



Opportunities Are A Gift From God!

From Big Top Lesson 4

LEADERSHIP TRAIT - COURAGE

Courage helps leaders take risks that others may not be willing to take.

LEADERSHIP LESSON

Your children will learn that God gives us opportunities to do good things, and through them, we can have great experiences and even impact the world for Him.

LEADERSHIP STORY

Esther saves her people. (*The book of Esther*)

WHAT DO I DO?

Have your children read the Leadership Story. Next, have your children watch the Leadership Video and complete the Child Leadership Questions. If you want to do the Optional Family Activity, have the whole family watch the Leadership Video, then lead your family through the Optional Family Activity.

OPTIONAL FAMILY ACTIVITY: CHART THE OPPORTUNITY

Esther was given the opportunity to save the lives of her people. God gives us opportunities to do the right thing and impact the world for Him. Opportunities are chances to do something we don't normally do, or to do something for people we don't normally meet. When we see the opportunities God puts in front of us, and take those opportunities, we can impact the world for Him. This week, pray and ask God to help you see opportunities for your family. Then watch carefully for them. Some examples are a neighbor who needs help with a chore, a public area that needs to be cleaned up, or a homeless shelter that needs volunteers. Write the opportunities that you see on a chart. When you take and participate in one of the opportunities, check it off on your chart. Keep adding to your family's opportunity chart and work to be like Esther and take the opportunities that God gives you!

MEMORY VERSE:

Help your child memorize this verse.

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:10 (NLT)



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Main Point: Opportunities Are A Gift From God!

Read the Leadership Story about Esther saving her people in Esther, chapter 4. When you are finished, watch the Leadership Video. Then, read the items below and write your responses in the space provided.

1. In the video, Pastor Mike said that opportunities are given to us to allow us to do something we would not normally do. He said it was important to accept them when they come to us and not to be _____.
 - A. Happy
 - B. Afraid
 - C. Sad
 - D. Excited
2. What animal was the girl in the story excited to see?
3. The girl was given an opportunity to ride the elephant. What kept her from taking this opportunity?
4. The girl realized that her fear had caused her to miss doing something amazing. What should she have done?
5. In the Leadership Story, Esther was a beautiful young girl living in Persia. Who did she live with?
6. King Xerxes needed something and issued a decree. What was the decree for?



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7. Who did King Xerxes choose as his new queen?
8. What was the evil man's name who worked for the king?
9. What did Haman want to do to the Jews?
 - A. Feed them
 - B. Talk with them
 - C. Give them great wealth
 - D. Kill them
10. Haman had the king issue a decree for all of the Jews to be put to death. No one knew that Esther was a Jew. Who came to Esther and told her to go to the king and beg for mercy for the Jews?
11. What could happen if someone went before the king and was not invited?
12. What was the opportunity God was giving to Esther?
13. By going before the king was Esther risking her life?
14. When Esther went before the king, he held out his scepter. What did he tell her?
15. What did Esther say in response?



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16. At the banquet, what did Esther ask the king for?
17. The king chose to protect Esther. What did he order to be done with Haman?
18. The king had a decree issued to allow the Jews to do what?
- A. Eat
 - B. Run and hide
 - C. Defend themselves
 - D. Read the Bible
19. Esther had a great opportunity and she took it. She realized it was a gift from God. Even though she was afraid, she was able to save all her people. We need to remember that God gives each of us opportunities too and that sometimes there may be a risk involved. On the examples below, write what might be a risk next to the opportunity. Then, write what might be an amazing thing that could happen if you take that opportunity.

EXAMPLES:

RISK

AMAZING THING

Tell a friend about Jesus and
Invite him to church.

Obey your parents in front of your friends.

Help someone who is being picked
on or teased at school.

If you take these opportunities, God will bless you for it. If not, like the girl at the circus, you may miss out on some amazing things. This week ask God to help you be aware of the opportunities He gives you and for the courage to take those opportunities. To help you and your family do this, write on an index card: **Opportunities are a gift from God and I will not allow fear to keep me from them!**

Hang the card on your refrigerator so your family will see it every day. At dinner time during the week, share some opportunities you receive this week and how you handle them.

Memory Verse: Ask your parents to help you memorize this verse.

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:10 (NLT)



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Main Point: Opportunities Are A Gift From God!

1. B.
2. Elephants.
3. Fear.
4. Rode the elephants. Prayed and asked God for courage.
5. Her cousin, Mordecai.
6. A new queen.
7. Esther.
8. Haman.
9. D.
10. Mordecai.
11. She could be doomed to die, unless the king holds out his scepter.
12. To save her people and do what was right.
13. Yes.
14. She could ask for anything.
15. Invited the king and Haman to a banquet.
16. Her life and the lives of her people to be spared.
17. Arrested and executed.
18. C.
19. Answers may vary, but may include:
 - Risk: Make fun of you. Won't come. Get picked on too.
 - Awesome Thing: Would come to church. They'd obey their parents. The bully could stop. Make a new friend.