

D6 EveryDay[™]

Parent Page

Date | **April 16, 2023** Family Theme | **Courageous Faith**
Study Text | **Esther 3:1–4:17**

Objective: Family members have the courage to do what is right even if it may mean suffering.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events written about in Esther took place between 483 BC and 473 BC during the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) who reigned in Persia from 485-464 BC. Some of the Jews had been allowed to return to Jerusalem (see Ezra and Nehemiah), but others such as Esther and Mordecai remained in captivity under the Persians who had defeated the Babylonians.

Bible Basics: Memorize Joshua 1:9 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: Esther 3:1–4:17

Disciple Your Kids:

Discuss with your family members how we are to do what is right even when we might be made fun of or ridiculed.



Key Truth: God Works His Sovereign Plan No Matter the Opposition (Esther 3:1-15)

- In God's providence, King Ahasuerus of Persia chose to replace the queen. Not knowing she was a Jew, the king chose a young lady named Esther to be his queen (chapters 1 and 2).
- The king also promoted a man named Haman to the second highest office in the land, under the king. Mordecai, a Jew who was raising Esther, refused to bow down to Haman. For this, Haman determined to destroy Mordecai and all the Jews. Casting lots daily, He looked for a favorable time to act against them (3:1-7).
- Without naming the Jews, Haman went to the king and said there was a people whose existence posed problems for the empire. He suggested those people should be destroyed. The king gave Haman the authority to destroy those people. A decree was sent throughout the empire giving people permission to kill the Jews and take their belongings. All Jews were to be exterminated (verses 8-15).



Key Truth: Believers Do What is Right Even When It May Cost Them (Esther 4:1-17)

- When the Jews heard of the decree, they were horror stricken. Mourning, fasting, and weeping overtook them. Mordecai asked Esther to intervene with the king, even though approaching him without being summoned could mean death (verses 1-11).
- Mordecai felt God would intervene, but perceived a purpose behind all that had occurred with Esther. Perhaps Esther's presence in the palace was to intervene in such a way. Esther understood that God had placed her there as queen for a reason. She agreed to intervene, after three days of fasting, uttering famous words of great courage, *If I perish, I perish* (4:12-17).
- The remaining chapters of Esther reveal that she did risk going before the king without being summoned. God gave her favor with the king, and the king heard and granted her requests. Haman had to honor Mordecai and was hanged on the very gallows he had built to hang Mordecai on. The Jews were allowed to defend themselves and kill those who would seek to harm them.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean to have courage?
- When does it take courage to follow Christ?
- Why is God able to accomplish His purposes no matter the opposition?
- What purpose did God have for the Jewish people?
- How might it cost us to obey and follow Christ?
- **What are some ways Esther demonstrated courageous faith?**
- **What are some situations where you might need to show courageous faith?**

Everyday Extras

Go to see a play together or watch one on television. (*Peter Pan* or a puppet show would be a terrific example.) Talk with your family about the way the people backstage work “behind the scenes” to tell the story—changing the setting, helping the characters to fly, providing props and wardrobe, etc. Others work with lighting and sound so that everyone can enjoy the play. Esther’s true story reminds us of the way God is at work “behind the scenes.” We can’t always see what He is doing, and we don’t always understand why He does what He does, but God knows all about the future. He is at work to make the big story of history turn out just right. We can trust Him!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned about a young Jewish girl named Esther who loved God very much. God allowed Esther to be chosen as the king’s new queen. God had a special job for Esther, but she didn’t know it. Your child learned his or her job is to learn and grow. God has special jobs for everyone, and **God Has a Job for Me.**