TRACK ONE

Family Study

For parents, grandparents, and kids of every age. Watch together, read the story, talk, play, and pray.



"So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter." (Esther 5:2, WEB)

The Story, Simply Told

Part Two of the Esther Series, retold from Esther 3-5. Quoted words are paraphrased for children. Haman's plan to destroy the Jews is told simply.

Esther had become queen, but no one in the palace knew she was Jewish. Her cousin Mordecai had saved the king's life, and he still had not been rewarded.

Then the king made a man named Haman more important than all his other leaders, and he ordered everyone at the gate to bow down to Haman. Mordecai would not bow. Haman was furious. He decided to destroy not just Mordecai but all of Mordecai's people, the Jews. He cast lots, called *pur*, to choose a day. Then he told the king that a certain people didn't obey his laws, and the king let Haman write a law, sealed with the king's ring, that the Jews would be destroyed on that day.

When Mordecai heard, he tore his clothes and cried out loud in the city. He sent word to Esther: go to the king and plead for your people. But anyone who went to the king without being called could be put to death, unless the king held out his golden scepter. Mordecai answered, "Don't think you'll escape because you live in the palace. Who knows? Maybe you became queen for such a time as this!"

Esther asked all the Jews in the city to fast for her for three days, and she and her maids fasted too. Then she said, "I will go to the king, even though it's against the law. And if I perish, I perish." On the third day she stood in the king's court. The king held out the golden scepter, and Esther touched its tip! She invited the king and Haman to a banquet, and then to another one the next day. Haman went home proud, but still angry at Mordecai, and he prepared a terrible plan against him. *(For older children: Esther 5:14 says he had a tall gallows built to hang Mordecai.)* That night, the king could not sleep.

"Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

(Esther 4:14, WEB)

Talk Together

AGES 4-7

1. What did Esther have to be brave about?
2. What did the king hold out to Esther?
3. Who can you be kind to or help this week?

AGES 8-12

1. Why was it dangerous for Esther to go to the king?
2. Esther asked others to fast with her before she went. Why do you think that mattered?
3. When is it hard for you to speak up for someone?

TEENS

1. Mordecai said Esther might be where she was "for such a time as this" (4:14). Where might God be calling you to do good right where you are?
2. Esther said, "if I perish, I perish" (4:16). What makes courage different from not being afraid?
3. Haman had everything but was miserable over one man (5:13). What does pride do to a person?

Try This Together

Who Can I Speak Up For? 10 MINUTES Each person draws three circles: home, school or work, and church or team. In each circle, write one person who might need a kind word or someone on their side. Pray for those people by name. Finish by choosing one step each person will take this week.

A Family Courage Fast ONE EVENING Esther's people fasted before she went to the king. As a family, give up one treat or screen time for an evening (never meals for children), and use that time to pray together for people who are in danger or treated unfairly. Close by reading the memory verse.

MEMORY VERSE

"My times are in your hand."

PSALM 31:15, WEB

Older children: learn Psalm 31:14 too, which begins, "But I trust in you, Yahweh."

A FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, thank You that our times are in Your hand. Thank You for Esther's courage. When we are afraid to do what is right, make us brave, and help us speak up for people who need help. Thank You for Jesus, who gave His life to save us. In Jesus' name, amen.