

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 133: ESTHER SAVES HER PEOPLE
ESTHER 8:1-17

That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, and everything that belonged to Haman. Then Mordecai came to see the king because Esther told the king who he was to her. The king had gotten his ring back from Haman. The king took the ring off Haman's finger and gave it to Mordecai. Then Esther put Mordecai in charge of everything that belonged to Haman. Then Esther spoke to the king again. She fell at the king's feet and began crying. She begged the king to cancel the evil plan of Haman the Agagite. Haman had thought up the plan to hurt the Jews. Then the king held out the gold scepter to Esther again (remember, you couldn't come before the king unless he called you, or you would be killed unless he held out the golden scepter to you). Esther got up and stood in front of the king. Then she said, "King, if you like me and if it pleases you, please do this for me. Please do this if you think it is a good idea. If the king is happy with me, please write a command that would stop the command Haman sent out. Haman the Agagite thought of a plan to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces, and he sent out commands for this to happen. I am begging the king because I could not bear to see these terrible things happen to my people. I could not bear to see my family killed." King Xerxes answered Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Because Haman was against the Jews, I have given his property to Esther. And my soldiers have hanged him on the hanging post. Now write another command by the authority of the king. Write it to help the Jews in a way that seems best to you. Then seal the order with the king's special ring. No official letter written by the authority of the king and sealed with the king's ring can be canceled." Very quickly the king's secretaries were called. This was done on the 23rd day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all of Mordecai's commands to the Jews, and to the satraps, the governors, and officials of the 127 provinces. These provinces reached from India to Ethiopia. The commands were written in the language of each province and translated into the language of each group of people. The commands were written to the Jews in their own language and alphabet. Mordecai wrote commands by the authority of King Xerxes. Then he sealed the letters with the king's ring and sent them by messengers on horses. The messengers rode fast horses, which were raised especially for the king. The king's commands in the letters said this: The Jews in every city have the right to gather together

to protect themselves. They have the right to ruin, kill, and completely destroy any army from any group who might attack them and their women and children. And the Jews have the right to take and destroy the property of their enemies. The day set for the Jews to do this was the 13th day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. They were permitted to do this in all King Xerxes' provinces. A copy of the letter with the king's command was to be sent out. It became a law in every province. They announced it to all the people of every nation living in the kingdom. They did this so that the Jews would be ready for that special day. They would be allowed to pay their enemies back. The messengers hurried out, riding on the king's horses. The king commanded them to hurry. And the command was also put in the capital city of Susa. Mordecai left the king. He was wearing special clothes from the king. His clothes were blue and white, and he had on a large gold crown. He also had a purple robe made of the best linen. There was a special celebration in Susa. The people were very happy. It was an especially happy day for the Jews, a day of great joy and happiness. Wherever the king's command went in every province and every city, there was joy and gladness among the Jews. They were having parties and celebrating. Many of the common people from other groups became Jews. They did this because they were very afraid of the Jews.

133. ESTHER SAVES HER PEOPLE

(ESTHER 8:1-17)



"That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, and everything that belonged to him. Then Mordecai came before the king because Esther told the king who he was to her." **ESTHER 8:1**

133. ESTHER SAVES HER PEOPLE

ESTHER 8:1-17

MEMORY VERSE:

"When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices." PROVERBS 11:10

TRUE OR FALSE

1. King Xerxes gave Esther the house of Moses. TRUE or FALSE
2. The king took of his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. TRUE or FALSE
3. Esther begged the king to stop Haman's commandment that said to destroy all the Jews in the king's provinces. TRUE or FALSE
4. The king put Esther and Mordecai in jail for trying to stop Haman's commandment. TRUE or FALSE
5. The king told Esther and Mordecai to write out another commandment to say what they thought was best for the Jews. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did King Xerxes listen to Esther and help her and the Jews?
2. What did Esther and Mordecai do for the Jews? Did they send out letters to all the provinces in the king's land?
3. What did the letters say the Jews could do? Did they say the Jews could fight their enemies and pay them back for what they had done to them?
4. Who did Esther put in charge of Haman's old house and everything that belonged to Haman?
5. Were the Jews happy when they read the letters that Mordecai and Esther sent out with the new commandment?
6. Could any letter written by the authority of the king and sealed with the king's special ring be canceled?

Lesson 133 Coloring Page

Color Mordecai's crown yellow, and his robe purple!



