

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 129: ESTHER PLEADS FOR HER PEOPLE
ESTHER 4:1-17

When Mordecai heard about all that had been done by Haman, he tore his clothes (remember - Haman told King Xerxes that all the Jews should be destroyed, and King Xerxes allowed Haman to send letters to all the lands telling the people to destroy them). Then he put on sackcloth, put ashes on his head, and went out into the city crying loudly. This was how the Jews showed they were very sad and upset. But Mordecai went only as far as the king's gate. No one was allowed to enter the gate if they were dressed in sackcloth. In every province where the king's command had come, there was much crying and sadness among the Jews. They were fasting, which means they were not eating any food, and crying loudly. Many Jews were lying on the ground dressed in sackcloth with ashes on their heads. Esther's slave women and servants came to her and told her about Mordecai. This made Queen Esther very sad and upset. She sent clothes for Mordecai to put on instead of the sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther called Hathach, one of the king's servants who had been chosen to serve her. She commanded him to find out what was bothering Mordecai, and why. So Hathach went out to where Mordecai was in the open place of the city in front of the king's gate. Then Mordecai told Hathach everything that had happened to him. Mordecai told him about the exact amount of money Haman had promised to put into the king's treasury for killing Jews (which was 750,000 pounds of silver!!! That's close to a MILLION pounds of silver!). Mordecai also gave Hathach a copy of the king's command to kill the Jews. The command had been sent out all over the city of Susa. He wanted Hathach to show it to Esther and tell her everything. And he told him to encourage Esther to go to the king and beg him for mercy for Mordecai and her people. Hathach went back and told Esther everything Mordecai had said. Then Esther told Hathach to say this to Mordecai: "Mordecai, all the king's leaders and all the people of the king's provinces know this: The king has one law for any man or woman who goes to the king without being called. That person must be put to death unless the king holds out his gold scepter to them. (A scepter is a long stick made of gold that the kings all held). If the king does this, that person's life will be saved. And I have not been called to go see the king for 30 days." Then Esther's message was given to Mordecai. When he got her message, Mordecai sent his answer back: "Esther, don't think that just because you live in

the king's palace you will be the only Jew to escape. If you keep quiet now, help and freedom for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your father's family will all die. And who knows, maybe you have been chosen to be the queen for this very time and reason." Then Esther sent this answer to Mordecai: "Mordecai, go and get all the Jews in Susa together, and you all fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days and nights. My women servants and I will fast too. After we are done fasting, I will go to the king. I know it is against his law to go to the king if he didn't call me first, but I will do it anyway. If I die, I die." So Mordecai went away and did everything that Esther told him to do.

129. ESTHER PLEADS FOR HER PEOPLE (ESTHER 4:1-17)



"When Mordecai heard about all that had been done, he tore his clothes. Then he put on sackcloth, put ashes on his head, and went out into the city crying loudly." **ESTHER 4:1**

"Esther's slave women and servants came to her and told her about Mordecai. This made Queen Esther very sad and upset. She sent clothes for Mordecai to put on instead of the sackcloth, but he would not accept them." **ESTHER 4:4**

129. ESTHER PLEADS FOR HER PEOPLE

ESTHER 4:1-17

MEMORY VERSE:

"And so I will go to the king, which is against the law, and if I die, I die." " ESTHER 4:16

TRUE OR FALSE

1. When Mordecai learned what Haman had done, he was very sad. TRUE or FALSE
2. In every province where the King's command had come, the Jews were very happy.
TRUE or FALSE
3. Mordecai sent a copy of the command with Esther's servant to take to Esther and told him to explain to her everything that had happened. TRUE or FALSE
4. Mordecai wanted Esther to go to the King and ask him to save the Jews.
TRUE or FALSE
5. Esther sent a message to Mordecai telling him that she would go to the king, because it was always okay for people to just go into the king and talk to him. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What happened when all the Jews heard the command that was sent out to all the provinces? Were they happy or sad?
2. What did Esther do when she heard that Mordecai was sad and crying? Did she send her servant to ask him what was wrong?
3. What did Esther say the first time Mordecai sent a message asking her to go into the king and talk to him about saving the Jews? Did she tell him she couldn't do that?
4. Why couldn't Esther just go in and talk to King Xerxes? What was the law?
5. Did Esther finally agree to go and talk to the king for the Jews? What did she ask Mordecai to do? Did she ask him to get all the other Jews in Susa and fast and pray?
6. Did Mordecai do these things?

Lesson 129 Activity

Act out the Lesson!

Act out the part where Mordecai is sad and crying at the king's gate and the servants go and tell Esther

Parts:

Mordecai

Some servants

Hathach, Esther's servant

Esther

Have Mordecai walk back and forth "wailing", maybe saying "Oh no!! What are we going to do? All the Jews will die!"

Have the servants see him, then go and tell Esther that Mordecai is sad and crying. Let Esther be sad to hear this.

Have Esther send her servants back to Mordecai to give him clothes to put on, but have Mordecai refuse them. Let the servants come back and tell Esther that Mordecai wouldn't take the clothes.

Have Esther tell Hathach to go back to Mordecai and find out what is wrong, then have Mordecai give Hathach a piece of paper (the copy of the command), and have Mordecai tell Hathach that Haman sent out these letters to all the land telling people to kill the Jews. Have Mordecai tell Hathach to try to convince Esther to go in to the King and tell him to save the Jews.

Then have Hathach go tell Esther that Mordecai said that Haman sent out these letters to everyone telling them to kill all the Jews and give her the copy of the letter. Then have Hathach tell Esther that Mordecai wants her to go in to the King and ask him to save the Jews.

Then have Esther tell Hathach to go tell Mordecai that everyone knows the King's law is that nobody can go in to the king unless he calls them by name first, and she hasn't even been called in to see him for 30 days! If anyone goes in to see the king without him calling their name, they will be killed!

Have Hathach go tell Mordecai all these things..

Then have Mordecai tell Hathach to tell Esther that just because she lives in a palace doesn't mean that she will be the only Jew left alive, and even if she does live, her family and her father's family will all die.

Have Hathach go tell Esther.

Then have Esther tell Hathach to tell Mordecai to get all the Jews in Susa together, and to fast and pray for her, and that she was going to fast and pray with her women servants too, then after they are finished fasting, she was going to go in to see the king. Have Esther tell Hathach, "If I die, I die."

Then have Hathach tell Mordecai all these things.

(Repeating the story with Hathach being the go-between really helps the children remember the story by hearing it over and over!)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY for lesson 129

Fruit of the Spirit Tic Tac Toe If we live a Spirit-controlled life, we can certainly be useful to the Lord. Do our lives display the fruits of a Spirit-controlled life? Draw a large Tic Tac Toe graph on the chalk or dry erase board. In each square put a small number beginning with 1 and going through 9. Each of these boxes will represent a fruit of the Spirit. 1. Love 2. Joy 3. Peace 4. Longsuffering 5. Kindness 6. Goodness 7. Faithfulness 8. Gentleness 9. Self-control Split up your class into two teams, the "X"s and the "O"s. Have each group take turns choosing which square they would like to take by choosing a number. After choosing the number, in order to capture the square, they will need to get together as a group and "act out" that fruit of the Spirit. They can do anything to demonstrate that fruit. You as the teacher will be the judge if they are accurate and should qualify to receive the square. Continue playing until someone gets Tic Tac Toe. If you feel they did not earn the square then the other team can try to earn the square. Play the game a few times and have fun. As we yield to God's control, these fruits of the Spirit will be evident in our lives.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to seek God's will for their lives, understanding He has a plan and a purpose for them. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.