



BK WEEKEND

March 7 & 8, 2020

Esther Saved Her People (Lesson 1)

Esther

Unit: The People Restored – *New Unit!*

Unit Bible Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

Bible Story: King Ahasuerus (uh haz yoo EHR uhs) was the king of Persia. Many years earlier, when Cyrus was king, he sent some of God’s people back to Judah to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. But some of God’s people stayed in Persia and were called Jews because they were from Judah. The king of Persia chose Esther to be his queen. Esther didn’t tell the king that she was a Jew.

One day, Esther’s cousin Mordecai (MAWR duh kigh) heard some bad news. Haman, one of the king’s leaders, had a very evil plan to destroy the Jews. Mordecai was scared! Mordecai was a Jew; he did not want his family and friends to be killed. Mordecai and all the Jews cried. Esther saw that the Jews were upset. “Why are you crying?” Esther asked. She sent someone to ask Mordecai what was wrong. Mordecai told the messenger about Haman’s evil plan. Mordecai said, “Ask the king to stop Haman. Ask him to save us!”

Esther wanted to help her people, but the king had a rule: No one can go to the king unless the king asks that person to come first. If anyone broke the rule, the punishment was death. The only way to not be punished was if the king held out his scepter. That meant, “You may live.” Esther was afraid. Mordecai reminded Esther that she was a Jew. Maybe Esther had become the queen just for this time - so she could save her people!

Esther asked all the Jews to not eat or drink for three days. Then Esther went to the king. He saw Esther and held out his scepter. That meant she would live! “What can I do for you?” the king asked. “I will give you anything—up to half of the kingdom.”

Esther asked the king and Haman to come to a feast. When they were done eating, the king said, “What can I do for you? I will give you anything—up to half of the kingdom.” Esther said, “Come to my feast tomorrow.”

The next day, the king and Haman went to Esther’s feast. When they were done eating, the king said, “What can I do for you? I will give you anything—up to half of the kingdom.” Esther said, “There is a plan to kill me and my people.”

“Who made that plan?” the king asked. “This evil man—Haman!” Esther said. The king was angry. He ordered Haman to be taken away. Then the king made a law to keep the Jews safe from their enemies.

Questions/Discussion

- 1) How do you think Esther felt going to the king?
- 2) Share about a time you did something by faith – trusting that God is in control?

Christ Connection: God’s plan was to send the Messiah into the world through Abraham’s family. Haman’s evil plan could not stop God. God had a plan for Esther to rescue His people. By saving the Jews, God made the way for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world.



Family Activity: Use empty paper towel tubes, yellow construction paper, plastic adhesive gems and tape to make royal scepters. Discuss Esther’s bravery in approaching the king. Remind your kids that we can approach King Jesus anytime.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for being in control of everything and saving Your people through Esther. Thank You even more for saving us from our sin by sending Jesus to die in our place. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Unit Summary: This is the first lesson in the unit called, “The People Restored”. There are four lessons in this unit. Kids will be learning from the books Esther, Nehemiah and Malachi – which is the last book of the Old Testament.

Lesson Summary: The Babylonian captivity ended when Cyrus, the king of Persia, took over Babylon and let God’s people go home. Some of God’s people - now called Jews (people from Judah) - traveled back to Judah to rebuild the temple, the city and their lives. Others, however, stayed in Persia where life among the pagans was relatively comfortable.

The king of Persia was now Ahasuerus (uh haz yoo EHR uhs), also known by his Greek name, Xerxes (ZUHRK seez). Esther was a young Jewish girl who became queen of Persia. The former queen had defied the king and was promptly replaced.

Esther had been an orphan, so her cousin Mordecai adopted her. Mordecai kept in touch with Esther while she lived in the palace. One day, the king gave Haman the Agagite a very important position in the kingdom. The king even commanded the people to bow down to Haman. But Mordecai refused.

Haman was a descendant of Agag, king of the Amalekites. The nations of Israel and Amalek did not get along. Haman was angry, but instead of just punishing Mordecai, he planned to kill all the Jews in the kingdom.

In this week’s Bible story, Mordecai turned to Esther for help. After all, she was in a position of power, and the Jews were her people. The stakes were high, but Esther approached the king and explained her people’s plight. Review the details in Esther 7.

Note how Esther described Haman: “The adversary and enemy is this evil Haman” (Esth. 7:6). We too have an adversary - the Devil. He prowls around like a lion, seeking people to devour. (1 Pet. 5:8) He loves nothing more than to destroy believers and hinder the work of God. Satan thought he had succeeded when Jesus died on the cross, but God - working frequently behind the scenes- raised Jesus from the dead and defeated Satan once and for all. (See Heb. 2:14-15.)

Unit Key Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

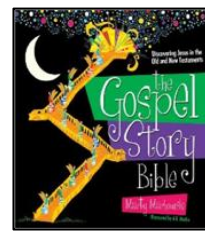
- *Age 2 – 3:* “God...will...restore...you.”
- *Age 4 – 5:* “And after you have suffered a little while...God...will restore...you.”
- *Grade K – 3:* “And after you have suffered a little while...God...will...restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”
- *Preteen:* “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

Preteen Daily Readings: This week’s (**March 1**) readings are James 4:8, John 15:4, John 4:25-26, John 1:41, Romans 12:12 and Romans 8:24-25.

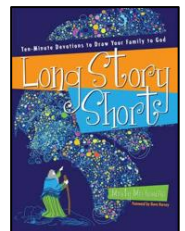
Family Devotional: Our desire is for kids to hear from the Bible first at home and then have the message be reinforced at church on the weekend. In addition to, or in lieu of the provided story, you can use these devotionals with your family. These can be purchased in the Berean Café.



Age 2-5, Pages 158



Grade K-3, NA



Grade 4-5, NA