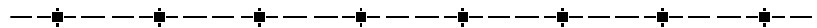


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



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

Old Testament

A Queen Trusts God

Esther

Esther 2-7

A Queen Trusts God
Esther 4:1-16; 5:1-3:

Memory Verse:

Do not let your hearts
be troubled. Trust in God.
Trust in me also.
(John 14:1 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Mordecai taught Esther about God.
2. Understand that Esther could die for going before the king uninvited.
3. Learn that Esther was willing to die for her people.
4. Recognize that Mordecai knew that God would help Israel.

Last week we learned about the unfaithfulness of Israel. God had the prophet Hosea marry a woman who was unfaithful to Him to show how Israel had sinned against God by worshipping idols.

Read the Bible

READ: Esther 4:1-16; 5:1-3 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Today we will learn about Esther. Esther was a Hebrew who became a queen. The Bible says that she was adopted by Mordecai. When the king began to look for a queen, they looked throughout the kingdom. (Esther 2:15-16) The king liked Esther more than he liked any of the other women.... She pleased him... he put a royal crown on her head. He made her queen.... (Esther 2:17)

There was a man named Haman who hated Mordecai so he planned to kill the Jews (Israelites). Mordecai and the other Jews were very sad; they didn't eat; they wore black; and they laid in ashes. When Esther found out she sent clothes to Mordecai. He refused to wear them, so Esther sent for Mordecai. He told Esther that Haman was planning to kill all the Jews. Mordecai wanted Esther to beg the king for mercy and ask him to help the Jews. (Esther 4:1-8)

Esther told Mordecai that the king had not sent for her in 30 days. If she appeared before the king without his invitation, she could die. The king would have to hold out his gold rod (scepter) to say that she could come forward, but if he did not, she could die. (Esther 4:9-12)

Mordecai told Esther that she was a Jew and might not escape. He also said that if she did not help, then help would come from another place. He added, "But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this." (Esther 4:13-14 NIV) Esther then asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Susa. She wanted them to pray for her and not to eat or drink anything for three days and nights. "I and my attendants will fast just as you do. Then I'll go to the king. I'll do it even though it's against the law. And if I have to die, I'll die." (Esther 4:15-16 NIV) God wants us to trust Him, too. (John 14:21) Mordecai did what Esther said. On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes and went to the inner courtyard of the palace in front of the king's hall where the king was sitting on his throne. The king saw Esther and

Esther — Bible Facts

1. Esther was adopted and raised by Mordecai.
2. Haman hated Mordecai.
3. Haman planned to kill Mordecai and all the Jews.
4. Esther was willing to die for her people.
5. God used Esther and the king to save Israel.

he was pleased with her so he held out his scepter so that she could approach him. The king asked Esther what she needed. (Esther 5:1-3) Twice Esther asked the king to join her for a dinner. She also invited Haman. Haman bragged about being invited to dinner with the king and queen. (Esther 5:4-12) He said, "But even all of that doesn't satisfy me. I won't be satisfied as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the palace gate." (Esther 5:13 NIV) So Haman planned to kill Mordecai. (Esther 5:14)

At the second dinner for the king and Haman, the king asked Queen Esther what she wanted. He offered half of his kingdom. (Esther 7:1-2) "Then Queen Esther answered, 'King Xerxes, I hope you will show me your favor. I hope you will be pleased to let me live. That's what I want. Please spare my people. That's my appeal to you.'" (Esther 7:3) Esther told the king that there was a plan to kill and wipe out her people. She added that if they had been sold into slavery she would not bother him. The king asked Esther who had done that. "Esther said, 'The man hates us! He's our enemy! He's this evil Haman!'" (Esther 7:4-6 NIV) The king was very upset. Someone told the king about Haman's plan to kill Mordecai. So the king order that Haman be put to death. (Esther 7:7-10)

The king gave a new order that allowed the Jews to fight to protect themselves. (Esther 8:1-16) God protected and saved the Jews. Esther was willing to die for her people. Jesus died for us. He died for our sins so that we can know God.

Review

1. Who raised Queen Esther? (Mordecai.)
2. What happened to Mordecai? (Mordecai was hated by Haman.)
3. What did Haman do? (Haman planned to kill Mordecai and the Jews.)
4. What did Esther do? (Esther was willing to die for her people.)
5. What did God do? (God used Esther and the king to save Israel.)

Do You Know Jesus? Jesus died for our sins so that we can know God. (John 14:21-31; John 3:16) Jesus rose from the dead, providing us a way to have a personal relationship with God. (John 14:6) Jesus gave His life so that we can know God. He wants us to live with Him in heaven forever. Would you like to invite God to be a part of your life so that you can know God and have a personal relationship with Him?

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you to trust Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know to God.

