

GOD LISTENS TO OUR PRAYERS



Bible Reference: Esther

Date: 5/24/25

Age: 2's

Family Worship

Memory Verse:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Big Idea:

We can talk to God and trust that He hears us!

Schedule

- Arrival/Attendance/Directed Play.....15 min.
- Clean Up and Gather For Story.....5 min.
- Bible Story.....15 min.
- Craft/Coloring Page:.....15 min.
- Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer.....15 min.
- Snack Time at Tables.....15 min.
- Free Choice Play.....Until pickup

Notes and Reminders

Thank you for serving with the 2-year-olds on Family Worship Sunday! This year, our youngest preschoolers are learning about prayer during Family Worship. We are so excited for them to learn more about talking to God!



OUTLINE



Arrival/Attendance/ Directed Play 15 min.

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door. Set up on or both of the activities and introduce the children to the lesson through these activities. Encourage all of the kids to participate and play together.

Who am I? - Helpers

- Help children think about people who help them. Give descriptions of people who help, and the child must guess who you are describing.
 - For example: I am a special helper who.... helps when there is an emergency. I drive a big truck with a ladder. I put out fires, ...
- **SAY Wow!** There are so many people we can trust when we need help. We can also ask God for help! When we pray, we are talking to God. He wants to hear about everything we do, the good things and the bad things. We can trust that when we talk to God, he will always listen to us.

Can I Talk to God About It? Game

- Take the "Can I Talk to God About It?" Cards out of the bin and bring all the children to the center of the room. Explain that you will show them cards with different emotions on them. Tell the children to stand by the window if they can pray about the feeling and to stand by the opposite wall if they can't. Read the first card and allow the children to move. After everyone is done moving, tell the children that they can talk to God about that feeling! (Each feeling can be prayed about). Before reading the next card, have the children join you in the middle again so that they can see the card.

Clean Up and Gather for Story 5 min.

Invite the children to begin cleaning up toys and putting away their activities at 9:10. Then remind them to meet at the carpet for Bible story time. Remind the children that we are going to do our best to be good listeners.





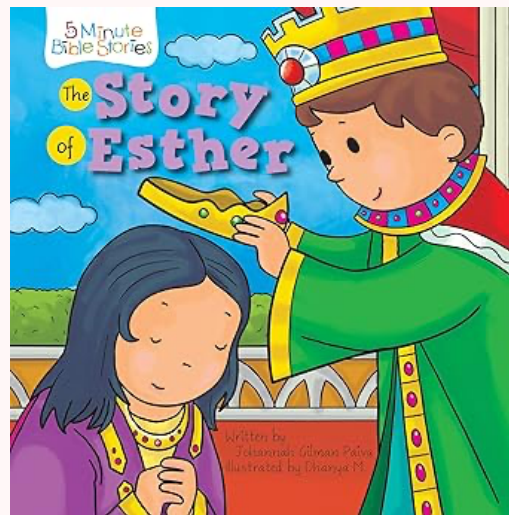
Bible Story

15 min.

Today's lesson is based on the book of Esther. We will read from the 5 Minute Bible Stories book "The Story of Esther", which is found in your bin. If you are reading this document online, a scanned copy of the book is included at the bottom of this document. As you read, try to help the kids interact with the story by asking questions.

Sample Questions

- What are some things we need God's help to be brave for?
- Would you want a queen to be someone who is kind, or beautiful?
- How would you have asked God to help you if you were Esther?



Craft/Coloring Page

15 min.

After the story, have the children go to their tables and prepare for a craft to go along with the lesson. Our **BIG IDEA** of the week is: **God Listens to Our Prayers!**





Distribute the Bravery Badge necklaces to each child. Place stickers and crayons at each table for the children to decorate their badges

As children finish, distribute the coloring page with today's story on the back for children to complete. Have the children place both the craft and coloring sheet in their bin when they are finished.



Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer

15 min.

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- Dear God, thank you for helping us to learn about the story of Esther! We pray that you help us understand that you hear our prayers just like you listened to Esther and the Israelites. In your name we pray, Amen.

Songs

- Use the remote on the counter to play music from this week's selection on the TV.

Memory Verse

- Say the verse together using motions
 - Rejoice always (Wave hands in the air)
 - Pray continually (praying hands in front of your chest)
 - Give Thanks (shake someone's hand)





Snack Time at Tables

15 min.