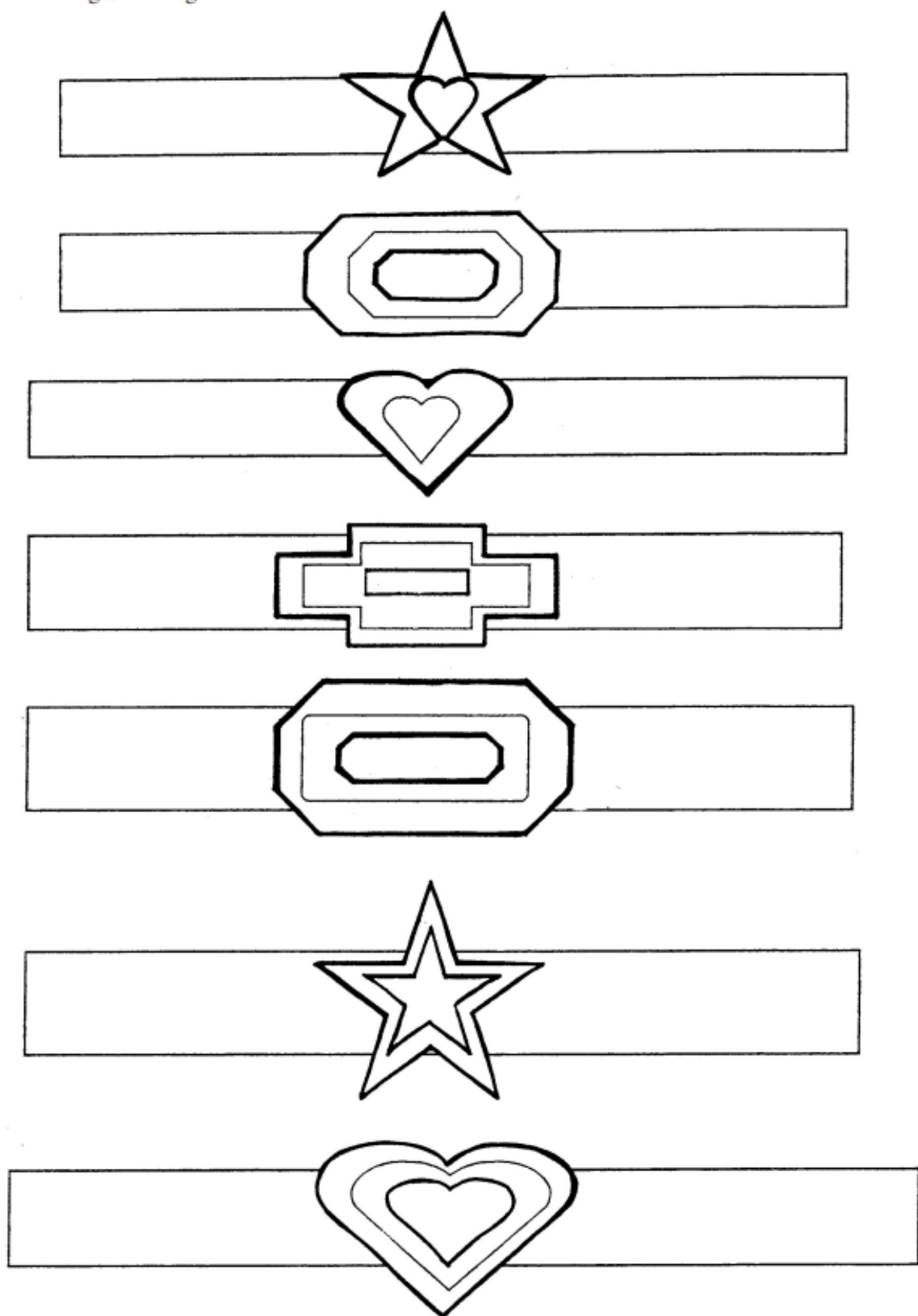
OPTIONAL CRAFT FOR LESSON 133

King Size Rings

In this craft, the children will make signet rings out of card stock paper. You will need strips of card stock paper approximately 3/4" wide. The paper should be various colors. Using different colors of card stock or construction paper, have the children cut out shapes for their signet rings and then decorate as they please. (They can duplicate their design from the last activity if they would like). You may want to provide glitter or plastic gems. Glue the shape or signet onto the band. Have the children wrap the band around their finger and help them cut it to the size of their finger. Using a glue stick or white glue (allow time for drying if using white glue), glue band together at the end.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of trust to commit to the Lord anything that might make the children afraid, knowing that God will always protect His people. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

Template - King Size Rings



These are examples of how the children might design their King Size Rings.
Tape or glue the ends together to form the ring