dsus D  
His ar - my shall He lead  
G C Am7  
Till ev'ry foe is van - quished  
G/D Am9 D7 Gsus G  
And Christ is Lord in - deed

## VERSE 2

G C Am7  
Stand up stand up for Je - sus  
G/B D/E Em7 F D/F#  
The trumpet call o - bey  
D G C Am7  
Forth to the mighty con - flict  
G/D Am9 D7 Gsus G  
In this His glo - rious day  
D G/D  
Ye that are brave now serve Him  
C/E G/D C Am Dsus D  
A - gainst un - num - bered foes  
G C Am7  
Let courage rise with dan - ger  
G/D Am9 D7 Gsus G  
And strength to strength op - pose

CCLI Song # 7056334

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# CHORD CHART: "NO LONGER SLAVES"

Jonathan David Helser | Brian Johnson | Joel Case

Key - Bb | Tempo - 74 | Time - 4/4

## VERSE 1

Bb  
You unrav - el me with a melody

Eb F Bb  
You sur - round me with a song

Bb  
Of deliv - erance from my enemies

Eb F Bb  
Till all my fears are gone

## CHORUS

Eb F Bb  
I'm no longer a slave to fear

Gm F Bb

I am a child of God

Eb F Bb  
I'm no longer a slave to fear

(1.) Gm F Gm

I am a child of God

(2.) Gm F Bb (To Chorus / Last time)

I am a child of God

## INSTRUMENTAL

| Gm F | Bb Eb | Gm F | Bb  
Eb |

## VERSE 2

Bb Dm  
From my Moth - er's womb You have chosen me

Eb F Bb

Love has called my name

Bb Dm  
I've been born again into Your family

Eb F Bb  
Your blood flows through my veins

**BRIDGE** Gm F Bb Eb  
You split the sea so I could walk right through it

Gm F Bb Eb  
My fears were drowned in perfect love

Gm F Bb Dm

You rescued me so I could stand and sing

Eb F Bb

I am a child of God

CCLI Song# 7030123

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# HOLINESS MEETING SERMON

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Open with a word of prayer.

## Introduction

The book of Esther is an interesting one. It is the only book in the entire Bible that doesn't mention God; however, God is certainly present in the narrative. His people are being persecuted, and through the character-defining courage of two people, Esther and Mordecai, God's people were saved. It brings to mind the saying attributed by Francis of Assisi, "Preach the gospel at all times, when necessary use words." In Esther, God's protection is evident through the actions of His people. They didn't mention His name, but they stood up for Him with their courage.

William Tecumseh Sherman, Union General in the US Civil War, said, "I would define courage to be a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it." It takes a certain amount of courage to stand up for something that you know is right even when it puts you are risk.

In the movie *Wonder*, Auggie is bullied because of the way he looks. After getting to know Auggie, some of the kids actually stick up for him, risking getting beaten up themselves. That takes courage. Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and became a free woman. Then she went back to the very place where she had been enslaved to rescue her family from the same slavers. She also helped many other slaves reach freedom. That took courage. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, needed courage to stand when everyone else bowed before Haman, as if bowing to another god. Esther also needed courage to save her people, the Jews.

Mordecai represented the Jewish nation and did not bow down to Haman. Haman became very upset and brought his hatred to King Xerxes. King Xerxes agreed to have all the Jewish people in Persia killed, at Haman's request. The plan was to have the Jewish nation completely wiped out in the following year. In return, Haman would pay 10,000 talents of silver to the royal treasury. This agreement scared Mordecai.

## Point 1 – Recognize the Problem (Esther 4)

Esther's uncle, Mordecai, was heavily burdened by the news that all God's people were going to be destroyed. Mordecai had great standing among the people, but he did not have a place to defend himself against the king. Esther tried to make her uncle feel better by sending him clothes to wear instead of the sackcloth, but Mordecai refused to wear them. Esther then sent a palace messenger to Mordecai to figure out what was wrong. Mordecai told the messenger that the king was going to kill all of the Jews and, when he found out that she was a Jew, he'd kill her too. Mordecai pleaded with Esther to step out and talk to the king.

Esther had a moment of self-protection. We can all understand her at this moment. She said if she approached the king without the king asking for her, she could be sentenced to death as well. Her uncle then reminded her of God's provision. He said that if she didn't help, God would raise up deliverance in another form, but after their whole family perished. But what if? Mordecai got Esther thinking when he asked, "Who knows, maybe you were made queen for a time just like this."

God has a plan for everything, even the bad things that happen. He doesn't cause bad things to happen, but He works in spite of, and often through, those negative circumstances. If Joseph was never sold by his brothers into slavery, he couldn't have delivered them through the famine. If Paul was never imprisoned, he wouldn't have written the prison epistles. Those situations were awful, and yet God used those crises to reach millions of people for His mission.