Prior to serving the snack have the children use hand sanitizer before choosing a seat at the table. Each child will have veggie straws on a napkin and a small cup of water. **NOTE:** some children with allergies will have their own snack or drink...parents usually remind shepherds of this at drop off. If a question, please contact Kid Min Staff in hallways. Thanks.

While the children are eating their snack, please read a read-aloud book that is in the bin labeled Read Aloud book for snack time.

Free Choice Play

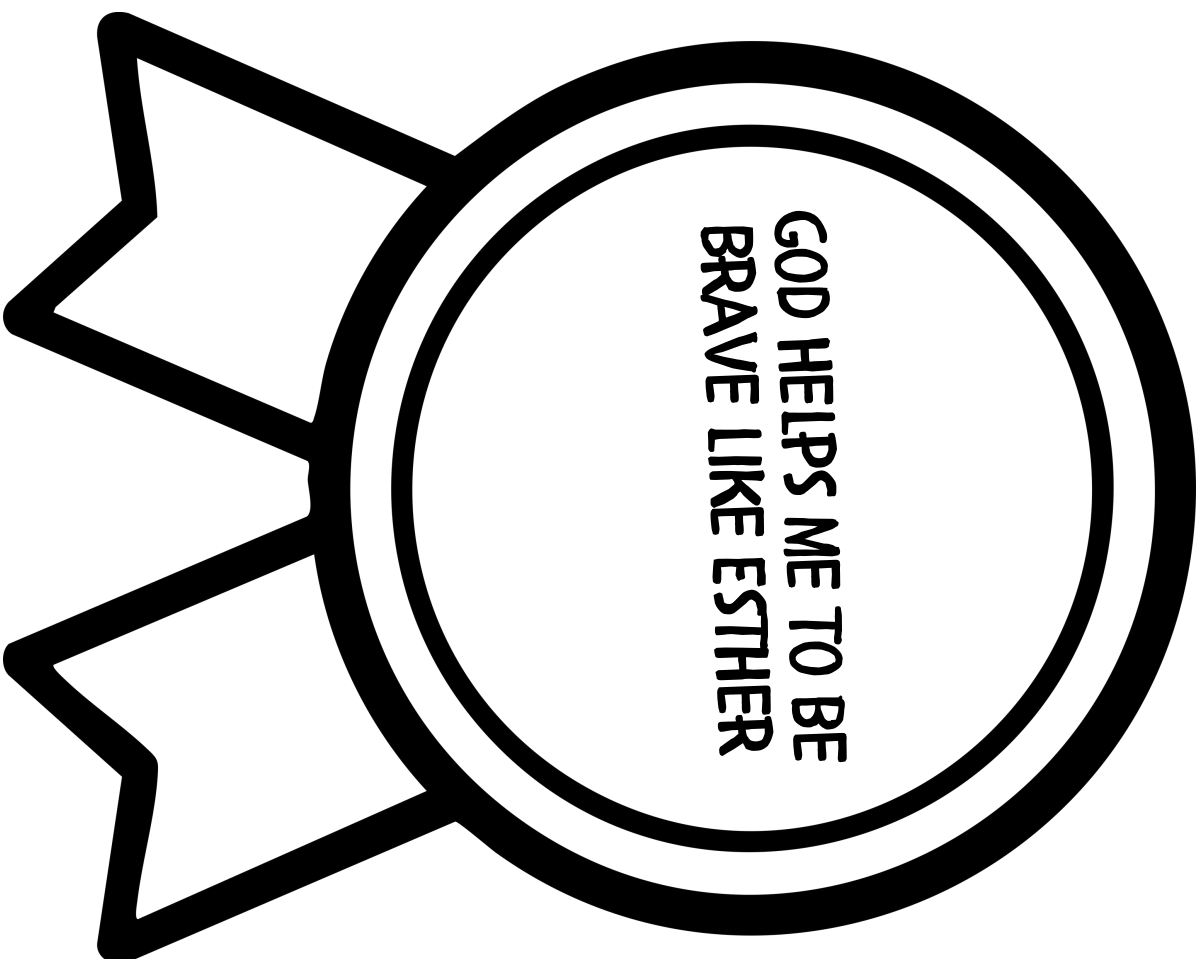
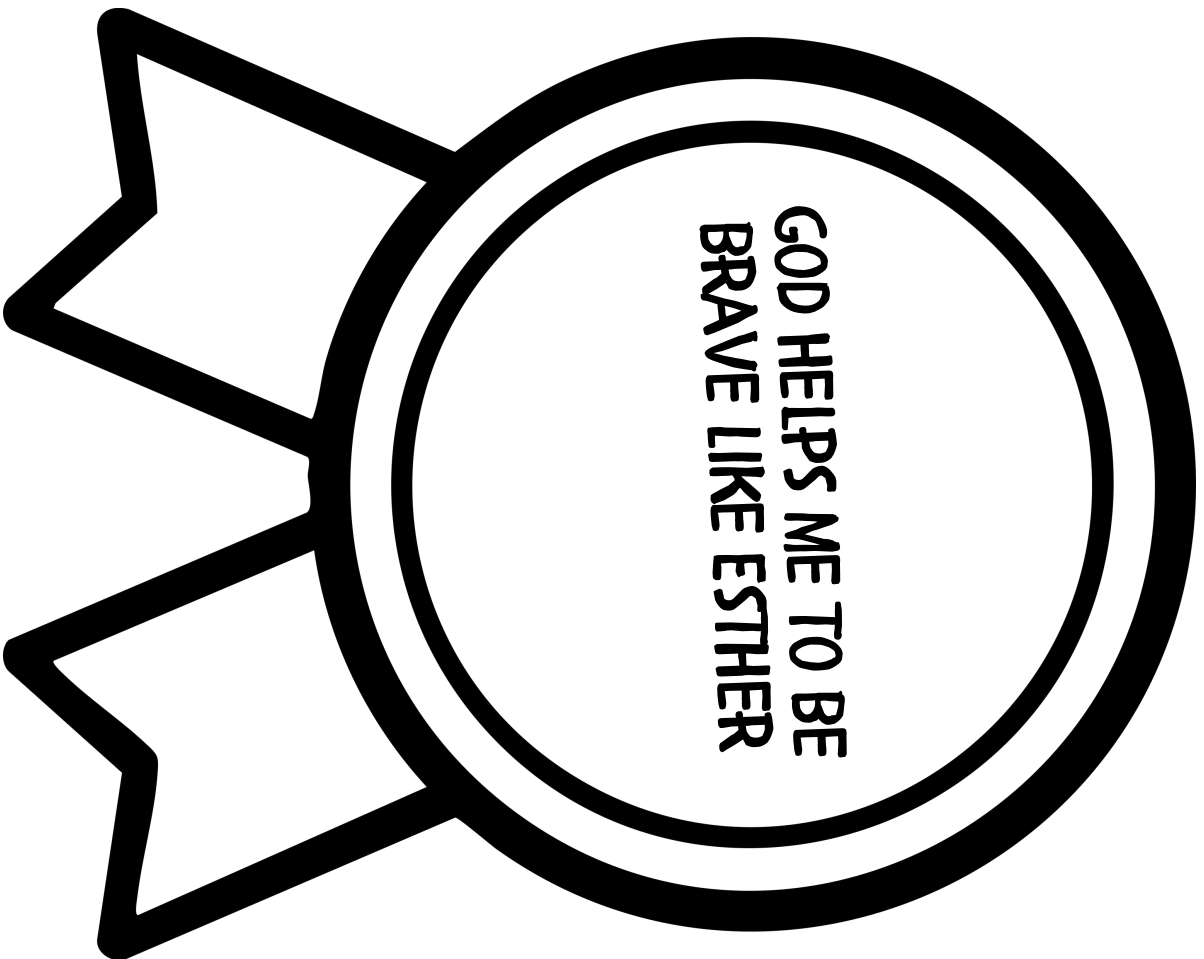
Until Pickup

