

Esther:

For Such a Time as This



The purpose of this take-Home sheet is to be a tool to assist you and your family as you build faith in your homes. At Jericho Ridge Community Church we want to equip you with resources to continue the conversation and growth at home. We recognize that, one, parents are the primary influence in building faith in kids. After all, as Mark Holmen says in his book *Building Faith at Home*, research has shown that mom and dad “are two to three times more influential [in faith development] than any church program.” Two, that faith is not just a Sunday morning dress that gets tossed after church but influences and speaks into every aspect of our lives.

Activities

Purim festival!

Purim is the festival that commemorates the breathtaking victory over the murderous designs of Haman. It is observed on the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Adar. People young and old dress up and make noise makers and shakers that they then shake every time Haman's name is mentioned in the telling of the story. Take some time to make shakers with your kids. They are easily done by using empty jars or Tupperware containers filled with beans, rice or any small hard thing. Then dress up and read the story again using your shakers every time Haman's name is mentioned.

Bake it!

Go to <http://www.jewishrecipes.org/recipes/purim/hamantaschen/index.html> for traditional Jewish Purim recipes. Chose one to back with the family and talk about how God has protected you. Knowing God is with you helps us make hard choices and take risks even if they are scary.

Watch It!

Watch the Veggie Tales movie “Esther: the girl who became Queen”. Ask kids what scary things they are sometimes asked to do? How can we learn to trust God and be brave enough to do what we know is right?

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. What would it look like if you got all your homework for this upcoming school year in one day? Would you like that much information or not?
2. Who do you think is the main character of the story? Who is the hero? Why?
3. How do you know if you can trust God? (Is such faith just a ‘blind leap’ or something else?)
4. What would you say if a friend asked you “how can you believe all of those fantasy stories in the Bible?”
5. For Parents: Share a story of God leading or guiding you at a particular point in your life or the life of your family (note for parents: this doesn't have to be particularly profound, but take the opportunity this week to intentionally share a story from your own life with your kids. Let them probe into it and ask you questions such as ‘but how did you know it was God leading you?’. Be vulnerable with them... Tell them about times you made mistakes in this area and invite them into this process. For any questions or help in this, don't hesitate to connect with either Brad or Ruth Ellen).



“Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.”

– Proverbs 3:5-6 (The Message)

Activities



M A A D J K L V Z M M O C I Z
 O S V J O C A Q L X G N I K F
 U H D I U R P D U N C A D G E
 R E Q P G Y G N I L I A W N I
 N S I A C E D R O M C T T I L
 I W E T S K P V T E V M M P E
 N K N T F A A S M O S Z L E R V
 G I H V K T N M O B Z C G E V
 O E C N A R E V I L E D A W F
 R J R R D G N I T S A F E P R
 K S H C A H T A H N K J D K E
 Q P A L A C E C E L F S A R K
 S A C K C L O T H P K M E P K
 K P Y F B W S W E J S N L P Y
 L E Y E H S I R E P M P U R

ASHES
 CRY
 DELIVERANCE
 ESCAPE
 ESTHER

FASTING
 HATHACH
 JEWS
 KING
 MORDECAI

MOURNING
 PALACE
 PERISH
 PLEAD

RELIEF
 SACKCLOTH
 WAILING
 WEeping

WRITE THE LETTERS ON THE LINES BELOW
 AS YOU WORK YOUR WAY TO THE CENTER OF THE CIRCLE

