TRACK ONE

Family Study

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



"...days of feasting and gladness, and of sending presents of food to one another, and gifts to the needy." (Esther 9:22, WEB)

The Story, Simply Told

Part Three of the Esther Series, retold from Esther 6-10. Quoted words are paraphrased for children. Haman's end and the battles of chapter 9 are told simply.

On the very night Haman built a gallows for Mordecai, the king couldn't sleep. So he had the royal record book read to him, and he heard how Mordecai had once saved his life. "What did we do to thank him?" the king asked. "Nothing," said his servants.

Just then Haman arrived to ask permission to hang Mordecai. Before he could speak, the king asked, "What should I do for a man I want to honor?" Haman thought, "He must mean me!" So he said, "Dress him in the king's robe, put him on the king's horse, and lead him through the city shouting, 'This is what the king does for a man he wants to honor!'" "Good," said the king. "Go do all that for Mordecai." So proud Haman had to lead Mordecai through the city.

At Esther's second banquet, the king asked again what she wanted. Esther said, "Please save my life and my people! We have been sold to be destroyed." "Who would dare do this?" the king asked. Esther pointed: "This wicked Haman!" Haman's evil plan was exposed, and the king punished him. *(For older children: Haman was put to death on the very gallows he had prepared for Mordecai, 7:9-10.)*

The king gave Haman's ring to Mordecai. Haman's law could not be erased, so Mordecai wrote a new law that let the Jews defend themselves. When the day came, God's people were saved. Their sorrow turned to gladness, and every year since, Jewish families remember it with a holiday called Purim, with feasting, gifts of food to friends, and gifts to the poor.

"...the month which was turned to them from sorrow to gladness..."

(Esther 9:22, WEB)

Talk Together

AGES 4-7

1. The king couldn't sleep. What did he find out when his book was read?
2. Who rode on the king's horse?
3. How did Esther's people feel at the end?

AGES 8-12

1. Name three things in the story that turned upside down.
2. God's name isn't in the book of Esther. Where do you see Him working anyway?
3. Can you remember a hard time when someone helped you? Is there something hard you're still waiting or praying about? You may pass.

TEENS

1. Haman's plans fell back on his own head (9:25). What does that say about evil?
2. Why do you think the Jews "didn't lay their hand on the plunder" (9:16)?
3. Purim includes "gifts to the needy" (9:22). Why might people who've been rescued want to share with others?

Try This Together

Turned Around 10 MINUTES Anyone who wants to shares a time God helped them through something hard, or one thing they're still waiting for God to turn around. Anyone may pass. Write the second kind on a card, put it somewhere you'll see it, and pray for it together through the week. Close by reading the memory verse.

Gifts of Gladness ONE AFTERNOON Purim is celebrated with "presents of food to one another, and gifts to the needy" (9:22). As a family, put together a small gift for a neighbor and a gift for someone in need, such as canned goods for a food pantry. Deliver them together.

MEMORY VERSE

"The lot is cast into the lap, but
its every decision is from Yahweh."

PROVERBS 16:33, WEB

Many Bibles print God's name, Yahweh, as LORD. Younger children: learn "...its every decision is from Yahweh."

A FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, even when we can't see You, You are in charge of every day. Thank You for saving Esther's people and turning their sorrow into gladness. Thank You for Jesus, who turned the worst day into the best news. Make us generous and glad. In Jesus' name, amen.