Once the snack and read aloud are finished, the children may choose free play until their parents come to pick them up.

At dismissal, please make sure to check the child's tag number to match the parent's tag. Have the children take home any papers from their bin. Finally, check them off the attendance as being picked up (the last column for the date).

Thanks so much for shepherding the little ones this week. We appreciate you!





Queen Esther
saves her people.

Esther 4:1—7:10



Queen Esther saves her people.

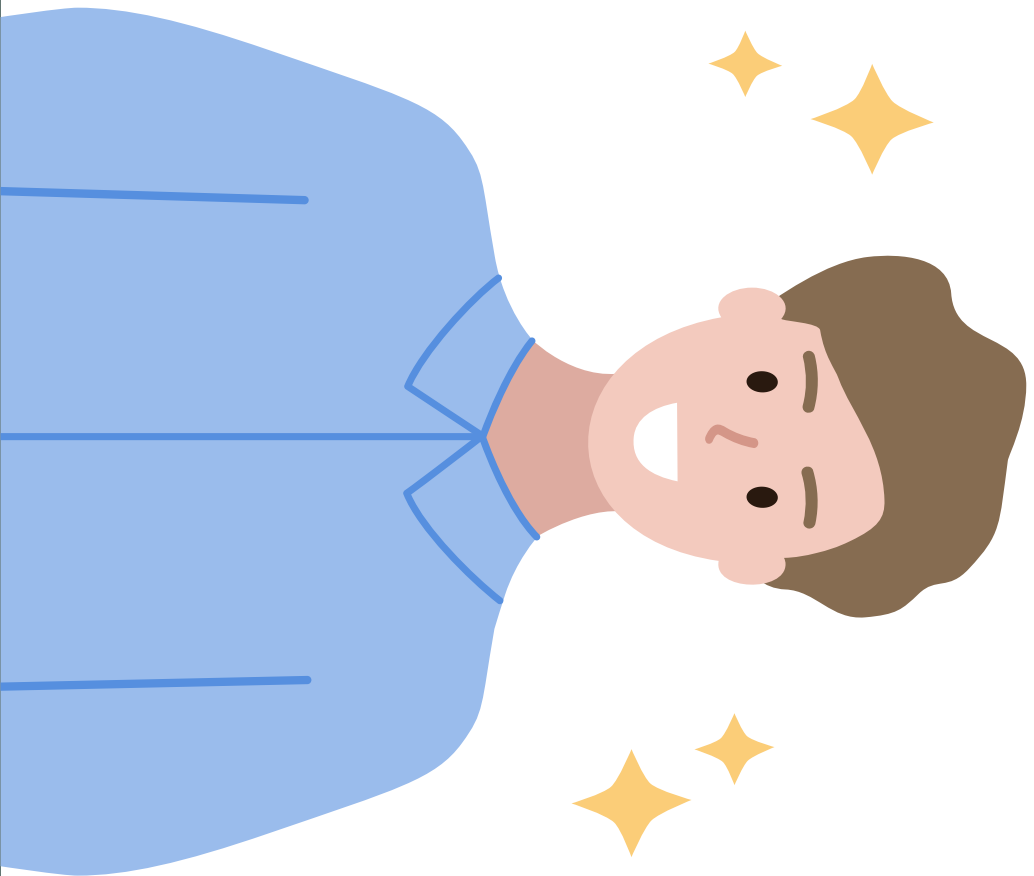
Esther 4:1—7:10

Haman had an evil plan. He tricked King Xerxes into making a law to kill all the Jewish people. The king and Haman didn't know that Queen Esther was Jewish. Queen Esther had to ask the king to save her people.

It was against the law for anyone to go to the king unless he wanted to see that person. Queen Esther was afraid the king would be angry with her, so she asked all her people to pray and stop eating for three days. After three days, Esther went to see the king. The king was happy to see her!

Queen Esther invited the king to a banquet. She also invited Haman. After two banquets, Esther asked the king to save her people. The king was angry. He asked, "Who wanted to hurt my queen?"

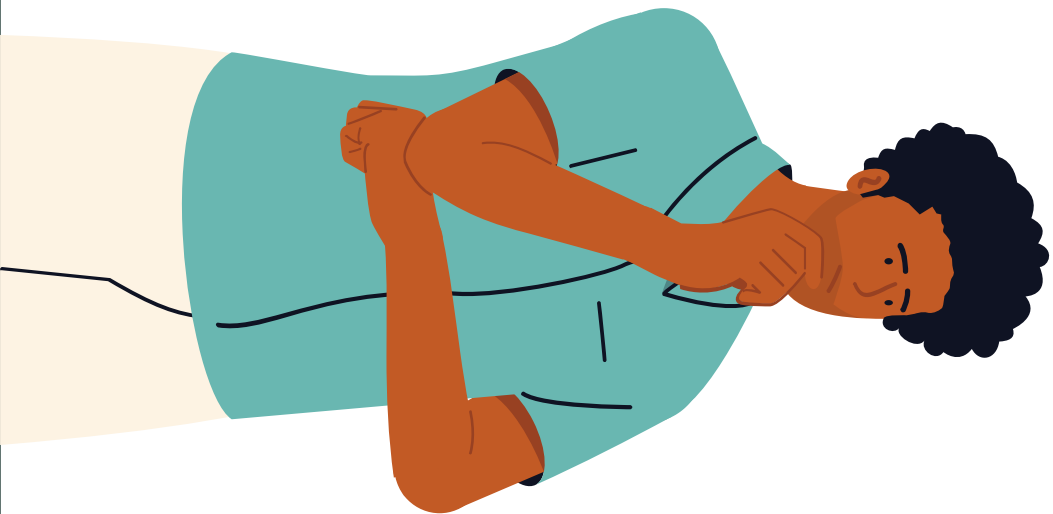
"It's Haman," Esther answered. The king let Esther write a new law to protect Jewish people. The king gave everything Haman owned to Esther and had Haman put to death. The Jews were saved!



