

Esther... The Girl Who Became Queen



What is the STORY about?

The king needs a new queen, and a small town girl named Esther has been chosen! But when Esther wakes up with the weight of the world on her shoulders and the fate of her people in her hands, can she find the courage to do what's right? Filled with drama, humor and great music, the story of Queen Esther teaches kids that you never need to be afraid to do what's right!

- *A Lesson in Courage*
- *Key Passage: Esther 1-10*
- *Running time: 37 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Esther was just an ordinary girl. How did she become the Queen of Persia? (She won a beauty contest)*
- *Why did King Xerxes like Esther's cousin, Mordecai? (He saved the king from having a piano dropped on him)*
- *Haman, the king's right-hand man, didn't find favor with Mordecai and Esther's family. What did he convince the king to do? (Sign an order to ban their family to the Island of Perpetual Tickling)*
- *Why was Esther afraid of going to the king to tell him about Haman's plot? (No one was to appear before the king without being invited)*
- *What happened to Mordecai and Haman at the end of the story? (Mordecai became the king's right-hand man, and Haman was sent to the Island of Perpetual Tickling)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The biblical account of Esther is found in the book of Esther. Read applicable portions to the children OR tell the story in this condensed version.

King Xerxes of Persia was searching the entire kingdom for a beautiful woman to become his new queen. Esther was a very beautiful Jewish girl and was one of the women brought to the palace as a possible queen successor. Esther did not tell anyone about her Jewish family. Mordecai, Esther's cousin who took care of her because she had no parents, worked for the king and was able to check on her daily. When it was time for Esther to go before King Xerxes, he was very pleased and crowned her as his new queen.

Two of the king's officers became angry at King Xerxes and were planning to kill him. Mordecai overheard their plans and told them to Queen Esther. Esther reported the plot to the king and gave Mordecai the credit for saving the king's life. After all of these things happened, King Xerxes promoted another of his officers, Haman, to a higher rank, and all of the other officers had to bow down and kneel to him. Mordecai was a Jew and refused to bow down or kneel to anyone but God, so Haman became very angry and convinced the king to sign an order that all of the Jews in the land were to be killed. Mordecai told Esther that she must tell the king of Haman's plot, but Esther knew it was against the law to approach the king unless she was invited. But Esther was courageous... her people were depending on her. When she approached the king, he was pleased and held out his scepter for her to come forward. Esther told King Xerxes of Haman's plan to destroy her people. The king was so angry with Haman that he had him killed, and Mordecai was promoted to his position. Because of Esther's courage, all of the Jewish people in the kingdom were saved.

The Story of Esther



ACTIVITY

Before class, find a large sack or bag in which to place assorted items. Examples: ink pen, piece of candy, paper clip, rubber bands, tape. Place one item into the bag (without the others looking), and ask for a courageous volunteer to stick his hand into the bag and identify the object. Promote discussion about courage and being scared to do something when you don't know what to expect. Option: "Taste of Courage" - Have blindfolded students taste a variety of foods (baby jar fruits, raisins, pasta, finger gelatin).



What can we DO?

Talk about these situations that require courage:

- *Going to a new school where you don't know anyone*
- *Standing up for someone or something when everyone else is against you*
- *Confronting a friend that is doing something wrong*
- *Admitting that you've cheated or made a mistake when no one would ever know*

If time allows, encourage role playing to emphasize the real-life situations mentioned.

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **1 CORINTHIANS 16:13** "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."
- **JOSHUA 1:7a** "Be strong and very courageous...."
- **2 THESSALONIANS 3:13** "And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right."

3 Things to remember about Esther

1. **ORDINARY GIRL** chosen to be queen of King Xerxes
2. She was **COURAGEOUS** at just the right time
3. She **SAVED HER PEOPLE** from being killed

KEY VERSE

(Esther 4:14b) "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

KEY NUGGET

It takes courage to do the right thing.

