

GRADES
K-6

ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Printable Lesson Kit

An illustration of a royal court scene. In the foreground, the silhouette of a king wearing a crown and holding a scepter is shown from behind, looking towards a woman in a red and white dress standing in a doorway. The room features large arched windows, columns, and a chandelier.

M **GHTY MESSAGES**

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ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

LESSON OVERVIEW

ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE MIGHTY MESSAGE

The story of Queen Esther will teach children the importance of having compassion or empathy. Esther lived safe in the palace. She was a poor girl in exile who had become queen! She didn't have to risk her life for the Jews when she found out they were in danger. She did it because she felt their pain. Their pain made her sad, then courageous to act. That's what compassion does.

How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Craft: Flipbook
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons, colored pencils, markers
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE & LESSON

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER (NIV)

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



ESTHER 3:

¹ King Xerxes honored Haman... elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles.

² All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.

⁶ Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

¹³ Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.



ESTHER 4:

² When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

³ In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."



ESTHER 5:

¹ On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance.

² When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

³ Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

⁴ "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."

⁵ "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared.

⁶ As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

⁷ Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: ⁸ If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."



ESTHER 7:

¹ So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet,

² and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.

⁴ For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

⁶ Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

⁷ The king got up in a rage... they covered Haman's face.

¹⁰ ...they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai.

Questions for Children about Abraham and Isaac:

1. Mordecai was a faithful follower of God. Why do you think he refused to bow down to Haman? **A: Because the Jews didn't bow down to anyone except God. Bowing down was a form of worship. Mordecai didn't want to bow down to anyone.** Have you ever been asked or pressured to do something you knew was wrong? Describe what happened.

2. Esther's husband, King Xerxes, was a very scary guy! When he heard the report about Mordecai not bowing down, he sent out dispatches. See verse 3:13. What did the dispatches say? **A: that all Jews should be killed., young and old, women and children. Esther had just been picked as Xerxes' queen over thousands of young women. She was Jewish too. Like Haman, she had received an honor.** How was she different from him? Look at their behaviors. Haman: Chapter 3:5-6. Esther: chapter 4:15-16. **A: Haman tried to kill people; Esther tried to save them.**

3. Have you ever won a prize or an award? Say what it was. Was it hard not to get a big head or act better than other people? What is the difference between feeling good about positive attention and feeling arrogant? **A: You're allowed to feel a sense of accomplishment. It isn't right to lord yourself over others because of it. Queen Esther really cared about people.** What can we do when we win something or accomplish something or possess something that will make us care about others? **A: Share, see how we can use it to help others, ask God to give us good hearts like Esther.**



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Esther had just become a queen! The king did not know that she was Jewish. He was also unaware that his prime minister, Haman, was plotting to kill all of the Jews. Haman targeted Esther's cousin Mordecai in particular.

Mordecai asked Esther to plead with the king. She was afraid. Her husband was fierce! Esther had lived safely in the palace. But she cared for the people who weren't safe. Her compassion saved many people from death!

Compassion means being able to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. Some people have it worse than we do. Helping them can appear to not do anything good for us. But it does. The Bible says it is better to give than to receive, and those who try giving find out how happy it makes them. Who might God be asking YOU to help?



ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

PRINTABLE CRAFT

ESTHER BIBLE STORY CHARACTER CONES

Help children understand the meaning behind the teachable story of Queen Esther. This DIY project gives kids the chance to color cone characters of Esther as well as King Xerxes, Hegai, Mordecai and Haman. This is a great craft to do while a grown-up reads the scripture story and asks the discussion questions.



MATERIALS:

- 1 Character Cone Page per Child (follows the instructions)
- Scissors
- Clear Tape
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, Markers (optional)

Note: We provided the Character Cone Template page in two formats: color and black/white. If you are short on time, we suggest using the colored version. However, if you want to extend the craft use the black/white version and have kids color in the characters.