In this terrible circumstance, when there was clear racial discrimination and hatred, God was still evident and working in His people. Haman tried to wipe out an entire people group; but because of one person standing true, the outcome was different. Esther recognized that something was wrong with Mordecai. At first she thought that she couldn't do anything about it. Then she remembered the God she served, and ended up making a stand.

We face many major problems in our world: racism, world hunger and poverty, bullying, addiction, and many more. The first step to tackling a problem is to recognize that there is a problem.

## **Point 2 – Do Something (Esther 5)**

Esther decided that her people were worth the risk. Even though she could have been killed, she approached the throne without being summoned. The king was pleased by Esther and said, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you." That seems pretty generous to me! But Esther had a plan. She didn't ask the king to change his decree right away. She asked the king and Haman to have a feast with her. They ate together. Then Esther asked them to have another meal the next day.

At this point in the narrative, the story follows Haman. He had just had dinner with the King and Queen. He was feeling pretty good about himself. On his way home, he remembered that Mordecai didn't bow down to him or show fear. This made him angry again. So Haman set up a pole, and prepared to ask the king at dinner if he could kill Mordecai with it. Haman had devised a villainous plan, and was excited to see it executed.

Esther didn't just recognize a problem and complain about it. She considered that problem, and decided to take action. Esther made a plan to save her people. In the process, God delivered her from her enemy. It's one thing to recognize the issues of poverty, bullying, racial discrimination, and the like, but another thing entirely to do something about it. If we are willing to stand up against injustice, God will deliver.

Keep in mind that deliverance often comes with suffering. Look at the prophet Jeremiah, for example. He obeyed God and spoke God's message every time he was told to. This man of God was tortured, made fun of, and became depressed. But he held firm to what he knew God was calling him to do. Because of him, a remnant of the Jewish people remained. Mordecai even suffered through the mental abuse given to him by Haman, but ultimately he was delivered from that abuse in more ways than one.

I admire the courage of people like Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr. who risked their own safety for the freedom of their people. I admire William Booth for seeing a problem and doing something about it. Can you imagine what our world would look like without these three? Our world, both inside and outside The Salvation Army, would look a whole lot different if these three would have seen the problem and not taken action. We've briefly touched on a few of the problems of today's world. How can you take action against bullying? How different would the world be if you were able to help get food to the food deserts? How can you take a stand against racism? It takes faith that God is bigger than the problems and the belief that you can do something.

## **Point 3 – The Result (Esther 6-7)**

The scene shifts to King Xerxes now. He remembered that Mordecai had saved him from being killed, and that nothing had been done to thank him. King Xerxes decided to do something for Mordecai. As soon as Haman entered the second dinner with the king, Xerxes asked him how the king should say thanks to a man. Haman, of course, thought the king was talking about thanking him. So Haman said the man should be given a royal robe and a horse, among other things. Then King Xerxes told Haman to get everything that he mentioned and give it to Mordecai, the very man that Haman was going to ask to kill. Not only did Haman have to give Mordecai all these nice things, but he had to say out loud, "This is what is done for those who help the king!" It was humiliating.

Haman was so embarrassed that he covered his head in shame and went home. The king's messengers then brought him to the feast that was prepared for them by Esther. The king again asked what Esther wanted. She broke her silence. She asked for her and her people's lives to be spared. She said someone paid for them to be killed. The king had no idea that the Queen and her people were due for annihilation. He asked who ordered such thing. Esther named Haman. Then the king had Haman killed by the same pole that Haman wanted to kill Mordecai with.

I know we've just dug into this story with great detail, but we can't miss this. If we want God to do something incredible in our lives, we need to step out in faith, believing God is able. It's no coincidence that every person in Scripture who has something miraculous done for them is in a place of need or reliance on God. Think about it. Noah built a giant boat when it wasn't raining. Abraham left everything he knew because God asked him to. Moses confronted the leader of a nation. Paul constantly put himself at risk to further the gospel. They each stepped out in faith, like Esther did.

## CONCLUSION

Our God is bigger than any battle that we will face, and faith in Him goes a long way. James declares that faith without works is dead, so where are our works? Esther had faith and saved the Jewish nation. Harriet Tubman had faith and rescued thousands from slavery. William Booth had faith and started an international movement that is still bringing people to God. We can have faith and do even more. Scripture says that we can accomplish even more, and I believe that. But it takes faith and courage.

Esther saw the problem, she stepped out and did something, and she saw the result that God delivered. We're going to spend some time in prayer for these issues that have come to mind. There are different aspects to tackling these issues. On a personal level, we ask Christ to help in situations that seem unfixable. For example, maybe your marriage is hitting a skid; God is faithful and can work there. Maybe there are bullies at school or work that constantly tease someone; you can step in.

There are also world level problems that many of us think we can do nothing about. That is a lie from the enemy. We can pray, and we can have faith and lead change. God will use the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, Scripture says. He will equip the called, and give you everything you need to accomplish His purposes. Come and pray that God will help you step up in a moment like this.

