

September 27th:

Key Scriptures: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Lesson #2: **Courageous Esther**

In the Land of Persia lived a mighty king named Ahasuerus. When he needed a wife, he chose a woman named Esther. She was good, beautiful and very wise. But she was an Israelite. Esther had an uncle named Mordecai who had raised her as his own daughter. He warned her not to tell anyone she was an Israelite. King Ahasuerus married Esther, and she became his wife and queen.

One time, Mordecai overheard men plotting to kill the king. He warned Esther, and she told the king. The bad men were arrested, and Mordecai's good deed was written in the king's record book.

Later on, a powerful man named Haman became angry at Mordecai. Haman knew that Mordecai was an Israelite, and he encouraged King Ahasuerus to make it legal to kill all Israelites. Esther knew this law meant that she too must die. "Esther wanted to speak to the king. When King Ahasuerus saw her, he asked, "What can I do for you, dear Queen? I will give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom."

"Dear King," said Esther. "If you are pleased with me, I beg you to spare my life. And also spare the lives of my people. If we were to be sold as slaves, I would not have bothered you, but it seems unfair that we are to be put to death."

"Who dares to do this?" demanded the king.

"It is this cruel Haman," said Esther, pointing to her enemy. The king ordered Haman to be hung that very same day.

Esther and her people were safe!

EXPLORE:

The above is the condensed version of the story of Queen Esther. Find out the whole story. And answer the following:

- What Esther requested Mordecai to ask the Jewish people to do for three days?
- How many times did she invite the king and Haman to a banquet?
- Why didn't Haman like Mordecai?
- By what other name do we know King Ahasuerus?

APPLICATION ACTIVITY:

Make Hamentaschen cookies and bring some to church on Sunday. (Find Recipe on the web)