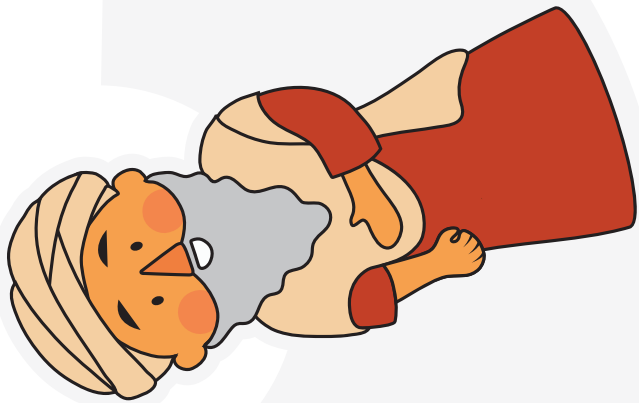
INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Optional: If using the black/white Character cones, have children color the characters.
- 2) Cut out 5 Character Cones
- 3) Wrap each character into a cone shape as shown in the photo and secure with tape

Haman



Mordecai!



Hegai



King



Xerxes

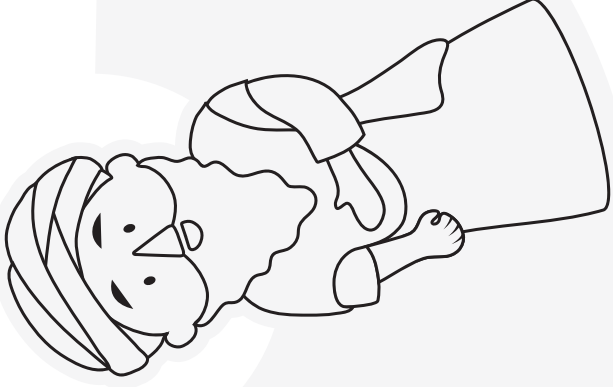
Esther



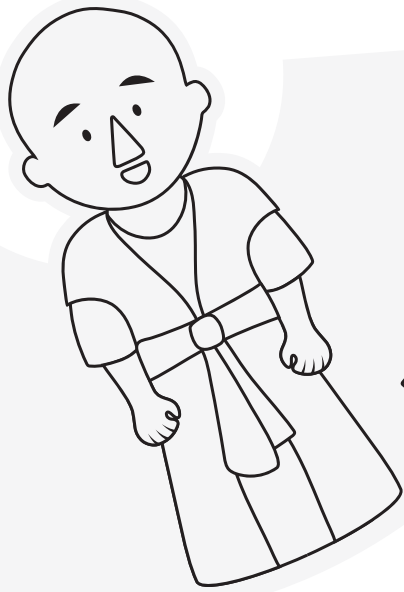
Haman



Mordecai!



Hegai



King



Xerxes

Esther



STAND UP, SIT DOWN!

This game goes hand-in-hand with the theme of Queen Esther's story—truly loving others, especially your brothers and sisters in Christ. A good start to love is to know everyone's name! Your students will have to pay extra-careful attention as you read through this list of 100 most common names (and any other names of students in your class) to see if they can stand up only on the correct names!



MATERIALS:

- List of 100 Most Common Names (follows)
- Pencil or pen



PREPARATION:

Add any names to the list in pencil that are in your class but not on this list. Place them where they belong alphabetically. Circle the names in your class so that you yourself don't breeze over one! (If two students have the same name, include their middle names.)

INTRODUCTION

If we are going to learn to love each other like Queen Esther loved her brothers and sisters in the Jewish faith, we need to start at the top. Did you ever have a school teacher who remembered your name right away, without glancing down at the list? It feels good, doesn't it? You think, "That teacher likes me!" Let's see if we can know each other's names immediately when we hear them.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have everyone sit down.
2. Start saying names on this list. Read the names ACROSS rather than alphabetically, or students who can alphabetize will know when to jump up or down.
3. When you come to a name that belongs to a kid in the class, everyone should jump up. The first student to jump up gets a point. If someone jumps up falsely, they lose a point. Have your assistant keep score.
4. Next time they hear a name in the class they should sit down. Keep score again.
5. Next time they hear a name they should stand up again. And so forth.
6. The student with the most points wins.