I am happy!
Can I talk to God
about it?

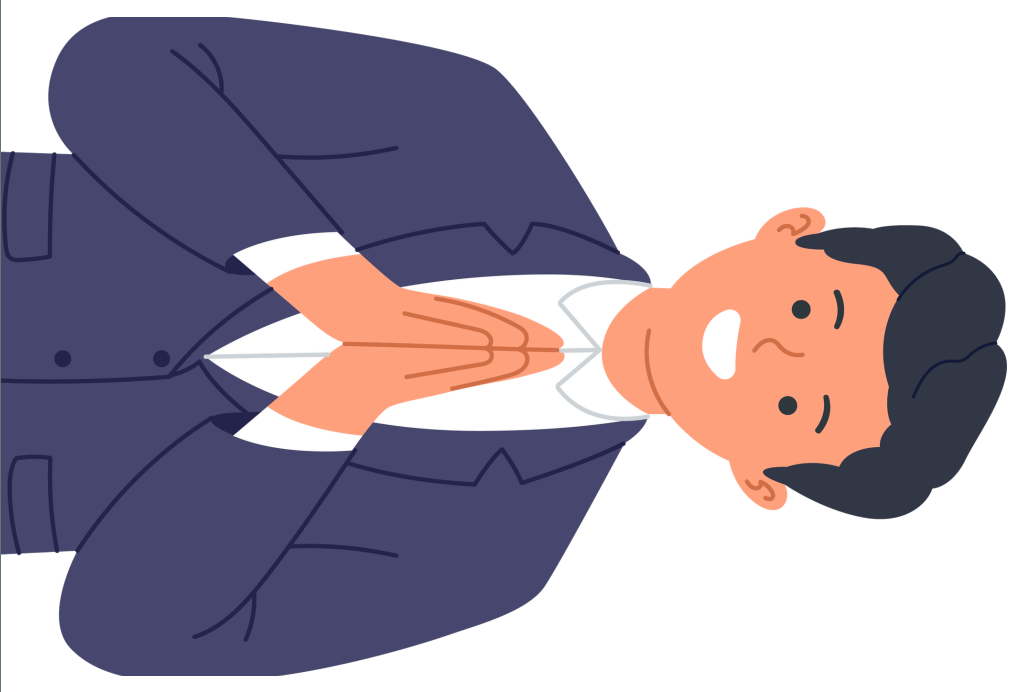


I am sad.
Can I talk to God
about it?



I am confused.

**Can I talk to God
about it?**



I am thankful!

