

Class: 4-5 yr olds

Date:

Lesson #: VIII-9

Text: Esther 3-10

Teacher: Monty + Brenda  
Levell

Memory Verse: Prov. 30:56

### Concept development

Faith - Knowing the importance of commitment

### Lesson

Words to define: \_\_\_\_\_

Body:

Sun. read story on pp. 166 + 167

Wed. night read pp 168 + 169

OR - if Wed. is singing or gospel meeting,  
combine the two.

Activities:

Colouring pages

Questions:

How did Queen Esther save the people?

Why was Haman so angry? Did Haman's  
plan work?

## The Plot Against the Jewish People

While he was working in the palace, Mordecai overheard two of the king's officers plotting to kill the emperor. So Mordecai quickly told his cousin, the queen, to warn her husband. This she did, and the two plotters were executed. All these events were written down in the royal records.

Not long afterward, the king promoted a man called Haman to be his prime minister. All the officials and nobles bowed to Haman as he walked by. Everyone, that is, except Mordecai.

Haman was a proud, scheming, ambitious man. When it came to his notice that Mordecai did not show him respect, Haman was furious. He decided that not only did he want to kill Mordecai, but he would kill *all* the Jewish people in the kingdom of Persia.

Haman consulted with the court astrologers, who cast lots to choose the best day to eliminate the Jewish people. The lot, known as the "pur," fell on the twelfth month. This was to be the time.

Then Haman went to the emperor. "Your majesty," he said, "there is a race of people in your land whose customs are different from ours and who do not obey the king's laws. If it pleases the king, let an order be given to destroy them. I will pay into the treasury a large sum of money to pay the men that carry out this business." Haman intended to steal the Jewish people's own silver to pay for this.

Without thinking, the emperor took his signet ring and put his seal to the new law. So it was announced that on the allotted day, every single Jewish person in the empire would be murdered.

When Mordecai was horrified. He said, "You must go to the king and plead for mercy for your people."

But Esther was not asked to see the king in her own royal presence without first appearing before him, which would mean the death of her husband. "I will go," replied Esther, "but I am not pleased with me."

But Mordecai said, "If you will die anyway, then the reason God has put you in this position is in order that you should live. Esther asked Mordecai to tell the king that the Jewish people to fast and pray for three days. Then she will go to the king's palace."

Three days later, wearing her royal robes and with all her courage, she went before the emperor's throne. In a bad mood, he would not receive her. After summoning her in a bad mood, he may or may not have received her.

The king looked at her slowly, he held out his hand for your request. Queen Esther asked the king if he would dine with her. He agreed and later gave her a banquet to Haman.

"What would you like to say to the king?" "Whatever you wish," said Esther. So Esther delayed in going to the king if he and Haman were there the following day.



## Jewish People

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When Mordecai heard this terrible news, he was horrified. He sent a message to Esther. "You must go to the king," he wrote. "Plead mercy for your people."

But Esther was frightened. The emperor had not asked to see her for a month. To enter the royal presence without the king's request could mean the death sentence. "I dare not go to him," replied Esther. "he may no longer be pleased with me."

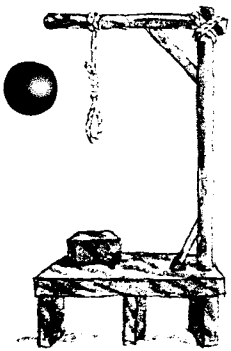
But Mordecai insisted. "You are a Jew. You will die anyway if this law is enforced. Perhaps the reason God has given you such a privileged position is in order to save his people." So Esther asked Mordecai and all the other Jewish people to fast and pray for three days. "Then I will go to the king," she said. "If I die, so be it."

Three days later, the queen put on her finest royal robes and jewels. Then, summoning all her courage, she went to the doorway of the emperor's throne room. If he was in a good mood, he would hold out his golden scepter, summoning her into his presence. In a bad mood, he may order her execution.

The king looked at his beautiful wife. Then slowly, he held out his golden scepter. "What is your request, Queen Esther?" he asked. Esther asked the king if he and his prime minister would dine with her that evening. The king agreed and later that evening the queen served a banquet to Haman and her husband.

"What would you like me to do?" asked the king. "Whatever your request, it will be granted." So Esther delayed a little longer and asked the king if he and Haman would again dine with her the following night.





# Esther Saves the Jews

The prime minister returned home feeling very pleased with himself. "The queen has asked me to dine *again!*" he told his wife. "I must have impressed her. But I will not be happy until Mordecai is dead." His wife suggested that Haman build a gallows and hang Mordecai. "What a good idea!" said the prime minister. "I'll do it tomorrow."

Meanwhile, that night the emperor could not sleep. While he was awake, he called for his secretary to read him the royal record of events. Among these were the details of the plot to murder him. So the emperor was reminded that Mordecai had saved his life.

“Was that man rewarded in any way?” he asked his secretary.

"No, your majesty," the secretary replied.

At that moment, Haman came to seek an audience with the king. He was planning to request the execution of Mordecai. As he was ushered into the emperor's presence, Xerxes asked Haman, "What would you do for someone you wanted to honor?"

Haman stopped in his tracks and thought that the king wanted to reward him. So he replied, "Dress him in a royal robe and place him on a royal horse with a royal crest. Let the man be led through the city proclaiming, 'This is what is done for a man the king honors!'"

“Go at once!” ordered the king. “Do this for Mordecai.” Haman was horrified when he heard these words. Obviously he could not now request Mordecai’s death.



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The Jewish people on this day Esther risked her life to celebrate the anniversary of being chosen for the palace. They read out the Book of Esther for their deliverance.