GAME CONINUED

100 Most Common American Names (and your students' names)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Abby | 26. Cobe | 51. Jessica | 76. Melissa |
| 2. Abigail | 27. Daniel | 52. John | 77. Merlin |
| 3. Alana | 28. Danielle | 53. Jonathan | 78. Michael |
| 4. Alex | 29. Darla | 54. Joseph | 79. Miley |
| 5. Alexander | 30. David | 55. Joshua | 80. Michelle |
| 6. Alexis | 31. Eli | 56. Juan | 81. Mick |
| 7. Alice | 32. Elizabeth | 57. Jose | 82. Nicholas |
| 8. Amy | 33. Ellen | 58. Justin | 83. Olivia |
| 9. Andre | 34. Emile | 59. Keysha | 84. Ovid |
| 10. Andrew | 35. Emily | 60. Kim | 85. Rene |
| 11. Angela | 36. Emma | 61. Kimberly | 86. Richard |
| 12. Anthony | 37. Erma | 62. Kyle | 87. Robert |
| 13. Ashley | 38. Ethan | 63. Lee | 88. Samantha |
| 14. Austin | 39. Evan | 64. Lisa | 89. Sandy |
| 15. Ava | 40. Hannah | 65. Madison | 90. Sarah |
| 16. Brandon | 41. Harley | 66. Mandy | 91. Sophia |
| 17. Brian | 42. Iesha | 67. Maria | 92. Stacy |
| 18. Brianna | 43. Isabella | 68. Mariah | 93. Taylor |
| 19. Brittany | 44. Jack | 69. Mark | 94. Tiffany |
| 20. Chloe | 45. Jacob | 70. Marley | 95. Tory |
| 21. Chrissie | 46. James | 71. Mary | 96. Tracy |
| 22. Christina | 47. Jane | 72. Mason | 97. Tyler |
| 23. Christopher | 48. Jason | 73. Matthew | 98. Tyrone |
| 24. Chris | 49. Jena | 74. Max | 99. William |
| 25. Corey | 50. Jennifer | 75. Meagan | |

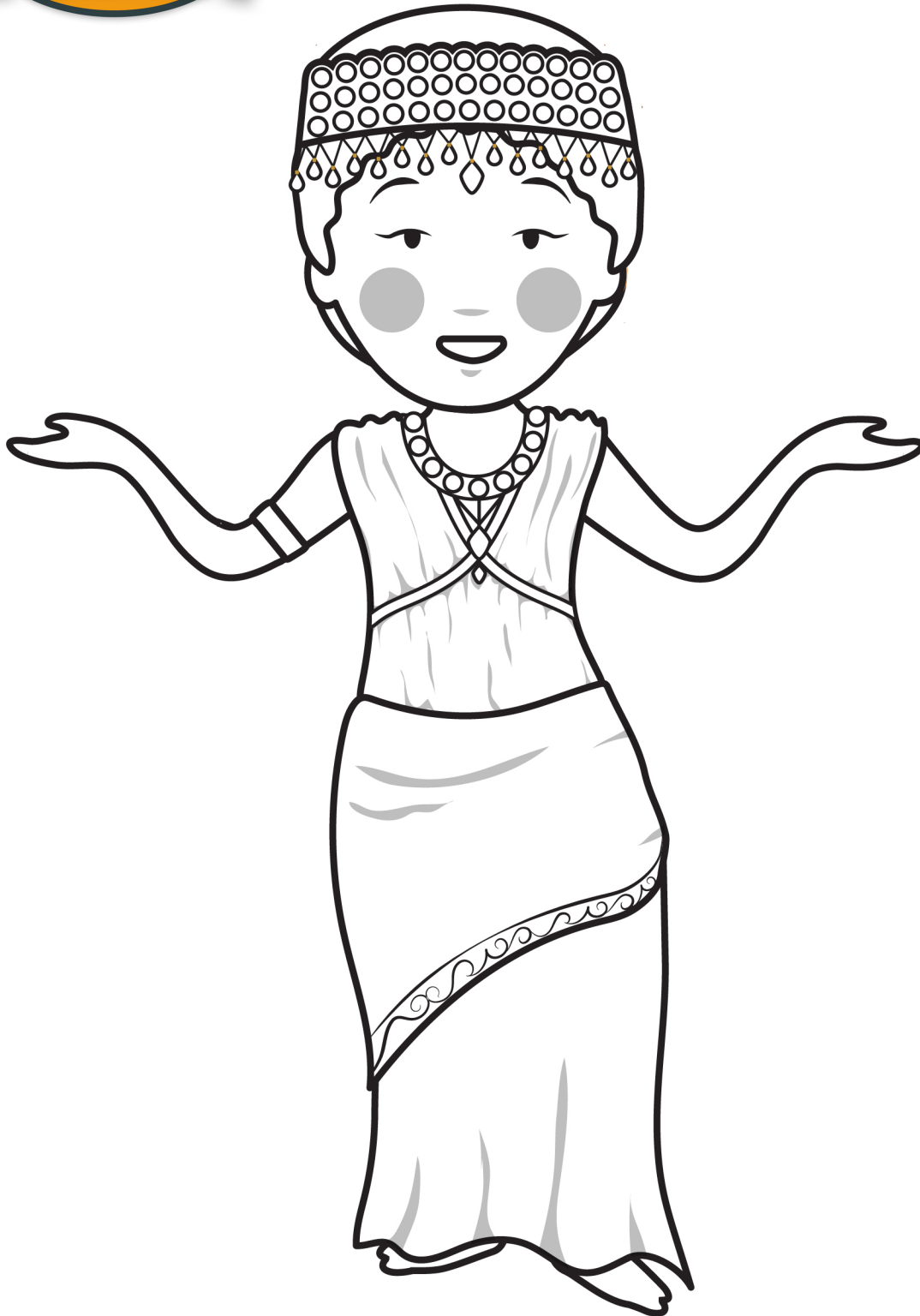
CONCLUSION:

Remembering names is considered one of the most important skills in business—why? Because everyone enjoys feeling liked and recognized. If you want to be like Queen Esther, you'll eventually learn to love people enough that you're willing to put your life on the line for them. But just learning to be interested is a great start. Who feels a little more interested, just knowing you won't forget somebody's name?



ESTHER - Esther 1-10
A fast thinker under stress.

**ESTHER SAVES
THE JEWISH PEOPLE**



ESTHER



WORD SEARCH

Below are words that have to do with loving and caring. To become more like Queen Esther, picture yourself showing these traits to someone.

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

Words to Find:

AFFECTION
 APPRECIATION
 ATTENTIVENESS
 COURTESY
 DEVOTION

DIGNITY
 EMOTION
 EMPATHY
 FAITHFULNESS
 FONDNESS

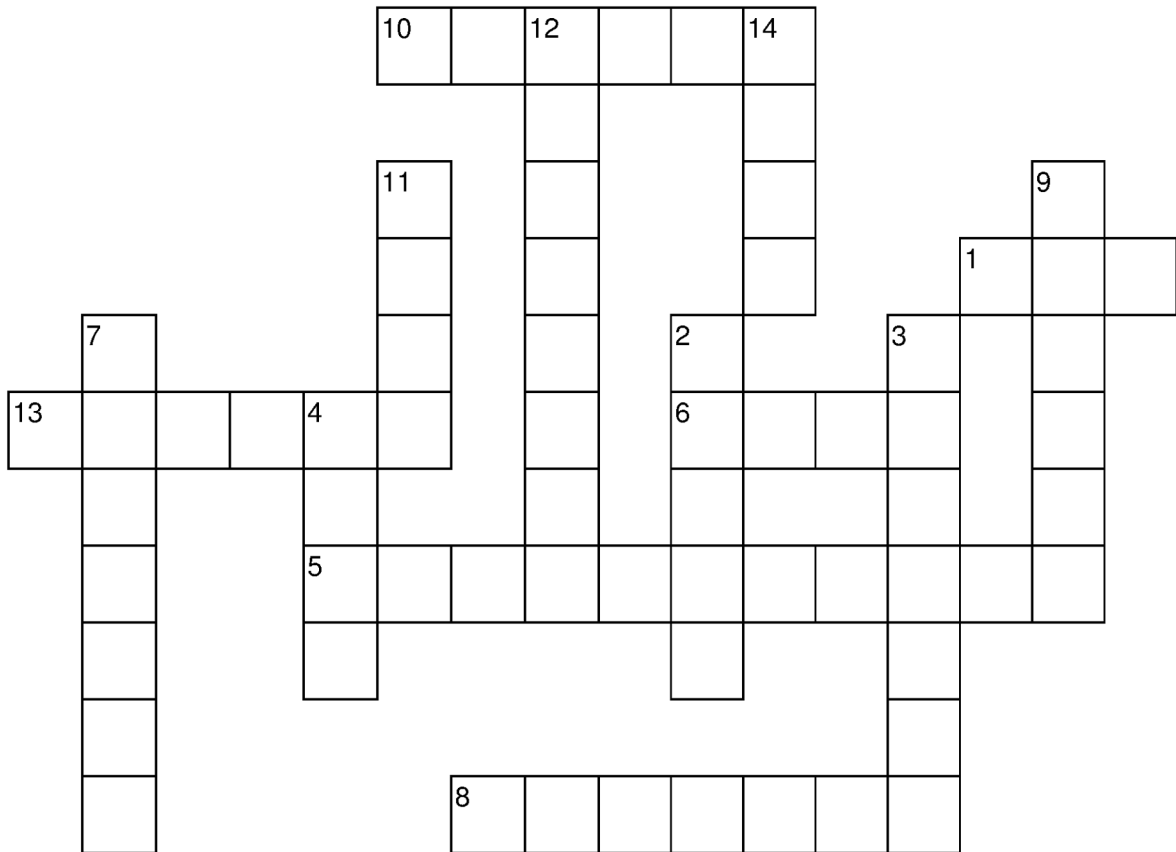
FRIENDSHIP
 HONOR
 LISTENING
 LOYALTY
 RESPECT

