

DL AT HOME

When we risk our own comfort and safety to do what is right, we act knowing that God is behind us and before us, and that nothing can stop His plan. We should be quick to do what is right and to honor and please God, no matter the cost. Just as God worked through Esther to save the Jews, He can work through each one of us. As you study the book of Esther, ask God to show you how He can use you in new ways as you take risks for Him.

WEEK OF AUGUST 9, 2020

Esther

Know Right:	Esther courageously risks her life and is used by God to save His people.
Think Right:	“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
Do Right:	I will be willing to take risks to do what is right.
Feel Right:	I can feel supported by God when I take risks to do what is right.

Parent Preparation

- Pray:** Pray that your child(ren) will truly seek God and do what is right. Pray Proverbs 2:1-11 over your child(ren) each day this week.
- Read the Lesson Summary: Esther courageously risks her life and is used by God to save His people**

After King Darius' death, he was succeeded by his son, known as King Xerxes I. The book of Esther begins with the deposition of Queen Vashti for refusing to obey a vulgar request of King Xerxes and her unlikely replacement by a beautiful Jewish girl named Esther. King Xerxes, at the urging of his vengeful confidant Haman and unaware of his new wife's Jewish heritage, signed into law an order to execute all Jews. Esther knew that God could use her to help save her people, but she would have to risk her life to plead before the king uninvited. She and her fellow Jews fasted for three days, after which Esther courageously entered the king's presence, revealed her heritage, and exposed Haman's evil plot. The furious king called off the genocide and instead had Haman executed. Inspired by the account of Esther and supported by our all-powerful God, we too can be used by Him if we are willing to take risks to do what is right.
- Prepare for the Discover Time Hands-On Activity:** To follow along with the video, prepare for the first option. If teaching the lesson yourself, choose the activity that best fits your family.
- Creative Idea:**

- Select one prop per chapter of the lesson. Reveal the prop as you talk about the corresponding chapter.
 - Chapter 1: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
 - Chapter 2: Crown, a curling iron and a bottle of perfume (royal beauty treatments), and a chair by the door (to represent Mordecai sitting at the gates)
 - Chapter 3: Scroll with a seal and a fancy ribbon to tie it (royal decree)
 - Chapter 4: Empty plate (fasting)
 - Chapter 5: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
 - Chapter 6: Toy horse and an action figure wearing a crown and a purple robe
 - Chapter 7: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
 - Chapters 8-10: Paper with the word “Jews saved” in gold glitter

Discover Time Hands-on Activities

Option 1 (featured on the video): Sibling Room Service!

Supplies:

- A sibling’s room that is very messy

Special Note to Parents: Be sure to skip the Saturday morning clean up and allow your kids’ rooms to really be messy. (Keep this activity a secret until it’s time to do your DL at Home Discover Time!)

Instructions:

1. Tell your kids that today you have a really unique opportunity for them to help each other.
2. Without telling your kids ahead of time, ask them to clean one of their sibling’s rooms as much as they can within 10 mins.
3. Encourage them to complete this activity with a good attitude, emphasizing this opportunity to serve others.
4. Stress the importance of getting out of their comfort zone in order to help someone else.

Option 2: Family Dodgeball!

Supplies:

- Balls that are soft enough to be used as dodgeballs
- Open space (with defined boundaries and a center line)

Tip: Invite other neighborhood families to join in and then watch the DL at Home lesson together! This is a great opportunity to share DL with your neighbors.

Instructions:

1. Divide the group into two teams, and have the teams go to opposite sides of the designated area. Place all the balls on the center line. Everyone will be in the game to start.
2. The goal is to throw a ball at the other team (shoulders or below). If hit on the shoulders or below, they are out, and they need to go stand outside their team’s boundary. If hit in the head, they stay in, but the member of the other team who threw the ball is out.
3. Teammates will have an opportunity to get a player back into the game, by catching a ball as it is thrown at them. If they do catch the ball, one teammate can return to the game. The risk is that if they touch the ball while trying to catch it, but they don’t actually catch it, they are out.
4. Each time a player catches a ball to help a teammate, their team scores one point. Be sure to encourage your teammates to step outside of their comfort zone in order to help others. Emphasize the choice they have to take a risk to help their teammates.
5. The team with the greatest number of points after 15 minutes wins!