Application

Mordecai adopted Esther and taught her about God. When their lives were at risk Mordecai went to Esther for help. Mordecai knew that God would help Israel. Esther would have to ask the king for help. But Esther could die for going before the king uninvited. Esther knew about God and she asked the Jews to fast and pray for her. She was willing to go before the king and die for her people. God wants us to trust Him to help us. (John 14:1)

Planning for the next week:
Nehemiah (Israel Rebuilds the Wall) — Nehemiah 1-10

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Esther 4:1-16 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Bring a satin cloth that is purple, red, or blue (royal colors. Create the verse with gold letters. Use glitter, glitter glue, etc. Attach the verse to the cloth. Practice the verse.)

Esther was a Hebrew who became a queen. The Bible says that when she was young, she was adopted by Mordecai. When the king began to look for a queen, they looked throughout the kingdom. (Esther 2: 15-16) The king liked Esther more than he liked any of the other women.... She pleased him... he put a royal crown on her head. He made her queen.... (Esther 2:17)

Mordecai let Esther know that Haman was planning to kill all the Jews. Mordecai wanted Esther to ask the king for help. (Esther 4:1-8) Esther told Mordecai that the king has not sent for her in 30 days. If she appeared before the king without his invitation, she could die. The king would have to hold out his gold rod (scepter) to say that she could forward, but if he did not, she could die. (Esther 4:9-12)

Mordecai told Esther that she was a Jew and might not escape. He also said that if she did not help then help would come from another place. He added, "But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this." (Esther 4:13-16 NIV)

Esther then asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Susa. She wanted them to pray for her and not to eat or drink anything for three days and nights. She would do the same. (Esther 4:15-16 NIV) God wants us to trust Him, too. (John 14:21)

Mordecai did what Esther said. On the third day, Esther put on her royal clothes and went before the king. He was sitting on his throne. He saw Esther and he was pleased with her so he held out his scepter so that she could approach him. The king asked Esther what she needed. (Esther 5:1-3) Esther said, "Please spare my people. That's my appeal to you." (Esther 7:3) Esther told the king that there was a plan to kill... her people. The king asked Esther who had done that. "Esther said, 'The man hates us! He's our enemy! He's this evil Haman!'" (Esther 7:4-6 NIV) The king was very upset. Someone told the king about Haman's plan to kill Mordecai, so the king order that Haman be put to death. (Esther 7:7-10) God protected and saved the Jews. Esther was willing to die for her people. Jesus died for us. He died for our sins so that we can know God.

Prayer Time

- 1. Take a moment to listen to God.**
- 2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.**

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn about God's care.

Consider this: Provide some activities where the children will care for each other. Bring band-aids and have the children put the band-aids on each others hands.

Have the children handout the snack to one partner. Then ask the partner to hand out the snack to the other partner.

Think of other ways the children can help one another. Tell them that God cares for us.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Bring a satin cloth that is purple, red, or blue (royal colors). Create the verse with gold letters. Use glitter, glitter glue, etc. Attach the verse to the cloth. Practice the verse.

- **Test your memory** — Create cards for the main characters in the story. If you have pictures put a picture on one page or index card. On another page or index card write:

- 1) Queen, Esther, Fasting, Die, Saved
- 2) Mordecai, Adopted, Taught, Mourned, Help
- 3) Haman, Hated, Planned, Dinner, Died.

Use the cards to tell the story. Have the children retell the story.

- **Taste activity** — Tell the children that the Jews fasted and prayed for three days. They did not eat or drink for three days. Give the children three different types of candy, or three different types of cookies.

- **Think about it** — Mordecai taught Esther about God. When Mordecai asked Esther to help the Jews, she asked that they fast and pray. Talk about the importance of seeking God.

Esther trusted God. She was willing to die for her people. Jesus trusted God and died for our sins. Talk about how important it is to trust God even in difficult times.

Mordecai told Esther that perhaps she had been made queen “for a time just like this” (so that she could help the Jews). Talk about how God calls us to serve Him.

- **Touch activity** — Make a golden rod (scepter). Check the Internet for ideas.

Decorate a chair to make it look like a throne. Bring dress up clothes and let the children take turns pretending to be the king and queen. If appropriate, bring black clothes for dress up. Let the children pretend to be mourning like the Jews.

Make crowns. Check the Internet for ideas.

- **Run and play** — The Jews were in mourning because they were going to be destroyed. Spread the children out as far as possible. Have the children run around and tell 10 other children the bad news. Then have them run and tell 10 others to fast and pray for Esther. Ask them to go to one child and then go to the opposite to go the next.

- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to trust Him.

- **Sing** — Sing “Trust and Obey,” “O How I Love Jesus,” or another song related to the story.

Memory Verse

Do not let
your hearts
be troubled.
Trust in God.
Trust in
me also.

John 14:1 NIV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Esther

was

willing

to die

for her

people.