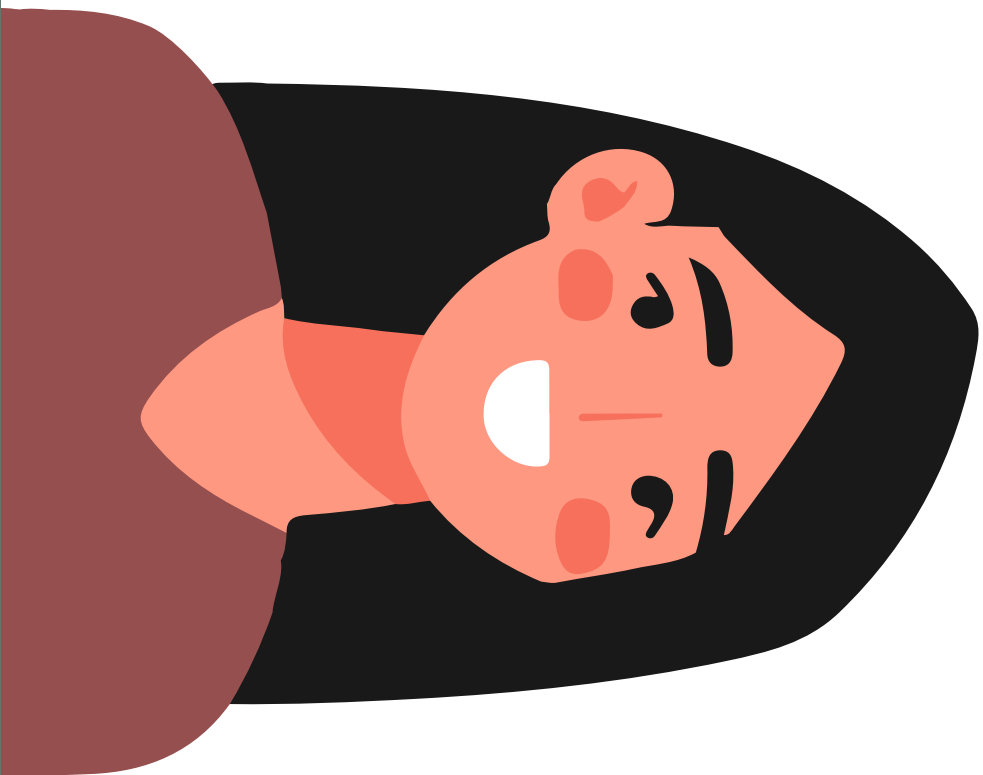
**Can I talk to God
about it?**



I am excited!
Can I talk to God
about it?



I am nervous.
Can I talk to God
about it?



I am content!

**Can I talk to God
about it?**

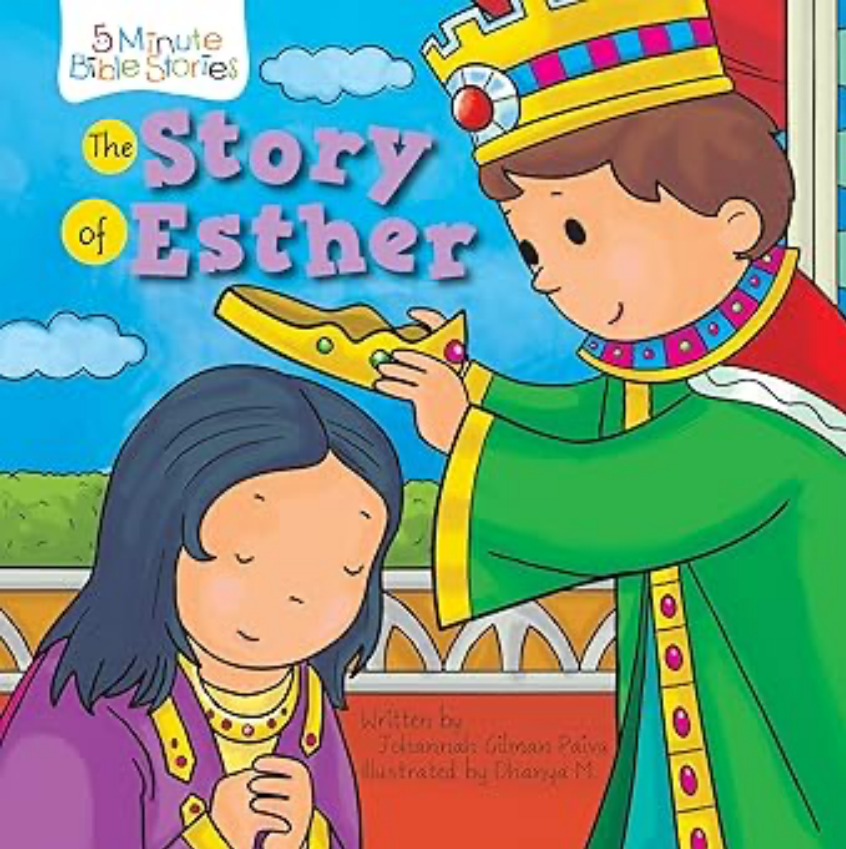


I am mad.

**Can I talk to God
about it?**

5 Minute Bible Stories

The Story of Esther



Written by
Johanna Gilman Pavia
Illustrated by Charissa M.



Long ago, there lived a young Israelite woman named Esther. Esther was an orphan who lived in a country called Persia, where people were unkind to Israelites. Esther asked God for help to be brave, even when people were unkind. God listened and had a big plan for how Esther's love and bravery would save her people.

