

# Old Testament

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## Through the Old Testament in Two Years Part Two

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Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## Esther

Last week we learned that the Jews had been taken to a foreign country. When Esther's parent's died, her cousin, Mordecai, raised Esther. Esther obeyed Mordecai. Esther was chosen to be queen. Her beauty was both internal and external.

## Esther 3-9

### Read the Bible

**READ: Esther 4:9-17; 5:1-4 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Memory Verse:

Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
(Romans 12:12 NIV)

### Begin With Prayer

One of the king's men was named Haman. He was an evil man. The king promoted him to a higher position. Haman made all of the king's officials bow down to him. But Mordecai would not bow down because he only bowed down to God. Some of the officials told Haman about Mordecai's actions. He was very angry. He had heard about the Jews and how they only worshipped God. He decided to find a way to kill Mordecai AND all the Jews! (Esther 3:1-5) Haman told the king about the disobedience of the Jewish people to the king's laws. He told only a little of what actually was true. He asked the king to issue an order for all the Jews to be KILLED! He said that he would pay 375 tons of silver to the king's treasury if it were done. (Esther 3:7-12) Messages were sent all over the country, telling the Jews that they would all be killed on a single day. Mordecai heard the news and cried loudly. (Esther 3:13-15; 4:1) Esther heard that Mordecai was very upset. She sent one of the king's men to find out what was bothering Mordecai. Mordecai told him everything that was happening. He instructed Esther to go to the king to plead for mercy for her people. (Esther 4:2-8) Esther sent an urgent message back to Mordecai. She told Mordecai that she could die if she entered the king's presence without being invited. She knew the only way to avoid being killed was if the king held out his gold scepter (wand or staff) and let her stay. She also explained that she hadn't seen the king in 30 days. (Esther 4:9-11) Mordecai sent a message back telling her that she would also die because she was a Jew. He also told her that she may have been chosen queen for this very reason—to help her people. (Esther 4:12) Esther bravely told Mordecai that she would try to see the king. But first, she asked all the Jews to pray and not eat for three days! This was a way of constantly praying and asking God to help His people survive. (Esther 4:13-17) On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes. Then she took a deep breath and walked into the inner room where the king was seated. The king saw Esther and was very pleased. He held out his gold scepter and let her live! Then the king asked Esther what she wanted. He was ready to give her just about anything. Esther asked the king and Haman to come to a banquet. (Esther 5:1-

### Goals

1. Understand that Mordecai bowed only to God.
2. Recognize that Esther prayed to God for help.
3. Learn that Esther risked her life for her people.
4. Understand that God saved His people from their enemies.

### Esther — Bible Facts

- |                                                   |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mordecai did not bow down to Haman.            | 2. Haman plotted to kill the Jews.              |
| 3. Esther pleaded for her people before the king. | 4. God delivered His people from their enemies. |

4)

That night the king curiously asked Esther what she wanted. Esther replied by asking the king and Haman to come the next day for a banquet. (Esther 5:5-8)

Haman went home happy. He told his wife about the banquet. He also shared his hatred for Mordecai. She suggested that he build a big platform and have him hanged on it. Haman liked that idea and had a platform built. (Esther 5:9-14)

That same night, the king could not go to sleep. So he gave an order for the court records to be read to him. In it he learned that Mordecai had helped save the king from being killed (remember this from last week). The king found out that nothing had been done to honor Mordecai for his brave act. The king asked for the nearest official. Guess what? It was Haman. The king asked Haman what he should do for a man that the king wanted to honor.

Haman selfishly thought the king was talking about him. So, he told the king to let the man wear a royal robe and be paraded around town announcing to everyone what he did for the king. Haman couldn't believe his ears when the king told him to go and do this for MORDECAI! Haman ran home and told his wife the unbelievable news. (Esther 6:1-14)

Just then, it was time to go to Esther's banquet. As they were eating, the king asked Esther what she wanted. Esther asked the king to let her live. She also asked to let her people live, too. She explained that her people were going to be totally eliminated. The king couldn't believe this. He wanted to know who planned this. Esther spoke up and told him Haman planned this scheme. One of the king's servants told the king about the platform Haman was making. The king ordered Haman to be hanged on it immediately. (Esther 7:1-10)

That same day Esther pleaded with the king about her people. The king gave a command that all the Jews could gather together and fight anyone who tried to kill them. They were victorious because God was with them. (Esther 8:1-17)

#### Review

1. What made Haman hate Mordecai and the Jews? (Mordecai did not bow down to Haman.)
2. What did Haman do? (Haman plotted to kill the Jews.)
3. What did Esther do? (Esther pled for her people before the king.)
4. What happened next? (God delivered His people from their enemies.)

#### Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus chose to die in our place. He took our place and died on a cross. (John 3:16) Jesus came back to life three days later!! (Romans 1:4) Because He is alive, we can be in Heaven with God if we trust Jesus and ask Him into our lives. (Romans 10:9-10) Talk to your teacher about it.

#### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to save us.
3. Ask God to help you worship Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to worship God.

#### Application

Mordecai bowed only to God. This made Haman hate him and all the Jews. When Esther realized she could lose her life if she went before the king uninvited, Esther prayed to God for help. Esther risked her life for her people. God saved His people from their enemies. God will save us from our enemies, too.

### Planning for Next Week

#### Job — Job 1-2

# Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Esther 4:9-17; 5:1-4 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

**Teachers:** Make a scepter. Let the children pretend to be Esther and the king. Let the king hold out the scepter to Esther. Let Esther touch the scepter.

Last week we learned about queen Esther and how God helped her to become queen. She was a beautiful woman who loved God very much. Her adopted father was named Mordecai. He cared for her and made sure she was also safe.

One day, Mordecai was very upset. Esther sent someone to find out what was wrong. Mordecai told her some sad news. The king had made a bad law that all of their people should be killed. He knew that a mean man had tricked the king into making this law.

Mordecai asked Esther to help. He told her that God had put her there as queen to help God's people. Esther was afraid and scared. She knew that she could only go to the king if he invited her. If she went uninvited, the king had to hold out his gold wand to give her permission to enter. She asked her people to pray to God for her. They prayed for three days. On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes. Then she took a deep breath and walked into the inner room where the king was seated. The king saw Esther and was very pleased. He held out his gold scepter and invited her into his room! Then the king asked Esther what she wanted. Instead of telling him the news, she invited him and the mean man Haman to come to dinner with her.

That night the king curiously asked Esther what she wanted. Esther replied by asking the king and Haman to come the next day for a banquet.

The next day as they were eating, the king asked Esther what she wanted. Esther asked the king to let her live. She also asked to let her people live, too. She explained that her people were going to be totally eliminated. The king couldn't believe this. He wanted to know who planned this.

Esther spoke up and told him Haman planned this scheme. She pleaded with the king about her people. The king made a command that all the Jews could gather together and fight anyone who tried to kill them.

God was with His people. They were victorious. Afterwards, they had a special feast to honor God for saving His people. The king issued a command to celebrate this day every year to remind the people of how good God is.

## Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us.
3. Ask God to help you worship Him.

## Memory verse for younger children

**Be faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12**

## Learning Activities

**Memory verse activity** — Bring legal sized paper and make an accordion. Write the Bible verse on it. Practice the verse.

**Test your memory** — Esther asked the people to fast and pray for three days. Bring a poster to use during story time. As you tell the story highlight three things at a time by writing key words and attaching them to the poster. Ask the children to retell the story.

**Taste activity** — During snack time give the children an empty plate. Remind them that Esther asked Israel to fast and pray for three days. Ask them questions about the story and give everyone a piece of candy.

**Think about it** — Mordecai could have been killed by Haman for refusing to bow down before him. Mordecai remained faithful to God. Talk about being faithful to God.

Esther risked her life for her people. Talk about how Jesus gave His life for us.

**Touch activity** — Make a scepter. Let the children pretend to be Esther and the king. Let the king hold out the scepter to Esther. Let Esther touch the scepter.

Have a special prayer time. Read one of the psalms as a prayer.

Bring balloons. Let the children use markers to draw faces of the characters in the story. Let the children act out the story using the balloons.

**Run and play** — Esther prepared a banquet for the king and Haman. Have a banquet. Bring food and let the children decorate. Use special plates, napkins, and cups.

