TAPESTRY BIBLE STORIES

Queen Esther, Part 1

Parent & Teacher Guide · Esther chapters 1–2 · for ages 2–9 and the grown-ups watching with them

At a glance

The big idea

God takes care of His people, even when we can't see Him working. He gave Esther someone to love her, someone to help her, and a place in the palace.

Bible reading

Esther 1–2 (KJV on screen).
Short on time? Read Esther 2:5–7 and 2:15–17.
Episode length: about 6 minutes

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

MEMORY VERSE · 1 Peter 5:7 (KJV)

The story in one minute

Before the story begins, the episode sets the scene. Long ago, many of God's people were carried away from Jerusalem, and some still lived far away in Persia. King Ahasuerus ruled 127 lands, from India to Ethiopia. After a long, grand feast, Queen Vashti refused to come when the king called for her, so the king decided to choose a new queen. In the city of Shushan, a kind man named Mordecai was raising his young cousin Esther (Hadassah) as his own daughter. Esther was brought to the palace, where Hegai cared for her. Mordecai told her not to share that she was one of God's people yet, and Esther obeyed. The king loved Esther and made her queen. Later, Mordecai overheard two guards plotting against the king. He told Esther, Esther told the king and gave Mordecai the credit, and it was all written in the king's book of records. *Part 2 picks up the story with Haman.*

What the episode softens for little ones

Nothing is added to the Bible story. These parts are told gently, so you can share more as your child is ready.

IN THE BIBLE	IN THE EPISODE
Esther's father and mother had died (2:7).	"Esther didn't have a mommy or daddy anymore." The verse on screen shows the gentler half of 2:7.
Vashti refuses the king's command (1:12). The Bible doesn't say why.	"Queen Vashti would not come." She is shown as dignified, not as a villain.
A year of beauty preparations before each young woman met the king (2:12–14).	"Esther was brought to the king's palace." Hegai takes good care of her.
The two plotters were hanged (2:23).	"The two bad guards were caught! And the king was safe."

If your child asks...

"Where were Esther's mommy and daddy?" "They weren't alive anymore, and that was very sad. But God gave Esther Mordecai, who loved her like a daddy. God gives us people to take care of us too."

"Why wouldn't Vashti come?" "The Bible doesn't tell us. We just know the king was upset, and that's how God made a way for Esther to become queen."

"What happened to the bad guards?" Ages 2–5: "They were caught, so they couldn't hurt anyone." Older kids: "The Bible says they were punished for trying to kill the king."

Talk about it

Pick two or three. Little ones love the same questions again and again. Repetition is how they learn.

Little ones (2–3)

- Who wore a pretty crown? (Esther)
- Who took care of Esther? (Mordecai)
- Can you show me the king's big, big party? Clap and cheer!
- Who takes care of *you*? Let's give them a hug.

Preschool (4–5)

- How many lands did the king rule? (127!)
- What did Mordecai tell Esther to keep secret? Did she listen?
- What did Mordecai hear at the gate? What did he do?
- The helpers wrote it in a book. Why do you think that matters?

Big kids (6–9)

- Esther lost her parents, yet she ended up in the palace. Where can you see God taking care of her?
- Esther "did the commandment of Mordecai" (2:20). Why is listening to the people who love us wise?
- Esther told the king it was Mordecai who found the plot. Why is giving others credit a good thing to do?

Grown-ups

- God's name never appears in Esther. Where do you see Him at work in chapters 1–2 anyway?
- Mordecai took in a child who wasn't his. Who has "taken you in" in your life?
- What care are you carrying right now that 1 Peter 5:7 invites you to hand over?

A 3-day plan

One short session a day (10–15 minutes): watch a part, do an activity, say a one-line prayer. Times are approximate.

DAY 1 — **A king and a kingdom**

WATCH 0:00–2:45 (the opening, the king, the feast, Vashti)
DO Make paper crowns, then count to 127 together. That's how many lands the king ruled!
PRAY "Thank You, God, that You are bigger than any king."

DAY 2 — **An orphan becomes queen**

WATCH 2:45–4:20 (Mordecai and Esther, the palace, the crown)
DO Make a "thank-you" card for someone who takes care of your child, and deliver it with a hug.
PRAY "Thank You, God, for the people who take care of me."

DAY 3 — **Written in the book**

WATCH 4:20–end (the plot, the record book, the lesson and memory verse)
DO Start a family "Book of Good Deeds." Write down one kind thing each person did today.
PRAY "God, I give You my worries, because You care for me."

Activities

👑 Paper crowns

Cut a zig-zag strip of yellow card to fit around your child's head. Decorate it with stickers or "jewels" and tape it closed. Crown each other "king" or "queen" of the house.

📖 Book of Good Deeds

Staple a few pages into a little book. Just like the king's helpers wrote down what Mordecai did, write (or draw) the kind things your family does this week. Read it back at the end of the week!

💌 Who takes care of me?

Draw a picture of someone who takes care of your child (a parent, grandparent, teacher or friend). Give it to them and say "thank you."

🍇 Royal feast snack

Serve a "feast" on your fanciest plate: grapes, pomegranate seeds, flatbread, dates. Cheer "Party!" just like the king's guests.

Memory verse with hand motions

"Casting all your care..."	Pretend to scoop up a big pile of worries in your arms
"...upon him;"	Toss them up high, toward God
"for he careth..."	Give yourself a big hug
"...for you."	Point to your child (and let them point back!)
"1 Peter 5:7"	Open your hands like a book

For grown-ups: going deeper

Hidden providence. God is never named in Esther, yet nothing is random. A queen's refusal, an orphan's arrival, a good deed written down: each one sets up what's coming in Part 2.

Adoption and care. Mordecai "took [Esther] for his own daughter" (2:7). It is a beautiful picture of how God cares for the fatherless.

Quiet obedience. Esther kept Mordecai's instruction "like as when she was brought up with him" (2:20). Even as queen, she still listened to the one who raised her.

> "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation."
>
> **Psalm 68:5 (KJV)**

> "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."
>
> **Proverbs 21:1 (KJV)**

Coloring pages

Six free coloring pages go with this episode: Queen Esther, Mordecai and Esther, the King of Persia, the crowning, Hegai, and the memory verse. Download them at **tapestrybiblestories.com/esther**.

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