One day, the king of Persia looked to the women of his country in search of a queen. Out of all the women in the land, the one he noticed was Esther. Esther had raven hair and sparkling eyes, but there was something else he noticed about her. Esther's love for God and her people, plus the strength God had given her, made her more beautiful than anyone else.



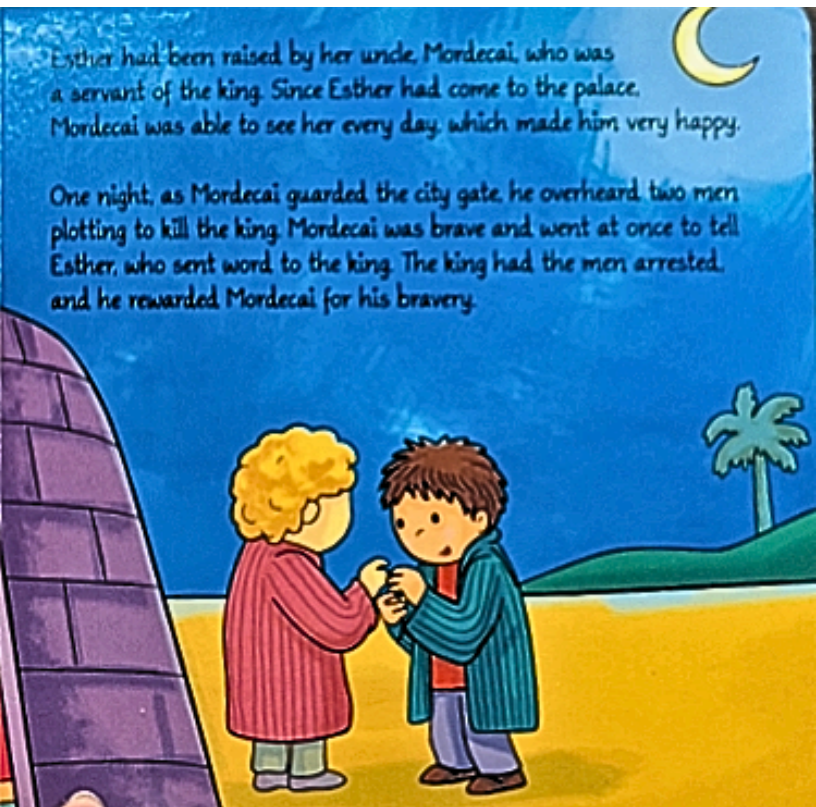
The king brought Esther to his palace and gave her precious jewels and fine robes of purple and gold. Esther thanked the king for the gifts, but what Esther treasured most were not things, but people. Esther's kindness won favor in the eyes of all who met her, including the king, so he placed a crown on her head and made her queen.