Option 3: Preschool-friendly: Crown for a friend

Supplies:

- Crowns
- Self-adhesive jewels

Instructions:

1. Children will decorate a crown for a friend or family member.
2. When they finish, have them give the crown to that person.
3. Have all children work together to clean up the art supplies.
4. Have children wear their crowns during the lesson.

Bible Lesson

This lesson will be taught on the video. The basic lesson plan is included below if you'd like to review it with your child or want to teach it yourself.

Pray: *Have one of your children open in prayer. If they need suggestions, encourage them to pray that they would learn something new and they would be excited to do what they've learned.*

Find It: Open your Bibles to the book of Esther. Esther is in the Old Testament.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Just like Daniel, Esther chose to do what was right even though it meant putting her own life at risk. Today we will learn about King Xerxes, who ruled all the land from India to north Africa; Haman, who hated Jews; Mordecai, who was Esther's uncle; and Esther, who was incredibly courageous.

Open the Bible

King Xerxes

Paraphrase of Esther 1:

King Xerxes was a very powerful and very rich king. He had a celebration that showed off all of his wealth and splendor. The celebration lasted 180 days. That's six months! All of the important people in his area, including princes, military leaders, and nobles, came. At the end of the celebration, he had a banquet that lasted for seven days. He invited all of the people to this banquet, from the least to the greatest.

At that time, King Xerxes had a wife named Queen Vashti. She gave her own banquet to the women in the royal palace. During the party, King Xerxes asked her to come to the party, so he could show his friends how beautiful she was. Queen Vashti did not like this idea at all! She said 'no' and rejected the invitation. King Xerxes got so mad he said that she couldn't be the queen anymore!

Esther is made queen

Paraphrase of Esther 2:1-7:

The king's personal helpers said that a search for a new queen should begin. Do you remember how King Nebuchadnezzar took over Jerusalem and brought back some of the Jewish people to Babylon? A man named Mordecai was a member of one of the Jewish families that were brought over to Babylon. Mordecai had a niece named Esther. He took her in as his own child because her parents had died when she was young. Esther was very beautiful. Let's find out what happened to Esther.

Read Esther 2:8-11

Recap: Esther was one of the girls brought to the palace as a possible queen. Her uncle Mordecai told her not to tell anyone that she was a Jew, so she kept it a secret.

Paraphrase of Esther 2:12-17:

Esther was taken care of in the palace and was given months of royal beauty treatments, until finally her turn came to be presented before the king. The king liked Esther and made her queen. He placed a crown on her head, and it was official.

Read Esther 2:18

Recap: Could you imagine what it would be like to be just a regular person, and then one day to be chosen to be royalty?

Mordecai goes undercover

Paraphrase of Esther 2:19-20:

Mordecai sat at the king's gate and watched what was happening in the palace. Esther followed Mordecai's instructions and didn't tell anyone that she was a Jew. While at the gate, Mordecai overheard something.

Read Esther 2:21-23

Recap: Two of King Xerxes' officials were planning to kill the king! Mordecai reported it to the king, and the king's life was saved.

Haman seeks to destroy the Jews

Paraphrase of Esther 3:

After this happened, the king honored a man named Haman. Haman did not like the Jews. Haman thought he was a great person and had all the royal officials and people bow down to him at the gate. Mordecai refused to do this - he did what was right, even though it made people dislike him. This made Haman mad, and he decided to kill all of Mordecai's people, the Jews. He even convinced the king to make it a law to destroy all the Jews.

Esther does what is right

Paraphrase of Esther 4:

Mordecai learned what had happened and knew the Jews were going to be destroyed. Mordecai and the other Jews tore their clothes and wept as a sign that they were sad and disturbed about what was going to happen. Esther heard about what the Jews were doing, and she learned about Haman's awful plan to have all of the Jews killed. All the Jews began to pray.

Mordecai pleaded with Esther to help. It would not be easy for her to help. She couldn't go to the king unless he asked her to come. If she just came to him, she could be put to death! But Mordecai reminded her that maybe she was made the queen for exactly this reason - "for such a time as this." Do you think she is going to help save her people? Let's find out.

Read Esther 4:15-17

Recap: Wow! Esther was so courageous! She said she would try to save her people -- God's special people -- even if it means she herself would die. Besides being willing to die for her people, Esther was also wise in asking the Jewish people to fast. When people fast, they give up eating for a certain amount of time and instead spend lots of time in prayer. Have you ever had a problem and asked all of your friends and family to pray?