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That night, Haman and the emperor dined with Queen Esther. Afterward, the king asked the queen, "Now, what is your request? It will be given to you."

Esther took a deep breath and asked, "Your majesty, please spare my life and that of my people, for we have been condemned to death."

"What!" cried Xerxes. "What man would dare to do such a thing?"

Esther pointed at Haman. "That man," she said. "That vile Haman!"

The king knew he had been tricked by Haman, and he was furious. He paced up and down the garden, thinking of what to do.

Then a loyal servant said, "Your majesty, Haman has built a gallows near his house. It is to hang Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king."

"Then hang Haman on it!" boomed the emperor. So the soldiers took the prime minister away to his death.

The Persian emperor, however, could not change any law once he had put his seal on it. He could not cancel the order to murder the Jews. What he did do was issue a proclamation throughout the land that on the day allotted to the execution, the Jewish people were to arm themselves and fight those who came to kill them. This they did.

The Jewish people have never forgotten the day Esther risked her life to save them. To celebrate the anniversary of Purim (the day chosen for the mass execution) they always read out the Book of Esther and thank God for their deliverance.



**Queen Esther  
saves her people.**

Esther 4:1—7:10



# ESTHER SAVES HER PEOPLE

(ESTHER 8:1-17)

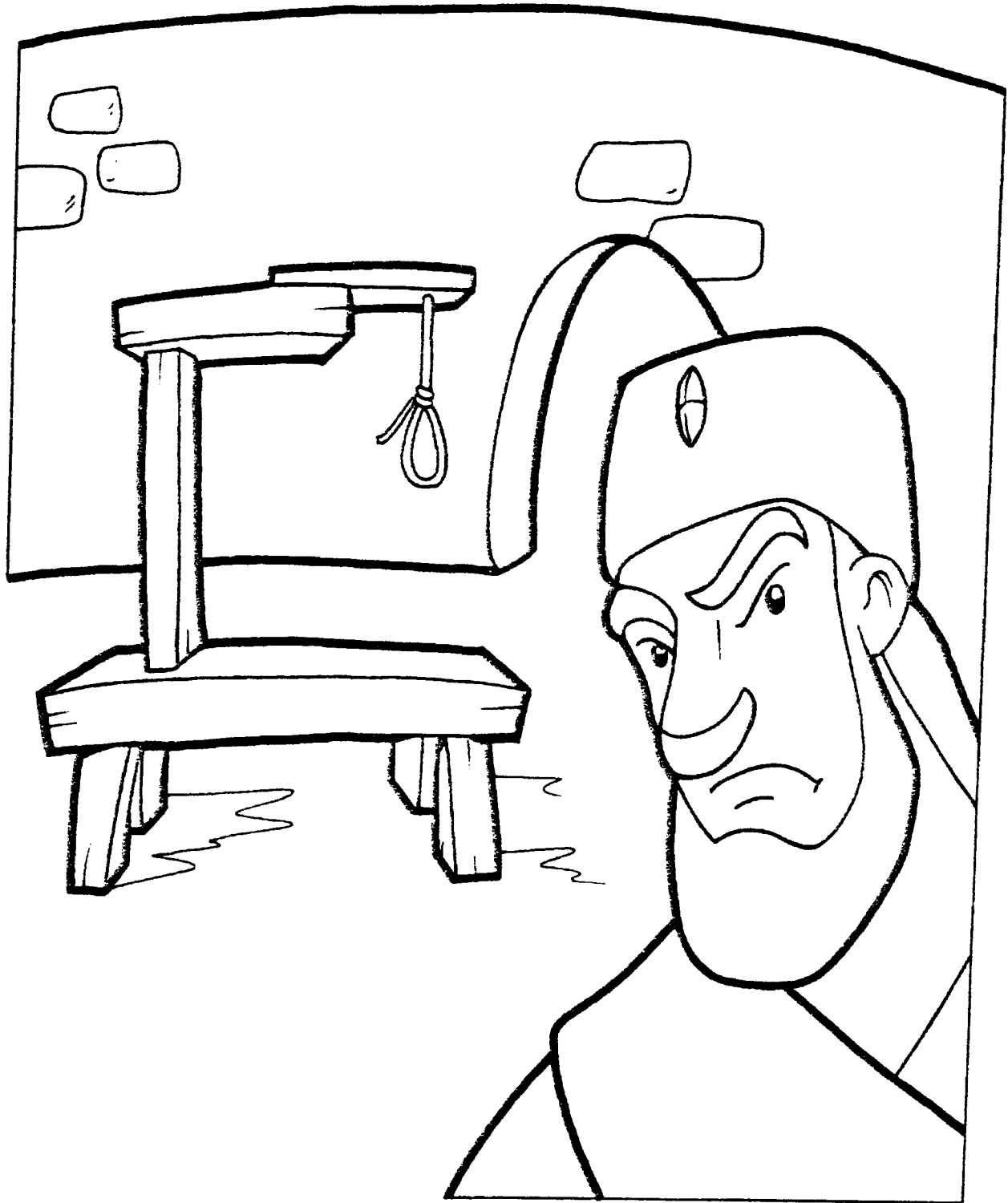


"On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her."

ESTHER 8:1

# HAMAN'S ANGER AT MORDECAI

(ESTHER 5:1-14)



"Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made."

ESTHER 5:14



# HAMAN'S EVIL IS REPAID

(ESTHER 7:1-10)



"Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face."

**ESTHER 7:8**

# THE JEWS REJOICE AND DECLARE A FEAST

(ESTHER 9:18-32)

" To establish this among them...As the days in which the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor."

ESTHER 9:21-22

