



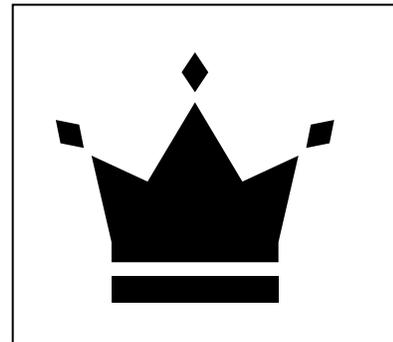
Welcome from St Mark's Lutheran Church in Aurora, IL. We miss seeing all of you in-person but we know you will have so much fun with this **Faith @home VBS** this week.

## **Day 2: Brave Queen Esther** **Stand up for your People**

### **DAY 2 - Even when we are scared, GOD IS WITH US**

#### **Supplies needed**

- Children's Bible or Story Bible
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick or stapler
- Glitter/Stickers/Jewels to decorate a crown
- Paper or a card for Thank you notes White paper



**Remember to post pictures of your crafts, your story time, your active play or even your dance time in the St Mark's Aurora Family Group!**

**Post questions, comments, suggestions as you go through the week – other families may be doing this at their own pace and would love to hear feedback along the way!**



## Day 2: Brave Queen Esther

### Stand up for your people!

**Bible Story:** Esther 2: 5-8, 15-18; 3: 1-6; 8: 1-8

Read the verses in the right-hand box aloud (or use a Children's story Bible and look for the story of Queen Esther).

Then use these discussion questions:

- How are Esther and her people bullied?
- Why was Haman mean to others?
- Where are places that you see bullies today?
- What does Esther do to keep her people safe from the bully?
- How is Esther brave?

### DAY 2 - Even when we are scared, GOD IS WITH US

#### Craft: Crowns for Kings and Queens

Make crowns like the crowns that you think Queen Esther and King Xerxes would have worn.

- Take a piece of construction paper and fold it in half lengthwise.
- Cut a zig-zag pattern in the non-folded end of the paper.
- Open up and cut along fold. You'll now have two pieces – connect them with a glue stick or staples to make one long zig zagged paper.
- Decorate the crown with drawings, glitter, stickers, jewels, etc.
- Measure the paper around your child's head and close at appropriate size with glue or staple.

Wear them around as you do a chore or eat lunch today.

Is it hard to keep a crown balanced on your head?

How would it be hard to be a leader?

#### Optional Extended Craft:

If older kids want to create a more complex crown – have them watch this video. They can cut out their own squares of paper first and then follow instructions to fold and connect the triangles and glue together

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f1DR5uJiR4>

## Brave Queen Esther

**Esther 2: 5-8** Now there was a Jew who lived in the palace complex in Susa. His name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish—a Benjaminite. Mordecai had reared his cousin Hadassah, otherwise known as Esther, since she had no father or mother. The girl had a good figure and a beautiful face. After her parents died, Mordecai had adopted her.

When the king's order had been publicly posted, many young girls were brought to the palace complex of Susa and given over to Hegai who was overseer of the women. Esther was among them.

**15-18** When it was Esther's turn to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch in charge of the harem, had recommended. Esther, just as she was, won the admiration of everyone who saw her. <sup>16</sup>She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal palace in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of the king's reign. The king fell in love with Esther far more than with any of his other women or any of the other virgins—he was totally smitten by her. He placed a royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti. Then the king gave a great banquet for all his nobles and king officials "Esther's Banquet." He proclaimed a holiday for all the provinces and handed out gifts with royal generosity.

**3:1-6** Sometime later, King Xerxes promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, making him the highest-ranking official in the government. All the king's servants at the King's Gate used to honor him by bowing down and kneeling before Haman—that's what the king had commanded. Except Mordecai. Mordecai wouldn't do it, wouldn't bow down and kneel. The king's servants at the King's Gate asked Mordecai about it: "Why do you cross the king's command?" Day after day they spoke to him about this but

## Dance it Out

Esther teaches us to be brave - Watch this VBS music video and celebrate that we are not afraid!

<https://youtu.be/YhAH2zU8UiU>

## Active Play:

Go outside as weather permits. Play Haman Says (think Simon Says). Designate someone to be Haman, and order other people around – remember to do what Haman says. But if Haman does not say “Haman says”, the people don’t have to do it!

If you have a large family, add a second leader named Queen Esther. The people can choose to follow Esther’s directions if they want, as she cares for them. They do not have to fear what she will do!

## Research This!

Find out who some of your community leaders are where you live. Check out websites hosted by firefighters, police, city halls, and public utilities.

Who are your community leaders, and how do they help you?

What could you do to support these leaders?

## Watch That?

Check out this video on Queen Esther on YouTube! It tells the story in a simple ways kids can understand!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGQ3oSJ\\_xbc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGQ3oSJ_xbc)

## Prayer for the day:

Take time to think about leaders in your community. Pray for them as they work and lead through difficult situations.

Pray that they listen to God and follow his call to Love Everyone! Ask God to guide them in their decisions.

## Community Care:

Write a thank you note to a community leader (could be a police officer/station, firefighters, or a local government leader like the mayor or village president). Thank them for what they do and let them know you are praying for them!

Send it out in the mail or drop it off if you know where the station or office is located

he wouldn’t listen, so they went to Haman to see whether something shouldn’t be done about it. Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

When Haman saw for himself that Mordecai didn’t bow down and kneel before him, he was outraged. Meanwhile, having learned that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman hated to waste his fury on just one Jew; he looked for a way to eliminate not just Mordecai but all Jews throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. ....

**8:1-8** That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, archenemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king because Esther had explained their relationship. The king took off his signet ring, which he had taken back from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther appointed Mordecai over Haman’s estate.

Then Esther again spoke to the king, falling at his feet, begging with tears to counter the evil of Haman the Agagite and revoke the plan that he had plotted against the Jews. The king extended his gold scepter to Esther. She got to her feet and stood before the king. She said, “If it please the king and he regards me with favor and thinks this is right, and if he has any affection for me at all, let an order be written that cancels the bulletins authorizing the plan of Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite to annihilate the Jews in all the king’s provinces. How can I stand to see this catastrophe wipe out my people? How can I bear to stand by and watch the massacre of my own relatives?”

King Xerxes said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew: “I’ve given Haman’s estate to Esther and he’s been hanged on the gallows because he attacked the Jews. So go ahead now and write whatever you decide on behalf of the Jews; then seal it with the signet ring.” (An order written in the king’s name and sealed with his signet ring is irrevocable.)

**DAY 2 - Even when we are scared,  
GOD IS WITH US**