



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Kings & Kingdoms Part 2: Judges - Esther
Unit 9, Lesson 47

Queen Esther Helps Save God's People

Lesson Aim: To know God gives us courage
and opportunities.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is the bravest thing you have ever done?

GAME: Accept the Scepter Race

THE WORSHIP THE KING WHO BUILDS HIS KINGDOM

Read Worship Scripture: Joshua 1:9

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook.

THE WORD QUEEN ESTHER SHOWS COURAGE

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: Nehemiah was sent to rebuild the city wall around Jerusalem.

God used Esther to save His people in Susa, a city in Persia. Point out Sushan or Susa (modern Shush, Iran). Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Esther 2:20; 4:12-16; 5:1-4. Find and Highlight Key Verse Esther 4:14 First.

Pray. **Esther was raised by her cousin, Mordecai. They were Jews living in exile in Persia. King Xerxes of Persia chose Esther for his new queen. He did not know Esther was a Jew.** Read Esther 2:20.

The king ordered everyone to kneel to his officer, Haman. Mordecai refused—he would only bow to God. Haman took revenge by planning to have the Jews in the kingdom killed. Mordecai asked Queen Esther to talk to the king. But the king's law stated if a person came uninvited to speak to the king, he or she would be put to death unless he extended his golden scepter. Read Esther 4:12-16; 5:1-4.

At the banquet, Esther invited the king and Haman to a second banquet where Queen Esther told King Xerxes about Haman's evil plan. He punished Haman with death and passed a law so God's people could defend themselves. Because of Queen Esther's courage, she was able to help save God's people!

THE WAY FINDING COURAGE TO SPEAK UP

Mordecai suggested God may have chosen Esther to be queen so she could help save her people. God had a plan for Esther, and He has a plan for you, too. **What did Esther tell Mordecai to do before she went to the king?** (To gather the Jews to fast for Esther.) **For three days they did not eat or drink, and they prayed for Esther. Next time you need courage, be sure to gather others to pray for you as Esther did.**

After hearing Haman's plan, the king put him to death. If someone is about to hurt themselves or others, then it is right to tell the person in charge. Esther bravely made the right choice to tell the king about Haman's evil plan.

THE SPEAKING SCEPTER

Bravery means doing what is right even when you are afraid. Let's pass the Speaking Scepter to anyone who wants to share a time when God made you brave to speak the truth. Perhaps you bravely told an adult about someone being hurt or teased, or you know of a time when you will need to be brave. If you'd like to speak, raise your hand, and touch the scepter before you speak. Afterward, pray for the situations mentioned. **God gave Esther courage. He gave her the opportunity to be queen and to speak with the king. God will give you courage and opportunities to speak the truth and help others.**

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Over 400 years after Mordecai encouraged Esther to bravely go speak to the king, Paul encouraged the church in Corinth to bravely stand firm in their faith in Jesus. Reveal 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. Read.

Paul says to do everything in love. We should bravely speak the truth because we love God and the people He has made.

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: "Scepter Jewel"
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Queen Esther touching King Xerxes' scepter
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Sweet & Salty Scepters

GAME: Queen Esther Story Cards

CRAFT: Favorite Proverbs Book—Courage

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Build the Wall Verse, Royal Corners

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW