Queen Esther



Scripture Reference: Esther 1-10

Suggested Theme: God gives us opportunities to help people. Look for opportunities to help people.

Memory Verse: “Do not forget to do good to others. And share with them what you have. These are the sacrifices that please God.” Hebrews 13:16, ICB

Story Overview:

King Xerxes now ruled Persia. Because he had deposed his queen in a drunken feast, a search was made throughout the kingdom for a new queen. Under the direction of her cousin, Mordecai, Esther was put forward and chosen. Not knowing that his beautiful queen was Jewish, Xerxes fell in with a plan to destroy the Jewish exiles living in his land. Queen Esther saved her people by revealing her Jewish origins to the king and convincing him to let the Jews defend and protect themselves.

Background Study:

Note to Teachers: To understand Esther’s story, read the entire Book of Esther. This will require time on your part, so keep this in mind when preparing to teach.

The Book of Esther is unusual because God’s name is not mentioned once throughout the book. His presence is obvious, however, as He works behind the scenes.

At the time of Esther’s story, the Jews have been in captivity for many years. Once, Babylon held them captive, but the ruling power was now Persia.

Chapter 1-2: How Esther Became Queen

Xerxes (sometimes called Ahasuerus) succeeded Cyrus and was now the ruler of Persia. Xerxes and his queen, Vashti, lived in the winter capital of Susa. The king gave a six-month-long feast. He invited many important men of the kingdom to the feast. The men drank much wine. At the climax of the feast, King Xerxes asked Vashti to come in so all the other men could see what a beautiful wife he had. Vashti refused to obey the king. We are not told what her reason was, but we know that her refusal angered the King so much that he deposed her as his queen.

Following this, the king’s servants suggested finding a new queen. He could choose from all of the beautiful young women of the kingdom. Girls were gathered together and cared for in the palace for one year.

One of the girls who went to the palace was a young Jewish girl named Hadassah, or Esther. Her cousin, Mordecai, had taken care of her since her parents had died. The king chose Esther as the new queen. At Mordecai’s suggestion, Esther did not reveal that she was Jewish.

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/

During this time, Mordecai happened to overhear an assassination plot being hatched. He told Esther, who, in turn, told the king. The would-be assassins were hanged, and Mordecai was honoured. All were recorded in the king's annals (record books) (Esther 2:23).

Chapter 3: Haman Abuses Power and Tries to Destroy Mordecai and the Jewish People

Five years passed. A man named Haman also gained favour with the king, and the king ordered royal officials to bow to Haman when he passed. Mordecai refused to bow to him. Haman's anger was such that he began to plot to kill not only Mordecai but all of the Jews as well.

Haman convinced the king that the Jews were a menace to Persia and should be destroyed. Not knowing that his own queen was a Jew, the king passed a law that the Jews could be attacked.

Chapters 4-8: Esther Saves Her People

Mordecai heard of the plan and went straight to Esther. He asked her to use her position to save the Jews. Esther knew she needed to approach the king but had to do so very carefully. She could not have forgotten what happened to the last queen who had displeased King Xerxes. Esther took a big chance by approaching the King. It was not the queen's place to approach the king; instead, he summoned the queen when he wanted her. She also knew she had a duty (4:14).

The king accepted Esther when she approached him. He told her he would give her anything she requested. Esther knew she could not ask him to change his own law, but she set forth a plan to let the king make the needed discoveries himself. The king granted her request to throw Haman a banquet the next day.

Haman must have been filled with self-importance to be invited to a banquet with the king. This made it even more aggravating that Mordecai still refused to bow to him. Before the banquet, Haman ordered a gallows built on which to hang Mordecai.

The hand of God is seen in the fact that the night before the banquet, the king could not sleep, so he asked that his record books be brought and read to him. The king listened to the old account of Mordecai, uncovering the plot to kill the king. It occurred to him that he should honour Mordecai.

Ironically, it was Haman whom the king ordered to honour Mordecai. Considering Haman had just ordered the gallows built, he now found himself in a dangerously awkward position if the king were to find out.

And the king did find out. Esther used the setting of the banquet to reveal to the king that she was a Jew. If this was not surprising enough to the king, she then revealed all of Haman's plots. Haman had tricked the king into decreeing the Jews killed, and now, he was about to have Mordecai hung.

The king was enraged and ordered Haman to be hung on the very gallows he had built.

Chapters 9-10: The Jews Defend Themselves and Celebrate

Even though the king might have regretted making the new law to kill all the Jews, he could not change it. His solution was to issue a decree that allowed the Jews to protect themselves. In this way, the Jews protected themselves and were saved. The "Feast of Purim" celebrates this victory.

Way to Introduce the Story:

Begin the class by playing hangman. Use words like "bible, God, king, beautiful, kingdom, queen, Jews, and honour." Let this lead you into the story. Tell the children these words, and the gallows will be in the story.

The Story:

King Xerxes was the King of the Persian Empire, which meant he was king of the biggest kingdom in the world at that time. King Xerxes was rich and powerful, but he did not believe in God.

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/

The king did something very bad. He threw a big party and told his queen that she had to dance in front of everyone. Queen Vashti refused to obey the king, and he became so angry that he told her she would be banished. He never saw her again.

The king's helpers searched the whole kingdom to find the most beautiful girl to be the new queen. The girls were brought to the palace, given the best makeup and perfumes, and spent a whole year learning how to be queens.

One of the girls was Esther. Esther did not have a father or a mother, so her cousin, Mordecai, raised her and treated her like a daughter. Mordecai told Esther that she should not tell anyone at the palace that she was Jewish. Jewish people were captives, and the people in charge would not want a captive to be queen.

When it came time to choose the new queen, the king chose Esther over all of the other girls. Esther became the queen. The king did not believe in God, but Esther did. But Esther always kept this secret. Even the king did not know.

She never forgot her cousin Mordecai or that she was one of God's people. Sometimes, it was hard for Esther because the other Jews were treated badly. They did not have the riches that Queen Esther had.

But Esther did help her people. One time, Mordecai heard that someone was trying to kill the king. He told Esther about it, and she told the king.

The plan was stopped. Mordecai saved the king's life! This was very special and was written in the king's record book.

As time passed, a man called "Haman" became famous in the kingdom. The king thought Haman was a good man, but he was actually very bad. The king ordered everyone in the kingdom to bow down to Haman, but Mordecai knew he was bad and would not bow.

Haman was so angry that he planned a way to kill Mordecai and all of the Jews. When Haman told the king that the Jews were bad, the king believed him.

The king made a law that people could kill the Jews and not get in trouble. Haman was glad. Now, he could hurt Mordecai, too. Now, he could even have Mordecai hang to death, and no one could stop him.

When Mordecai heard about the plan, he told Esther. "God has blessed you, Esther. Now it is time for you to use these blessings to help others. Maybe God let you become queen so that you could save our people."

Esther was very frightened. She had never told the king that she was a Jew. Would he be mad at her like he was mad at the first queen? Esther knew that even the queen could not go to the king without an invitation. He could even have her put to death. So she asked Mordecai to have all the Jews in Susa fast and pray, and she and her servants also fasted and prayed for three days.

After three days, Esther went to the king. She was so relieved when he pointed his sceptre at her and told her to come to him.

Esther had a plan. She told the king that she wanted a special feast just for the two of them and Haman. Esther and the king planned the feast for the very next day. Haman did not know Queen Esther had a plan. He was just happy to be invited to a feast with the King and Queen.
The king liked Esther. At the feast, he told her she could have anything she wanted. So Esther told the king that she would like to have another feast with the king and Haman the very next day. At the next feast, she would say what her wish was.

The king went to bed that night, but he could not sleep. Sometimes, reading a book helps you sleep. So the king asked one of his helpers to bring one of the old record books. The helper brought the book and began to read to the king about things that had happened long ago. He read about the time Mordecai had saved the king's life! The king got very excited. He wanted to do something special for Mordecai.

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/

Haman was nearby, so the king called for Haman to come into his chamber. Haman was happy because he thought the king would do something nice for HIM. The king asked Haman what should be done for someone who deserved honour. Haman thought the king was about to honour him, so he said: “That person should be given a royal robe and one of the king’s horses. They should be led through the streets so everyone knows the king likes them.”

“That is a great idea,” said the king. “Go and do those things for Mordecai!”
Haman was shocked! He could not believe that the king liked Mordecai. Now, Haman knew he had a big problem. The king liked Mordecai, but Haman was trying to kill him. What would the king do when he found out?

And the king DID find out! The next day, when Haman went to the special feast with Esther and the King, Esther told the king everything.

First, she told the king that she was a Jew and that Haman had tricked the king into making a law that said people could kill Jews. Then she told the king that someone was trying to kill the good man, Mordecai. When he heard this, the king was very angry. He said that the man should be put to death.

“Haman is the one trying to kill Mordecai!” Esther told the king.

The king was very angry. How dare Haman try to hurt the man who had saved the king’s life? How dare he trick the king into making a bad law about the Queen’s people?

The king ordered Haman to be put to death. He was to be hung on the very gallows that he had built for Mordecai.

The king was very sorry that he had made the law that anyone could kill the Jews. Even the king could not change the law.

So Queen Esther asked the king to make another law – a law that said the Jews could fight back if someone tried to kill them. From then on, if someone tried to hurt the Jews, then the Jews fought back. Soon, no one wanted to hurt the Jews anymore.

Mordecai and all of the Jews were saved because of Esther.

top

Ways to Tell the Story:

This story can be told using various methods. Always remain true to the facts found in the Bible, but help children connect to its meaning by using drama, visual aids, voice inflection or other group participation.

Be selective. Each teacher is unique, so only use the illustrations that best relate to how YOU tell the story in THIS lesson. Too many illustrations can be confusing, so eliminate any that cover other stories or details you do not wish to emphasise in this lesson.

Click here for visual aids and more storytelling methods.

top

Review and Reflection Questions:

Review questions help children remember and know the facts of a story. Reflection questions encourage them to internalise the meaning and implications for their lives. Asking at least one of each type of question can help strengthen a child’s spiritual development and help them connect to God. Click here to learn more about review and reflection questions.

Click here to learn more about review and reflection questions.

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/

Review:

- Who was the young Jewish girl who was chosen to be queen? (Esther)
- Who was Esther's cousin? (Mordecai)
- What did Haman try to do to Mordecai? (Hang him on the gallows)
- What finally happened to Haman? (He was hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai)
- When Esther approached the king, what did he point at her? What did it mean? (His sceptre; she could talk to him)
- What was going to happen to the Jews? (Haman convinced the king to make a law that anyone could kill Jews without punishment)
- How did God use Esther to save the Jews? (Because she was queen, she heard about Haman's plan to kill the Jews, told the king, and the king changed those plans)
- What did Esther learn from these events? What about Haman?
- God gave Esther beauty and helped her become queen. What is one reason why God gave Esther these things? (So she could help save the Jews)
- What did this story teach you about God?

Reflection:

- What is something you wonder about in this story?
- What part of this story is most interesting to you?
- What do you think the special feast with Esther, the king and Haman was like? What did the feast look, taste, or smell like?
- How do you think Esther felt when she was made queen?
- How do you think Esther felt as she approached the king, even though it was against the law and she could be killed?
- How would you feel if you were Queen Esther, and you knew you could save the Jews by talking to the king? Would you be brave like Esther?
- Why do you think Esther fasted and prayed before talking to the king?
- What do you think would have happened to the Jews if Esther had not been the queen?
- God gave Esther beauty and a position in the government, and she used those things to save the Jews. What blessings or opportunities has God given you? How can you use those things to help other people?
- Who do you desire to help? Are you drawn to a certain group of people, or one person you know? (Suggestion: Pray together for God to help the children help those they talked about)

Prayer:

It is important to guide children in learning how to pray. In prayer, children can connect with God and learn that He hears and answers them. God can become a life-long friend who is with them every moment of their lives. Try using a variety of prayer methods from time to time so that the children can learn to connect with God in different ways. Note that you can pray at any time throughout your lesson. A variety of prayer methods are found here.