Gospel

Wait a minute! This reminds me of someone from the New Testament who was willing to die to save people. He also asked His friends to pray. Can you guess who I'm thinking of? (Jesus) *Share the Gospel and give an invitation to pray and receive Jesus as their Savior.*

Esther goes to the king

Read Esther 5:1-8

Recap and *Paraphrase of 5:9-14:*

King Xerxes allowed Esther to come to him and make a request. She asked for the king and Haman to join her for a dinner. Haman thought he was even more important because he had dinner with the king and queen. He went out to the gates and saw Mordecai. Once again, Mordecai did not bow to him, and it made Haman very angry - so angry that he made detailed plans for killing Mordecai.

Older children: Haman had a seventy-five foot pole set up so that Mordecai could be impaled on it!

Mordecai is honored

Paraphrase of Esther 6:

That night the king could not sleep. He asked people to read to him the records of what was happening in the kingdom. He discovered that there was a time when Mordecai had overheard some people planning to kill the king, and he reported it to the king's people. Mordecai had saved the king's life! He called for Haman to come to him. Let's read what happened.

Read Esther 6:6-11

Recap: Haman thought the king was going to honor him, but the king really wanted to honor Mordecai!

Paraphrase of 6:12-14:

After Mordecai was honored, Haman rushed home with his head covered in grief. While at home, he was told to come to the king to eat at the banquet that Esther prepared.

Haman is caught

Read Esther 7:1-7

Recap: Queen Esther told the king about Haman's evil plan to kill her people!

Paraphrase of 7:8-10:

Remember when Esther and the other Jews fasted and prayed for three days? God answered with a "yes" and came to their rescue. Haman himself was impaled on the pole he had prepared for Mordecai.

The king blesses Esther

Paraphrase of Esther 8:

That same day, the king gave Queen Esther everything that belonged to Haman. The king also gave Mordecai the authority and power that Haman had once had, and the Jews were saved.

Conclusion (includes Esther 9-10):

Esther was courageous, and God used her to save His people! God continued to use Esther and Mordecai to bless the Jews. At home, you and your parents can finish the book of Esther by reading chapters nine and ten.

Do Right and Feel Right:

Esther could have been in big trouble with the king, but she stood up for her people anyway. She was bold and courageous, and she trusted God. What about you? If you were at school and someone wanted you to join in and bully another kid, would you say 'no'? Would you go befriend the kid being bullied? Or if someone wants to show you and your friends something on their screen that is bad, are you willing to do what is right and walk away while encouraging others to walk away, too? Esther could have ignored Mordecai and the other Jews and just enjoyed her life in the palace, but she realized that her life wasn't about serving and pleasing herself; it was about serving others. Just like some of you were willing to give up your Tracker Tickets and your snack to help a friend during Discover Time, Esther courageously put others first and did the right thing, and God used her to save the Jews!

Elementary Review Questions

1. What was the name of the king who had a royal celebration for 180 days? (King Xerxes)
2. The king was looking for a new _____. (Queen)
3. God brought a new queen to the king. Her name was _____. (Esther)
4. Esther had an uncle who watched over her. His name was _____. (Mordecai)
5. Haman had an evil plan; he wanted the king to kill all the _____. (Jews)
6. For three days Mordecai, Esther, and all the other Jews _____. (Fasted)
7. God answered their prayers and the _____ were saved. (Jews)
8. Esther did what was right, even when it meant taking a big risk. When might you have to take a risk to do what is right?

Preschool Review Questions

1. Who had a huge celebration? (The king)
2. What was the name of the new queen? (Esther)
3. Did Queen Esther do what was right? (Yes)
4. Mordecai and the other Jews all did something. Did they pray or eat? (They prayed)
5. When Esther did what was right, did God save the Jewish people? (Yes)
6. Should you do what is right? (Yes)

Songs Used in Today's Video

"Romans 16:19" by Crazy Praise, *Crazy Praise Vol. 2*

"WaveWalker" by Citizen Way, *WaveWalker*

"Psalm 33" by Rob Biagi, *Get Out There!*

Preschool Songs

"Trust in the Lord" by Rob Biagi, *Get Out There!*

"Praise the Lord by Group Music, *Sing 'Em Again: Favorite VBS Songs for Families*

Parents – we strongly encourage you to support these artists by purchasing their music and videos, so they can continue producing outstanding music that leads kids in praise and worship! You can find most songs on iTunes, on the artist's website, and many lyric videos can be found on worshiphousekids.com