Word Puzzle

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

QUEEN

ESTHER

KING

MORDECAI

HAMAN

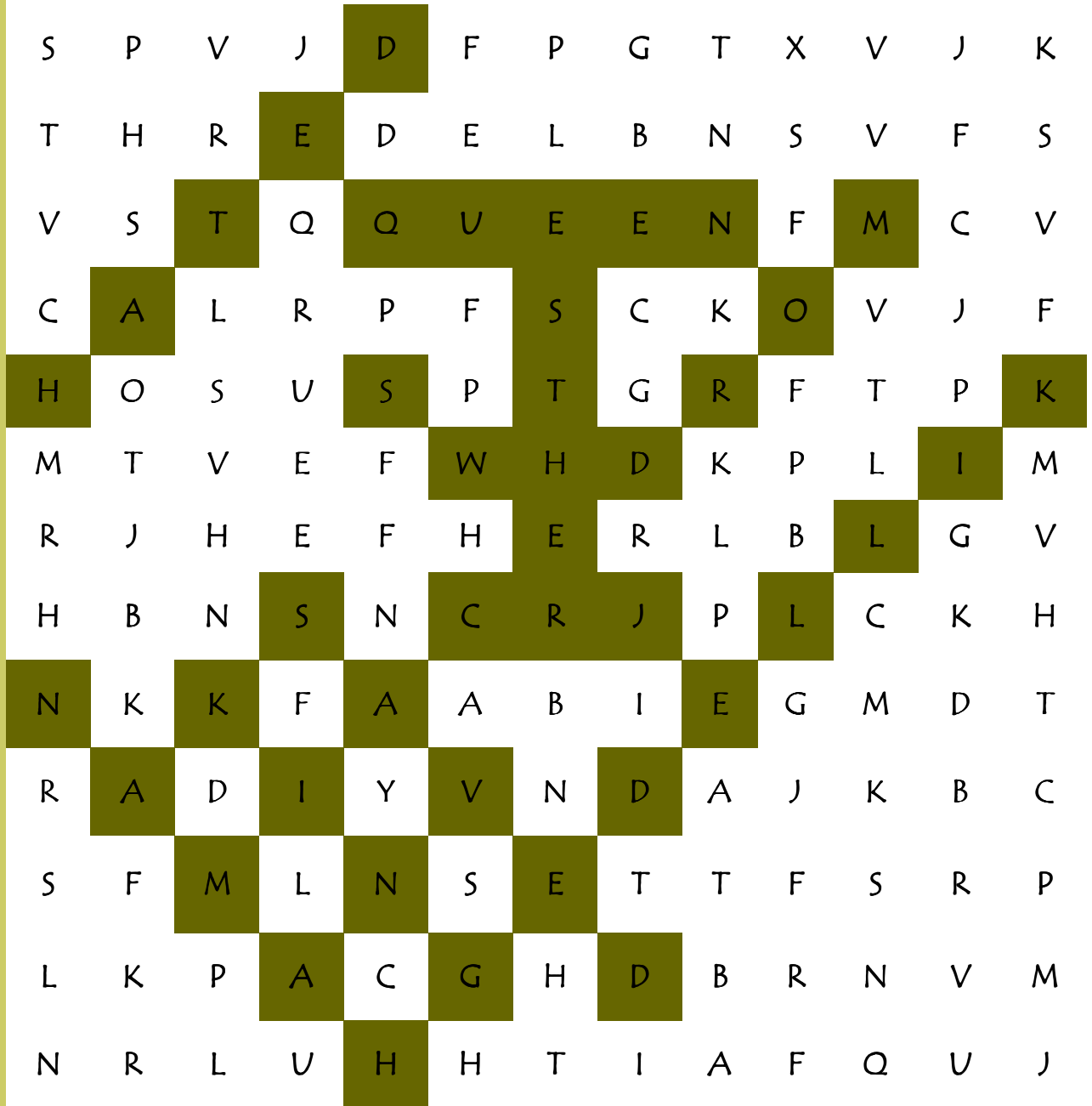
JEWS

HATED

KILLED

SAVED

Word Puzzle



QUEEN

ESTHER

KING

MORDECAI

HAMAN

JEWS

HATED

KILLED

SAVED

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

ESTHER

QUEEN

MORDECAI

HAMAN

KING

JEWS

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

R H F B S R G F J E W S

H Q S C D K W Q G L S F

G D V F M B E S T H E R

M C V B Q F O W K V P B

S K G T D R L H A M A N

J H V P Q I G S R E A D

O B E F M O R D E C A I

R T P S K R V E S C V D

K I N G B T H Q U E E N

ESTHER

QUEEN

MORDECAI

HAMAN

KING

JEWS

Anagram

1. ESATRH-

2. REUODTLB-

3. RTTSU -

4. ODG-

5. EERHTS-

6. RSTCPEE -

7. EIMT -

8. EPLH-

Anagram

1. ESATRH– HEARTS
2. REVODTLB– TROUBLED
3. RTTSU – TRUST
4. ODG– GOD
5. EERHTS– ESTHER
6. RSTCPEE – SCEPTER
7. EIMT – TIME
8. EPLH– HELP