

# BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of February 11, 2018

**Timeless Truth:** The Lord's Plan Always Comes Through

**Bible Basis:** Esther 3:5-6, 4:1, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 14; Matthew 22:36-40

**The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:**

**Chapter 20** The Queen of Beauty and Courage

**Memory Verse:** "What if you don't say anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this." Esther 4:14



## TABLE TALK

**NOTE:** These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

**Esther's cousin Mordecai were Jewish, they loved and served only God, however they lived in Persia where most of the people worshipped false gods and idols. Though Mordecai, presumably, followed the laws of the land he refused to bow down to anyone other than God. Esther also wanted to please God, but she was afraid for her own life. Mordecai knew Esther was the only person who could save the Jews, so he asked her an important question. (Read the memory verse.)**

- Who wanted Mordecai to bow down to him? How did Haman react when Mordecai didn't obey him?
- Mordecai knew he could get into trouble with the king if he didn't bow to Haman, but who did he decide to obey?
- When Mordecai told Esther that she was the only hope to save her people, the Jews, why was she afraid?
- Have you ever been asked to obey a rule that you didn't like? Was the rule fair (was it for your own good)?
- Tell about a time when you had to be really brave.

## EXTRA MILE

**Give everyone a piece of paper and crayons/colored pencils. Ask: If you were a king or queen, what would your castle look like? (Draw a castle.) Who would work in your castle? (Draw the help.) What would be three laws in your kingdom? What would be the consequences if someone disobeyed your laws?**

**Take another paper, cut it length-wise and tape it together (long enough to fit around each persons' head), and decorate it to look like a crown (fake jewels, sequins, and/or glitter are extra credit ☺).**

Each person will take a turn being the king/queen. When it's their turn they put on their crown everyone must obey their rules for 10 minutes (or however long you choose). When everyone's had a chance ask, "How did it feel when you were in charge? Did you make rules that were good for only you or good for everyone? Did you think anyone else's rules were unfair to you?"

**Read Matthew 22:36-40. What are the two most important rules/commandments that Jesus told us? Can you think of a time when you might not want to follow those rules? (ie You need to tell the truth even though you might get into trouble.) What should you do if you are struggling with obeying these commandments? (Talk to you parents, pray to God for help). How do you feel when you've obeyed God even when it was hard?**

**God blesses those who love him and obey his commands.**

## PRAYER TIME

Dear God, you are our loving heavenly Father and we know the commands you've given us are because you love us. Help us to obey you even when we're afraid or we don't understand. Remind us to seek you in everything we think, say, and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

## DAY 1

**Reading:** *A Beautiful Queen*, pg 151 – through break on pg 152 (blue–pg 166 – break on pg 167) ( mins)

This reading covers: Esther 1-2

**Summary:** with God’s help, Esther became queen.

**Do together:** Draw a picture of beautiful Queen Esther. Don’t forget her purple robe and gold crown.

**Think about:** Being considered by the king to be queen was a big deal. Do you think Esther was nervous or afraid? She probably was, a little bit, but she trusted God and knew he was with her. She also knew her cousin, Mordecai, loved her and was thinking of her. No one knew it, not even Esther, but God had already decided that she would become the queen for a very special purpose. Did you know God has a special plan for your life, too?

Also read: Proverbs 19:21; Ephesians 1:11-14

**Prayer:** Father, thanks for being with me when I’m nervous and afraid. Show me my purpose, so I can do your will. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## DAY 2

**Reading:** *A Bad Man*, break on pg 152 – through break on pg 153 (blue– break on pg 167 – pg 168) ( mins)

This reading covers: Esther 3

**Summary:** Haman wanted to hurt God’s people.

**Do together:** Three items in each of the following groups have something in common. One item is different and not like the others find the one that doesn’t belong and explain why.

1. Green beans, Goldfish, Car
2. Potatoes, Earrings, Truck
3. Meatloaf, Necklace, Motorcycle
4. Carrots, Bracelet, Dog

**Think about:** Why do you think Mordecai wouldn’t bow down before Haman? Would that be like worshiping someone other than God? Do you remember what God told his people about worshiping idols? The Jews who lived there were different from other people because they worshiped only the one true God. It was a scary time for the Jews, but do you think God would help them overcome? Here’s a hint: God planned all along that Esther would become queen, remember?

Also read: Exodus 20:3; Isaiah 41:10; Romans 8:28

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank you for being my Forever Friend and always walking with me no matter how scary things might be. I know it’s okay to be different when it means doing what you want me to do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

## DAY 3

**Reading:** *Be Brave* –break on pg 153 - end (blue – pg 169- end) ( mins)

This reading covers: Esther 4-9

**Summary:** Esther showed courage as she allowed God to use her to save her people.

**Do together:** Pretend to be a rodeo rider on a mean bull. The bull is bucking and jumping and you are doing all you can to stay in the saddle. Pretend to be a lion tamer inside a cage with only a chair and a whip between you and the lion. Pretend to be a high wire artist, walking across a skinny wire high above the ground with no net. You can wobble, but don’t look down.

**Think about:** When Esther realized she was the only one who could talk to the king, she knew she was taking a risk. The king might be mad, because he hadn’t invited her to see him. He might even kill her! Esther was scared, but she had courage to do what she did because she loved her people. She knew she was the only one who could save them. What was it that gave her courage? There’s another person in the Bible who did a really brave thing, because he loved all people and he was the only one who could save them from their own sin. Do you know who it was?

Read also: Psalm 121; John 3:16

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you risked your life and gave it up to save me. Help me to have courage knowing you are with me when I am worried or afraid. In Jesus’ name. Amen.