SHARING
 SUPPORT
 SYMPATHY

ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use the 'Esther At-a-Glance Reference Sheet' to help you fill in the answers:



Across

1. The Book of Esther never mentions _____
5. Book Number in the Old Testament
6. Susa is located in this modern-day country
8. Place where most Exile victims went
10. River nearest to Susa
13. Name of Queen Esther's husband

Down

2. Number of years following the Great Exile
3. Who is the author of the Book of Esther?
4. Only Bible story to take place in the _____
7. Susa is the capital of which empire
9. Century BC when Esther lived
11. The genocide was meant to kill these
12. What Queen Esther stopped
14. Where story takes place



Esther had compassion

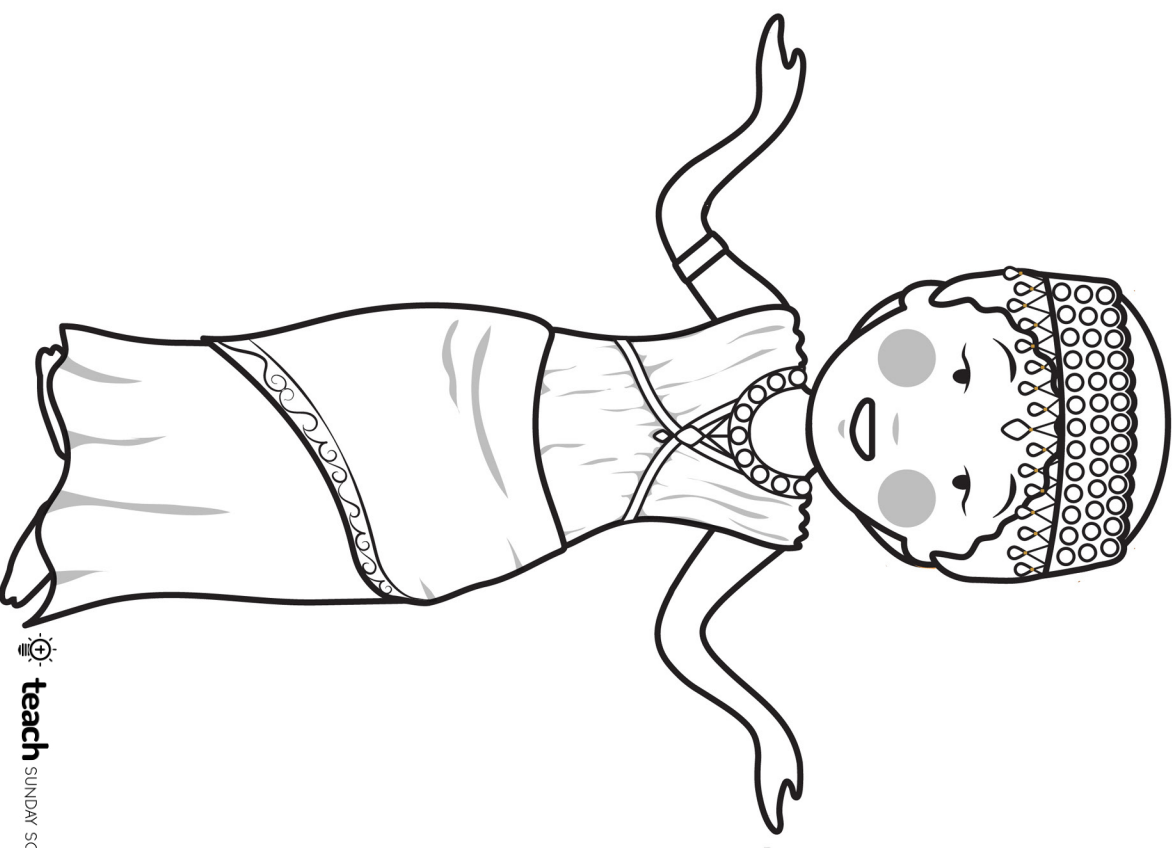
IN OUR OWN LIVES:

Have you ever seen someone suffering and wanted to help? What did you do? What do you wish you could have done? Answer the second or third question below.

Look up Esther 4:4. How did Esther feel when she heard about Mordecai's grief? She was in...

G					
---	--	--	--	--	--

D						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--



ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: Esther 2:8b-17a

These scriptures actually take place before Esther became queen and precede what was read to students in class. They should find it a bit intriguing as Esther had to go through quite a beauty regiment to beat out thousands of girls to become queen.



This Week We Learned About ...

Esther lived safe in the palace. She was a poor girl in exile who had become queen! She was beautiful but she was also humble. Her humility gave her compassion when her people were marked for genocide. She didn't have to risk her life for the Jews when she found out they were in danger.

She did it because she felt their pain. Their pain made her sad, then courageous to act. That's what compassion does, compassion fueled with humility.



✓ Questions for Kids:

1. How many months of beauty treatments did each selected young woman have to receive before she should meet the king? **Twelve**
2. The first six months, they prepared a contestant's skin. The second six months was devoted to what? **Perfume and cosmetics**
3. What did the king do once he found Esther more attractive than any other among the thousands of women? **Set a royal crown on her head and made her queen.**

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

Esther had twelve months of beauty preparation and then the king chose her over hundreds, possibly thousands of other women. But the story says that she didn't ask for a whole bunch of stuff to take to the palace with her when she moved. What do you think kept her from becoming all heady and in love with herself? What can we learn from this?

Describe a time you won something fairly important or felt a great sense of accomplishment. Did you have any temptations to show it off or lord it over others? How does the Golden Rule apply to us when we are winning in life: Do unto others as you would have them to do you?

Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8



The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

Proverbs 22:4



Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

1 Peter 5:6

ESTHER

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #17



AUTHOR: UNKNOWN
someone in the Persian Court into which
Esther was married



WRITTEN: 450 BC

Covering the time period of 480-475 BC

17

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIMS TO FAME: Only book in the Bible not to mention the name of God.
(Yet the story of Esther is quite godly!)

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- **Esther is one story about a woman of Israel who became queen in a foreign land and stopped a genocide meant to kill all Jews in the land.**

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question." **Esther 5:8**

In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them. **Esther 8:17**

Important Points about the Book:

- The book takes place in Susa, east of the Tigris River, which is now part of Iraq. It is the only Bible story to take place east of what is thought to be the Garden of Eden.
- In Chapters 1 and 2, Esther becomes queen of Susa. A man named Mordecai had adopted Esther after she was orphaned and before she became queen. Chapter 4 features Mordecai discovering a plot to have all the Jewish people in the kingdom executed. The evil plot was started by Haman.
- Esther was able to talk her husband, a very strong king, out of the genocide through a combination of wits and humility and support from Mordecai.
- The evil Haman ended up being killed on the very devices he had designed to kill the Jewish people in Chapter 7.
- King Xerxes, Esther's husband, cancelled the plot and, in the closing chapter, 10, Mordecai was promoted to second in command.



LEARNING LOOKUPS



ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Lookup: Esther 3:5 and write it down:

Lookup: Esther 4:16. Write down the last two sentences.