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/

Song Suggestions:

- Ha-la-la-la Song
- Love is Something If You Give It Away Song
- Books of the Old Testament Song
- Refer to the Song Page on this website for more song options.

top

Activities and Crafts:

- How to choose the best learning activities for my teaching situation.
- Visit the activities and songs pages for additional activities and crafts.

Activities:

- Write talents or blessings on cards (money, cooking, singing, etc.) and let the children take turns drawing a card and telling the other children how they could use that talent to help other people.
- Play hangman with words from the story.
- Read Esther 2:7, 17 and 1 Peter 3:3-4. Divide the board into two columns. Head them with “Inward Beauty” and “Outward Beauty.” Write examples of each in the columns.



- (Costumed Bible Characters) A little play-acting is often a fun way to tell the story or review what has been learned. Here are some ways you might use the idea: After telling the story, guide the children in dressing up in costumes and acting it out.
- Or, you can dress up in a simple costume to act the part of one of the Bible characters. As you begin to speak, “get into character” as if you were the person in the story visiting today to tell them what has happened to you.
- Or, later in the session, as a review, the teacher can also use the same method to ask the children review questions as if they are one of the characters in the story talking to the children.

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/

Invite the children to respond to this story using the adaptable “God’s Story” printable reflection page. Free printables for this story.

Crafts:

- Write each child’s name at the top of a blank paper and then ask them to draw a picture or write about what they might like to be when they grow up. Then, let each child share their answers. As each child shares their answer, ask the children how a person doing that job might help others. Then, the discussion should be guided toward specific ways in which people in these jobs might share the good news of Jesus. You may have to lead younger children in answering, but older children will be able to answer for themselves.

  Example: “I want to be a fireman when I grow up. If someone is in a fire, I can save them.” You might add…”And, if a fireman gets hurt you might ask to pray for them.” Once you have done this a few times, the children will probably begin to think of other ways to share their faith in various occupations.

  You could do this same activity but use flash cards instead of drawing. I found printable flashcards at http://www.kids-pages.com/folders/flashcards/Occupations.htm.
- Make and decorate crowns. Use glue and glitter to write “Queen Esther” on the crown.
- Provide paints, brushes and nice paper so the children can paint a portrait of Queen Esther.

Print and use these free bookmarks, trading cards or timelines. Free printables for this story.

top

Other Online Resources:

- Colouring page with text (Ministry Spark)
- Colouring page and puzzle worksheets-Mordecai and Haman (Calvary Curriculum)
- Colouring page and puzzle worksheets-Esther pleads for her people(Calvary Curriculum)
- Colouring page and puzzle worksheets-Haman’s anger at Mordecai (Calvary Curriculum)
- Colouring page and puzzle worksheets-Mordecai is honoured (Calvary Curriculum)
- Colouring page and puzzle worksheets-Haman’s evil is repaid (Calvary Curriculum)
- Colouring page and puzzle worksheets-Esther saves her people (Calvary Curriculum)
- Colouring page and puzzle worksheets-Jews rejoice and declare a feast (Calvary Curriculum)
- These flash cards depicting various occupations can be used as discussion starters for how to help people when you are in various occupations. (Kids pages)
- Study guide to the Book of Esther by The Bible Project

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/

top

Date
2026/11/14

©2011-2026 Mission Bible Class, used by permission. Not to be sold. Find more free lessons at https://missionbibleclass.org/