

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



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

Old Testament

Esther

Esther 1-2

Memory Verse:

Instead, your beauty comes from inside you. It is the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. Beauty like that doesn't fade away. God places great value on it. (1 Peter 3:5 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that the Jews were taken to a foreign country.
2. Recognize that Mordecai raised Esther.
3. Learn that Esther obeyed Mordecai.
4. Understand that God values what is in our heart.

Last week we learned that the people of Israel had begun rebuilding the walls. Their enemies were angry and threatened them. But Nehemiah prayed to God for help. God protected them and helped them finish the wall. But before all of that, in the land of captivity, there lived a young girl named Esther.

Read the Bible

READ: Esther 2:1-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin With Prayer

The Jewish people had been captured before the time of Nehemiah and taken to a foreign land where they had worked and lived. Mordecai (More-da-ki) was one of those Jews, which meant he was one of God's chosen people. He lived in Susa. Mordecai was a man who served King Xerxes (Zerk-seas) who ruled over Persia. When Mordecai was a young man, he began to raise his young cousin, Hadassah. She was also called Esther. In fact, he adopted her as his daughter because her parents both died. She grew up to be a very pretty young lady. (Esther 2:1-7)

One day, the king issued an order to everyone in the whole land. A search was to be made for the most beautiful woman in the land to be the next queen. All the women got to have special beauty treatments for 12 months—that's a year! (Esther 2:8-9)

Esther was chosen as one of the women who might be the next queen. Esther did not tell anyone that she was a Jew because Mordecai told her not to. Mordecai would walk back and forth by the palace gate to check on Esther. He wanted to make sure Esther was taken care of. She followed his instructions. The man in charge of everything liked Esther and gave her special food and beauty treatments. Esther was kind to everyone. Everyone loved her. (Esther 2:10-14)

Finally, it was Esther's turn to go to the king. Wisely, she asked the man in charge what she should do. He told her exactly what to take. The king loved Esther!! He thought she was so beautiful. He crowned her queen! He had a great banquet and also pronounced a holiday for everyone. He even gave everyone a gift! (Esther 2:15-17)

Esther — Bible Facts

1. **Mordecai was one of the Jews who had been taken captive.**
2. **He adopted Esther.**
3. **She did what Mordecai told her to do. She followed the instructions of the man in charge of the women.**
4. **Esther was chosen to be queen.**

One day, Mordecai overheard two people trying to find a way to kill the king. He quickly told Esther the news. Esther told the king. Sure enough, Mordecai was right. His name was written down in the special book of things that happened to the king. (Esther 2:19-23)

God tells us that He looks at how beautiful we are on the inside. “Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. But I look at what is in the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV) “Instead, your beauty comes from inside you. It is the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. Beauty like that doesn't fade away. God places great value on it.” (1 Peter 3:4-5 NIV). What does that mean? God cares about your attitude and heart more than what you look like on the outside.

Review

1. **Who was Mordecai?** (Mordecai was one of the Jews who had been taken captive.)
2. **What did Mordecai do?** (He adopted Esther.)
3. **What did Esther do?** (She did what Mordecai told her to do. She followed the instructions of the man in charge of the women.)
4. **What happened next?** (Esther was chosen to be queen.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God let His Son, Jesus, take our punishment. God knows that there is only one way to get to Heaven. We have to be clean and pure. The problem is that we have all done wrong—sinned. (Romans 3:23) Our hearts are dirty on the inside and that means we are separated from God. (Romans 6:23) Jesus died on the cross for all our sins. (John 3:16) Jesus can clean us and make us pure when we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our heart. (Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9) If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to your teacher.

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 do what He says.**
4. **Pray for friends and family members who need to do what God says.**

Application

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. The Bible says, “Your beauty comes from inside you. It is the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. Beauty like that doesn't fade away. God places great value on it.” (1 Peter 3:4-5 NIV).

Planning for Next Week

Esther's Courage — Esther 4-9

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Esther 2:1-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring dress up clothes for the kids to wear. Let the girls pretend to be in line for the next queen. Let the boys pretend to be the men who are helping them.

Mordecai (More-da-ki) was a man who served the King. When Mordecai was a young man, he began to raise his young cousin, Esther. In fact, he adopted her as his daughter because her parents both died. She grew up to be a very pretty young lady.

One day, the king made an order to everyone in the whole land. A search was to be made for the most beautiful woman in the land to be the next queen. All the women got to have special beauty treatments. They had special oils put on their skin, hair, face etc.

Esther was chosen as one of the women who might be the next queen. She was pretty but she also was kind to people and cared for them. Everyone loved Esther. The man in charge of everything liked Esther and gave her special food and beauty treatments.

Mordecai would walk back and forth by the palace gate to check on Esther. He wanted to make sure Esther was taken care of.

Finally it was Esther's turn to go to the king. Wisely, she asked the man in charge what she should do. He told her exactly what to take.

The king loved Esther!! He thought she was so beautiful. He crowned her queen! He had a great banquet and also pronounced a holiday for everyone. He even gave everyone a gift! Mordecai was happy, too. He knew that God was doing something important. He knew that someday Esther would do something special to help her people.

God loves us, too, and thinks that we are beautiful. God made us just like we are and smiles because we are special to Him.

Sing, "Jesus loves me," and pray. Thank God for loving us.

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 do what He says.

Memory verse for younger children

Your beauty comes from inside you. 1 Peter 3:5

Learning Activities

Memory verse activity — Bring a full length mirror or one that works for your group. Let the kids look at themselves in the mirror. Talk about the beauty that God sees and values. Memorize the verse. Allow the children to practice in front of the mirror.

•**Test your memory** — Bring jewelry items and clothes a queen might wear. Also bring clothes for a costume and jewelry the man in charge might wear. Allow the children to dress up. Ask them to retell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Make a cake and use inverted cones to form a crown.

Make a cake in the shape of a castle.

Think about it — We might say that Esther had many things going against her. She was a woman, she had no parents, she was living in a foreign country, and then she was taken away from the relative who was raising her. But God had a plan for her. Talk about how we may not always understand God's plan for us but we can trust Him to take care of us.

Esther did what Mordecai said. Then she did what the man in charge of the women said. Talk about the importance of obeying God.

Touch activity — Bring dress-up clothes for the kids to wear. Let the girls pretend to be in line for the next queen. Let the boys pretend to be the men who are helping them.

Have a party. Decorate with purple, pink, gold, or silver (royal colors).

Watch "Esther...The Girl Who Became Queen ." (Veggie Tales)

Make a crown and scepter.

Run and play — Play hot potatoes but pass around a crown.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to do what He says.

•**Sing** — Sing "Obedience," "Trust and Obey," 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 to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

**Instead,
your beauty comes
from inside you.**

**It is the beauty
of a gentle
and quiet spirit.
Beauty like that
doesn't fade away.**

**God places
great value on it.**

1 Peter 3:5

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Beauty comes

from inside

you

Word Search

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

JEWS
ESTHER
TREATMENTS

MORDECAI
QUEEN
BEAUTY

XERXES
FOOD
BANQUET

Word Search



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Word Search

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

ESTHER

XERXES

QUEEN

FOOD

BEAUTY

JEWS

Word Search

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

ESTHER

XERXES

QUEEN

FOOD

BEAUTY

JEWS

Anagram

UTEYAB

NISEDI

OUY

UTEQI

NETEGL

IRSTIP

DAEF

UVAEL

TREEP

Anagram

BEAUTY

INSIDE

YOU

QUIET

GENTLE

SPIRIT

FADE

VALUE

PETER