These two scriptures contrast the ways different people respond to having been elevated above others. What is the difference between Haman and Esther?

Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Tell God to help you become like Esther in how she treats others and her own importance. Use your own words.

ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE QUIZ

Learn all about Queen Esther by looking up the verses and finishing the quiz.

CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER

1. King Xerxes was looking for a new queen because his first queen was being rude and selfish. Her name was (Esther 1:10-12)

- a. Queen Ruth
- b. Queen Vashti
- c. Queen Rahab

2. Mordecai was Esther's distant (Esther 2:5-8)

- a. cousin
- b. half-brother
- c. uncle

3. Mordecai was honored because he protected King Xerxes from (Esther 2:21-23)

- a. being robbed
- b. being kidnapped
- c. being murdered

4. Haman, the king's minister, became enraged when Mordecai refused (Esther 3:5-6)

- a. to bow and worship him
- b. to marry his daughter
- c. to pay his taxes

5. Haman manipulated the king into writing a decree that called for the death of (Esther 3:13)

- a. all idolaters
- b. Mordecai
- c. all Jews

6. When Esther decided to help, she asked the Jewish people to do this for three days (Esther 4:15-16)

- a. protest
- b. fast (not eat)
- c. set fires

7. Esther made her request by finding favor with the king in this way (Esther 5:5-8)

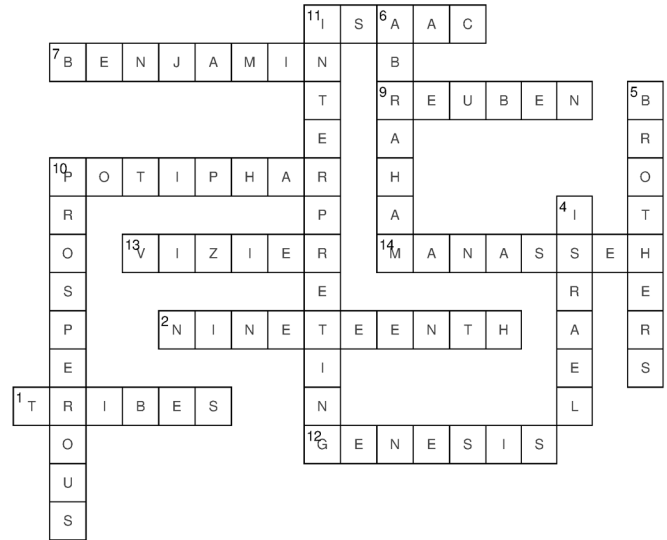
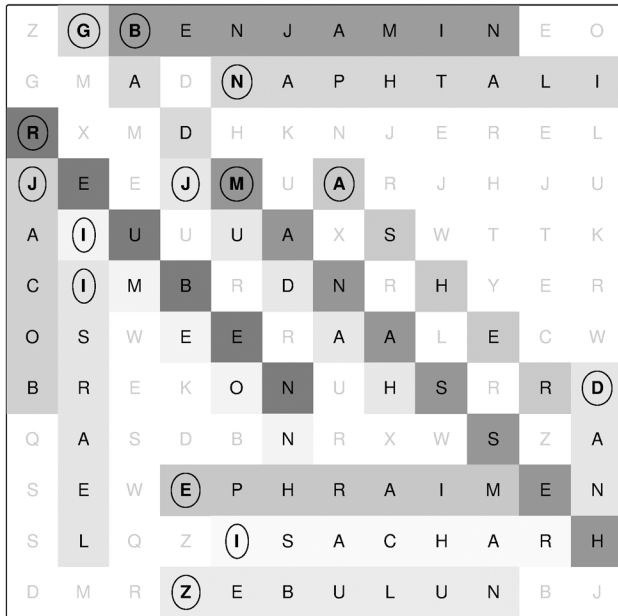
- a. bowing down
- b. giving him two gifts
- c. throwing two banquets

8. In the end, King Xerxes ended up killing Haman on a device Haman had built to kill (Esther 7:9-10)

- a. Mordecai
- b. Queen Esther
- c. Queen Vashti

ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

ANSWER KEY



1. King Xerxes was looking for a new queen because his first queen was being rude and selfish. Her name was (Esther 1:10-12)

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ESTHER SAVES THE JEWISH PEOPLE

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

