

# Take a Stand

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1** 

**Lesson 7****Focus:**

Take a stand for God.

**Echoes Focus**

That your students will have the courage to be identified as Christians wherever they are.

**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

**Echoes Verse**

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27

**Students will watch a video about an organization of moms who took a stand 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 ABC News, in the past year, almost 5,000 people have died in the U.S. in 2024 from gun violence. In response to these tragedies, many people have begun speaking out and protesting against gun violence. One such group is an organization called Moms Demand Action. Let’s take a look at one of their initiatives to prevent gun violence in Indiana.**

Share the following video [2:08]:

Over 130 Indiana Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers call for gun safety

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GzH0cMG16Y>

➤ **The moms saw a problem they didn’t like and took a stand to try to change it. What were they risking by trying to unite people against hate?** (Answers may include: They could’ve received backlash from people who didn’t like what they were doing; they could’ve lost friendships over their decision to take a stand; an already divided community could have become more divided, etc.)

➤ **What positive changes might happen because of people’s decision to stand up against gun violence?** (Some possible answers: Increased gun safety; more people standing up and speaking out; decreased incidences of death, 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://abcnews.go.com/US/gun-violence-claimed-lives-5000-people-2024/story?id=107262776>

(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.  
**Echoes Focus**  
That your students will have the courage to be identified as Christians wherever they are.

**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  
**Echoes Verse**  
Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.  
Philippians 1:27

**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 Him as our Lord and Savior, 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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