Play relay races. Prepare questions about the story. Have the children stand in two groups on opposite ends. Have one group of children ask the questions. Everyone can take a turn and ask a question. Have the other group answer the questions. Everyone will take a turn answering the questions. When the group has an answer one team member must run to the other team and give the answer.

Have a time of worship. Bring or make instruments.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to worship Him.

•**Sing** — Sing “Majesty,” “Praise Him, Praise Him,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts and accordions with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Be joyful  
in hope,  
patient  
in affliction,  
faithful  
in prayer.  
Romans 12:12

## Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Esther

risked

her life

# Word Search

F R K M D P R S S P K M L B D F B  
T S E F G D R M T R B S E R K W S  
C Y G H R R G F T N S T P T R G B  
D C T G T G D N K P A S R F L R S  
F S W M B S F M I H S M K L K B N  
K L F N D S E C A K M R I H R C D  
B S T F Y Q R M C A D K T D N G Z  
M V D F W B A T E N S S F Y K F M  
G T N S L N R P D I E W P A B R K  
N B T R G D F E R B D G S R H M T  
K M P L K S W F O A R F X P G D H  
T S B S M Q L W M F Y G J S W E J

MORDECAI

HATE

PRAY

HAMAN

KILL

RISK

BOW

ESTHER

KING



# Word Search

F	R	K	M	D	P	R	S	S	P	K	M	L	B	D	F	B
T	S	E	F	G	D	R	M	T	R	B	S	E	R	K	W	S
C	Y	G	H	R	R	G	F	T	N	S	T	P	T	R	G	B
D	C	T	G	T	G	D	N	K	P	A	S	R	F	L	R	S
F	S	W	M	B	S	F	M	I	H	S	M	K	L	K	B	N
K	L	F	N	D	S	E	C	A	K	M	R	I	H	R	C	D
B	S	T	F	Y	Q	R	M	C	A	D	K	T	D	N	G	Z
M	V	D	F	W	B	A	T	E	N	S	S	F	Y	K	F	M
G	T	N	S	L	N	R	P	D	I	E	W	P	A	B	R	K
N	B	T	R	G	D	F	E	R	B	D	G	S	R	H	M	T
K	M	P	L	K	S	W	F	O	A	R	F	X	P	G	D	H
T	S	B	S	M	Q	L	W	M	F	Y	G	J	S	W	E	J

MORDECAI

HATE

PRAY

HAMAN

KILL

RISK

BOW

ESTHER

KING

## Word Search

K F B G L R W H D F L J  
N E H E M K I N G G T Y  
B F V M T G S B P R D N  
R I S K R S H F K M D P  
T P J W B D F I N I S H  
J C S W O P R A Y F D M  
S B R M K J D R K B N P  
E S T H E R B T D G R S  
R S H V T R V G S F R B  
W A L Q V R B N B O W F  
S G F M J R T F B G L D  
M O R D E C A I E K V D

MORDECAI

BOW

ESTHER

PRAY

RISK

KING

## Word Search

K	F	B	G	L	R	W	H	D	F	L	J
N	E	H	E	M	K	I	N	G	G	T	Y
B	F	V	M	T	G	S	B	P	R	D	N
R	I	S	K	R	S	H	F	K	M	D	P
T	P	J	W	B	D	F	I	N	I	S	H
J	C	S	W	O	P	R	A	Y	F	D	M
S	B	R	M	K	J	D	R	K	B	N	P
E	S	T	H	E	R	B	T	D	G	R	S
R	S	H	V	T	R	V	G	S	F	R	B
W	A	L	Q	V	R	B	N	B	O	W	F
S	G	F	M	J	R	T	F	B	G	L	D
M	O	R	D	E	C	A	I	E	K	V	D

MORDECAI

BOW

ESTHER

PRAY

RISK

KING

# Anagram

FLOUYJ

POEH

TTNAIEP

TFFLAIIOCN

FFHLAIUT

AEYPRR

MNSOAR

HREEST

RDCAIEOM



## Anagram

JOYFUL

HOPE

PATIENT

AFFLICTION

FAITHFUL

PRAYER

ROMANS

ESTHER

MORDECAI