

ESTHER



SCRIPTURE: Book of Esther

VERSE: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage, be strong. Do everything in love.”

CONCEPT: Sometimes it takes real courage to do what is right. God will bless all of our efforts towards righteous living, and give us His courage to make the right choices.

ILLUSTRATION:

The focus of this time will be the story of Esther. For telling this story, there are options below that can be used.

1. If you have a video of the story, show this to your children.
2. Read the story from a children’s Bible story book.
3. Read the story from a children’s Bible.
4. You may also use the story as it is written out following the first puzzle page.

APPLICATION:

1. Have the children draw different scenes of the story. After they have their pictures ready, see if they can put them in order according to the events (like a time-line).
2. Or you may have written out on 8 1/2 x 11 paper various events of the story and have the children place them in order.
3. Have the children act out the story as they re-tell it in their own words.

DISCUSSION:

1. Talk about what it means to encourage. Ask the children what they think it means.
2. Why did it take courage for Esther to do what she did? Was it the right thing to do?

- 3. Who do you think kept the king awake in the night so he found out about Mordecai?**
- 4. Who was really in control of this whole situation? You might even mention that in the entire book of Esther we do not read God's name or the mention of God. This should speak to us that even when we don't think God is aware of what is going on and we don't hear Him ourselves, He is still in control of all situations and is always at work.**
- 5. What would have happened to Esther and the Jews if she had kept silent?**
- 6. Discuss things they have done or know of other children who have done things that took courage.**
- 7. Why does doing the right thing often times take courage?**
- 8. Who gives us all the courage we need to make right choices if we look to Him?**

BEING COURAGEOUS



There are many women in the Bible who have done brave and courageous things for the Lord. Listed below are 10 such women from the Old Testament. Look up the Scripture, unscramble the name and match it to the sentence on the right which best describes that woman.

Esther 2:7	HETSER	She hid the spies in Jericho
Genesis 3:20	VEE	Mother-in-law of Ruth
1 Samuel 1:20	NAHNAH	Saved her people from destruction.
Genesis 29:16	LAHE	Wife of Abraham and mother of the Jewish nation.
Ruth 1:8	MAINO	Gave birth to twins, Jacob and Esau
Genesis 29:20	CHREAL	The first mother
Joshua 6:5	HABRA	Brought her son Samuel to serve the Lord in the temple.
Genesis 25:21	KEBHAER	Laban tricked Jacob and gave her to him after 7 years work.
Ruth 1:16	THUR	Jacob worked 14 years to marry her.
Genesis 17:15,16	HARAS	Honored her mother-in-law, married Boaz, became only non-Jew relative of Jesus.

ESTHER, A BRAVE QUEEN

The king wanted to find a queen. "I will find the most beautiful young women in my kingdom," he said. "Then I will choose the one that pleases me the most to be my queen."

From every land in his great kingdom, the loveliest young women were brought to the king's palace.

One of them was named Esther. Esther was very beautiful. She had a lovely face and pretty dark hair. But Esther was beautiful inside, too, because she loved God and tried to please Him.

When the king saw Esther, he loved her the most. "From all the women I have seen, I choose Esther. She shall be my queen," he said. So Esther was taken into the king's palace and was given a beautiful crown to wear. She had a lovely palace to live in and servants to help her.

When the king wished to see Esther, he sent for her, and she came to his room. No one could go to the king or see him unless he sent for that person. Not even the queen!

One of the king's men was wicked and mean. He did not like the people who worshiped God. He wanted to kill them and he figured out a way to do it! He had a law written that said all of God's people would be killed.

Esther knew she must do something to try to save her people! But what could she do? Do you think she should dare go in and stand before the king without being called? Esther sent word to all of God's people. "Meet together and pray about this for three days," she said. "As God to save us. My servants and I will pray here in the palace. And then I will go in to the king, even though it is against the law. I must try to save my people!"

So, for three days, God's people prayed. Queen Esther and her servants were praying at the same time.

Then Queen Esther dressed herself in her most beautiful gown. She went out of her own rooms. She walked through the halls of the palace until she came to the door where the king's throne was. I'm sure it took every bit of courage she had. And I'm sure she was praying for God's help. Then she stepped into the king's room.

The king looked up and saw her. Of course he was very surprised! But she looked so beautiful standing there before him that he wasn't angry. He loved Esther. He held out his scepter toward her. Esther smiled and came forward and touched the scepter.

The king said to her, "What do you wish, dear Esther?"

The queen invited didn't say at first what she wanted, but instead invited him to a special dinner. She also invited the wicked man Haman who had the law made that would kill her people.

At the dinner, the king asked her again what she would like. The queen said, "O King, please help me and my people." The king was surprised and inquired from Esther what she meant by that. Esther went on to tell the king of the law and that Haman was the man responsible.

The king became very angry at Haman and had him hung on the gallows that Haman had built to kill Mordecai and others.

The king then helped to have a letter sent out all across the kingdom that would keep God's people from being killed.

Esther was happy because God helped her to be brave. All the people were happy because Esther helped them. They have a great feast of thanksgiving to God! This feast was called The Feast of Purim and it is still celebrated by the Jewish people today.

(Picture of Queen Esther below to color).



QUEEN ESTHER....A Lady of Courage