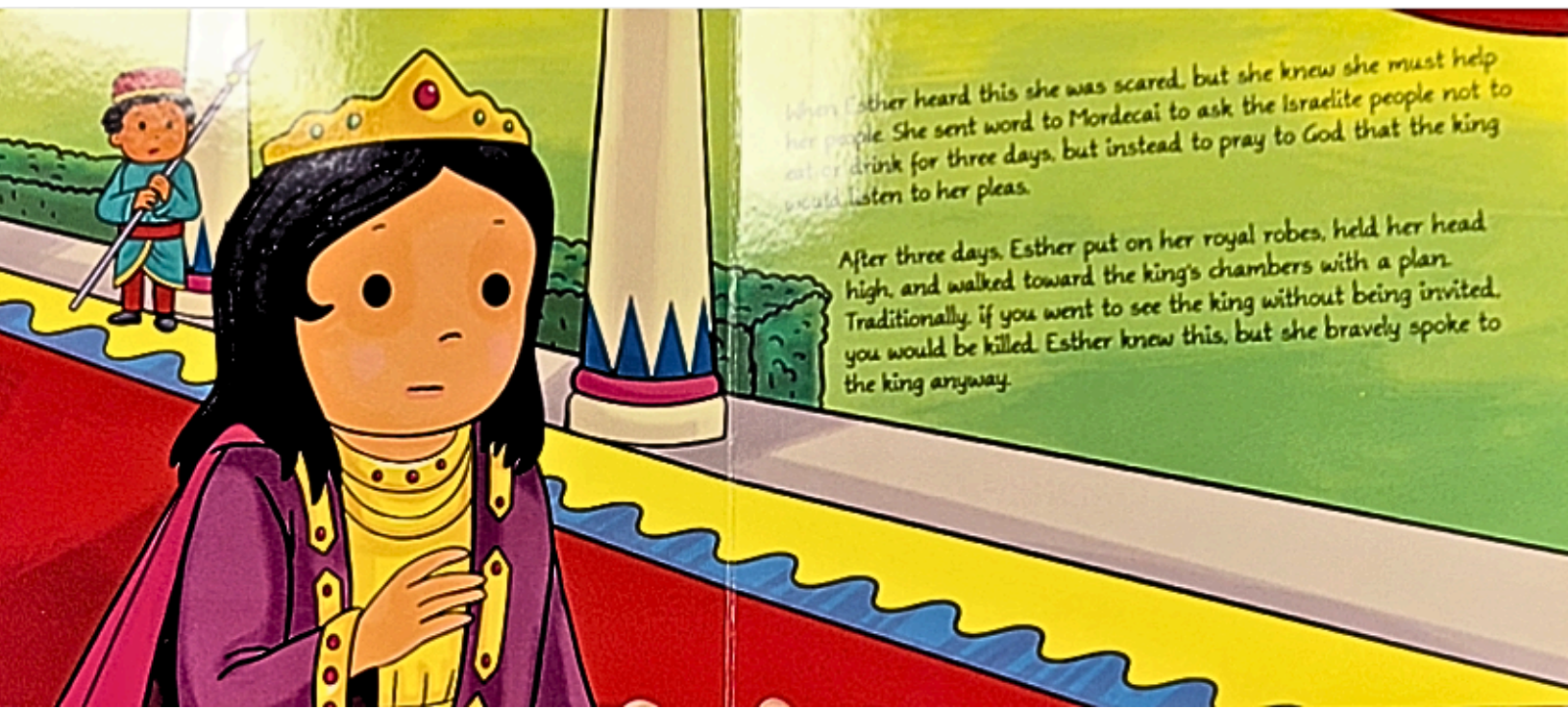
Esther had been raised by her uncle Mordecai, who was a servant of the king. Since Esther had come to the palace, Mordecai was able to see her every day, which made him very happy.

One night, as Mordecai guarded the city gate, he overheard two men plotting to kill the king. Mordecai was brave and went at once to tell Esther, who sent word to the king. The king had the men arrested, and he rewarded Mordecai for his bravery.



A man, the king's assistant, saw this and worried the king liked Mordecai more than him. Jealousy began to grow in Haman's heart, so he hatched a sneaky and dreadful plan.

Haman told the king that throughout his land there were people who worshipped someone besides him and that those people should be killed. The king didn't realize Haman was talking about the Israelites, who were Mordecai and Esther's people, and so he agreed. An edict soon went out across the land that all Israelite people would be killed.



When Esther heard this she was scared, but she knew she must help her people. She sent word to Mordecai to ask the Israelite people not to eat or drink for three days, but instead to pray to God that the king would listen to her pleas.

After three days, Esther put on her royal robes, held her head high, and walked toward the king's chambers with a plan. Traditionally, if you went to see the king without being invited, you would be killed. Esther knew this, but she bravely spoke to the king anyway.



God heard the prayers of Esther's people and softened the king's heart.

When the king saw Esther enter his chambers without being invited, he gasped in surprise! After a moment, he gestured for her to approach.

"Esther, what is it that you wish?" he asked.

"My king, I wish to invite you and Haman to dinner," said Esther.



That was the most delicious feast Haman had ever eaten.

After dinner, the king asked her again, "Esther, what is it that you wish?"

"I wish you and Haman would come to feast with me again tomorrow night," she said.



The next night, after another marvelous feast, the king asked Esther once again, "Esther, what is it that you wish? You have treated me so kindly. Name your wish and I will give it to you!"

Brave Esther then asked, "Oh king, let my life and the lives of my people be spared."

The king was shocked and angered to hear Esther and her people were in danger. He demanded to know who had plotted against them. He soon discovered it was sneaky, rotten Haman.

Esther asked the king to send
messengers throughout the country to
spread the word that her people should not be
killed. The king immediately sent his swiftest horses to
every corner of the kingdom with the new edict giving the
Israelites freedom. There was joy and feasting across the
land because their queen and their God had saved them.

