



Esther asked King Xerxes to save God's people.

Esther 1-10



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☆Let's Talk

SAY An order was sent throughout the Persian kingdom that all Jews were to be put to death. Queen Esther's Uncle Mordecai told her to go to powerful King Xerxes and ask him to spare God's people. Esther told Mordecai to gather together all Jews and have them pray about the matter. Even for the queen, it was dangerous to go before the king without permission.

ASK Look at the picture. *What do you see?*

SAY After Esther, her uncle, and the rest of God's people in the Persian kingdom finished praying, Esther went before King Xerxes. She invited the king and Haman, the chief of all his nobles, to a feast.

ASK *What do you think happened at the feast?*

SAY When Esther, Xerxes, and Haman were eating together, Esther asked the king to spare her life and the lives of her people. The king was furious when he learned that it was wicked Haman who had plotted to kill all Jews in the kingdom. He commanded that Haman be put to death right away. Then the king made a new law.

ASK *What do you think the new law said?*

SAY The new law said that the Jews could fight for their lives if anyone tried to harm them. On the day they were all supposed to die, God's people were victorious. They had a wonderful holiday celebrating what God had done for them through Esther and her uncle.

☆Let's Celebrate and Say

Spread a large, colorful quilt on the floor. Sit in a circle and have a "feast." Serve cheese slices, fruit slices, grapes, pita crackers, and a drink. (Be aware of allergies.) As children eat, remind them that God put Esther in the king's palace and used her to save his people, the Jews. Say sentence prayers thanking God for saving his people back then and for saving us today through Jesus, his Son.

☆Let's Sing

Sing either "Jesus Bids Us Shine" or "Be Strong." Both songs are found in *Younger Elementary Vol. 2 Songbook* and on the CD.