



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE
Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

INSIGHT

September 13 – Esther

Scripture:

Sing along with me:

(Sing to the tune of “Go tell it on the mountain”)

**Esther was made queen
When King Xerxes ruled the land
But her people were in trouble
Because of Haman's plan**

**Go, tell it to the king
Esther showed she was very brave
Go, tell it to the king
That's how the Jews were saved.**

Memory Verse:

*Charm can fool you. Beauty fades.
But a woman who has respect for the LORD should be praised. Proverbs 31:30*



Let us read together

Esther 2:

Esther Becomes Queen of Persia

2 Later, the great anger of King Xerxes calmed down. Then he remembered Vashti and what she had done. He also remembered the royal order he had sent out concerning her. 2 At that time the king's personal attendants made a suggestion. They said, "King Xerxes, let a search be made for some beautiful young virgins for you. 3 Appoint some officials in every territory in your kingdom. Have them bring all these beautiful young women into the fort of Susa. Put them in the special place where the virgins stay. Then put Hegai in charge of them. He's the official who serves you. He's in charge of the women. Let beauty care be given to the new group of women. 4 Then let the young woman who pleases you the most become queen in Vashti's place." The king liked that advice. So he followed it.

5 There was a Jew living in the fort of Susa. He was from the tribe of Benjamin. His name was Mordecai. He was the son of Jair. Jair was the son of Shimei. Shimei was the son of Kish. 6 Nebuchadnezzar had forced Mordecai to leave Jerusalem. He was among the prisoners who were carried off along with Jehoiachin. Jehoiachin had been king of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon. 7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah. He had raised her because she didn't have a father or mother. Hadassah was also called Esther. She had a lovely figure and was very beautiful. Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter. He had done it when her father and mother died.

8 After the king's order and law were announced, many young women were brought to the fort of Susa. Hegai was put in charge of them. Esther was also taken to the king's palace. She was put under the control of Hegai. He was in charge of the place where the virgins stayed. 9 Esther pleased him. He showed her how happy he was with her. Right away he provided her with her beauty care and special food. He appointed seven female attendants to help her. They were chosen from the king's palace. He moved her and her attendants into the best part of the place where the virgins stayed.

10 Esther hadn't told anyone who her people were. She hadn't talked about her family. That's because Mordecai had told her not to. 11 Mordecai tried to find out how Esther was getting along. He wanted to know what was happening to her. So he walked back and forth near the courtyard by the place where the virgins stayed. He did it every day.

12 Each young woman had to complete 12 months of beauty care. They used oil of myrrh for six months. And they used perfume and makeup for the other six months. A virgin's turn to go in to King Xerxes could come only after a full 12 months had passed. 13 And here is how she would go to the king. She would be given anything she wanted from the place where the virgins stayed. She could take it with her to the king's palace. 14 In the evening she would go there. In the morning she would leave. Then she would go to the special place where the king's concubines

stayed. She would be put under the control of Shaashgaz. He was the king's official who was in charge of the concubines. She would never return to the king unless he was pleased with her. He had to send for her by name before she could go to him again.

15 Mordecai had adopted Esther. She had been the daughter of his uncle Abihail. Her turn came to go in to the king. She only asked for what Hegai suggested. He was the king's official who was in charge of the place where the virgins stayed. Everyone who saw Esther was pleased with her. 16 She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal house. It was now the tenth month. That was the month of Tebeth. It was the seventh year of the rule of Xerxes.

17 The king liked Esther more than he liked any of the other women. She pleased him more than any of the other virgins. So he put a royal crown on her head. He made her queen in Vashti's place. 18 Then the king gave a feast to honor Esther. All his nobles and officials were invited. He announced a holiday all through the territories he ruled over. He freely gave many gifts in keeping with his royal wealth.

Mordecai Uncovers a Plan to Kill the King

19 The virgins were gathered together a second time. At that time Mordecai was sitting at the palace gate. 20 Esther had kept her family history a secret. She hadn't told anyone who her people were. Mordecai had told her not to. She continued to follow his directions. That's what she had always done when he was bringing her up.

21 Bigthana and Teresh were two of the king's officers. They guarded the door of the royal palace. They became angry with King Xerxes. So they decided to kill him. They made their evil plans while Mordecai was sitting at the palace gate. 22 So Mordecai found out about it and told Queen Esther. Then she reported it to the king. She told him that Mordecai had uncovered the plans against him. 23 Some people checked Esther's report. And they found out it was true. So the two officials were put to death. Then poles were stuck through them. They were set up where people could see them. All of that was written in the official records. It was written down while the king was watching.

Message:

Let us talk about it:

Because of Esther's courage God could use her to save the Jews.

There are three distinct points that should be noted about Esther:

- 1. Esther believed God had a purpose for her to accomplish and she prayed and fasted before she made a critical decision.***

2. Esther did not stay silent about her beliefs. She was a Jew and she let it be known,
3. Esther put the will of God before her own fear and was blessed because of her faith.

Esther was an exquisitely beautiful Jewish girl living in Persia during the time when the Israelites were in exile from their homeland sometime around the 5th century. She was raised by her cousin Mordecai to become a God-fearing, intelligent lady. When it came time for Xerxes, king of Persia, to choose a wife, the most beautiful girls in the land were gathered to the palace. The women went through intense beauty treatments to enhance their natural beauty before the king was to choose a bride and they were all presented to the king as the most stunning young women of the land. Yet when King Xerxes saw Esther, he knew without a doubt that she was the one destined to become his bride.

Imagine being so beautiful that you are chosen by the king to be his wife. I am sure that if such an opportunity was given to you today, you will take it. But Esther was more than beauty. Remember, we said that Esther was a Jew.

You see, Haman, one of Xerxes' chief advisors, hated the Jewish people and was planning to wipe out the entire Jewish nation — the nation that also happened to be the nation of Esther's people. When news of this plan reached Esther she knew that she had to do something to stop Haman.

Esther gathered her people together and prayed for God to give her direction as to how to stop this most evil plot. Note that Esther did not rush to King Xerxes in a fit of emotional rage and demand that Haman change his mind. She first went to God in prayer asking for wisdom to deal with this situation.

Esther ultimately ended up approaching King Xerxes although he had not summoned her and spoke from her heart. The Persian law dictated that anyone who sought out the king was to be put to death if the king had not summoned that individual. Imagine that! Esther knew the risks. She could have been put to death. But, remember, what did she do first? She asked for God's guidance. At this point Esther was not silent about who she was. She declared to the king that not only she was a Jew but she requested to have Haman's plot revoked. Obvious, she would be one of the Jews that will be killed.

Esther put the will of God to save His people ahead of her own fear.

Esther bravely disobeyed the law of the land in humble obeisance to her God, the God of all gods and the King of all kings. Esther completely followed God's plan for her life, using her position as queen to save her people from obliteration.

Note that the king did not reject Esther when he discovered that she was a Jew. Rather, the king ordered that Haman be killed on the same gallows that Haman was building to kill Mordecai. Remember him? He was Esther's cousin who had raised her as a young girl. What would happen if you and I lived our lives with such a deep and committed purpose?

Do you know how much God is calling you? This also refers not only to the young ladies, but also to you, young men. Are you brave enough to let your friends know where your commitment lies? Now is the time to put God at the centre of every decision-making process in your life. Like Esther, don't make life changing decisions on your own – pray, fast, and believe what God lays on your heart.

I urge you to put the will of God before your own fears, doubts and misgivings.

Let us pray:

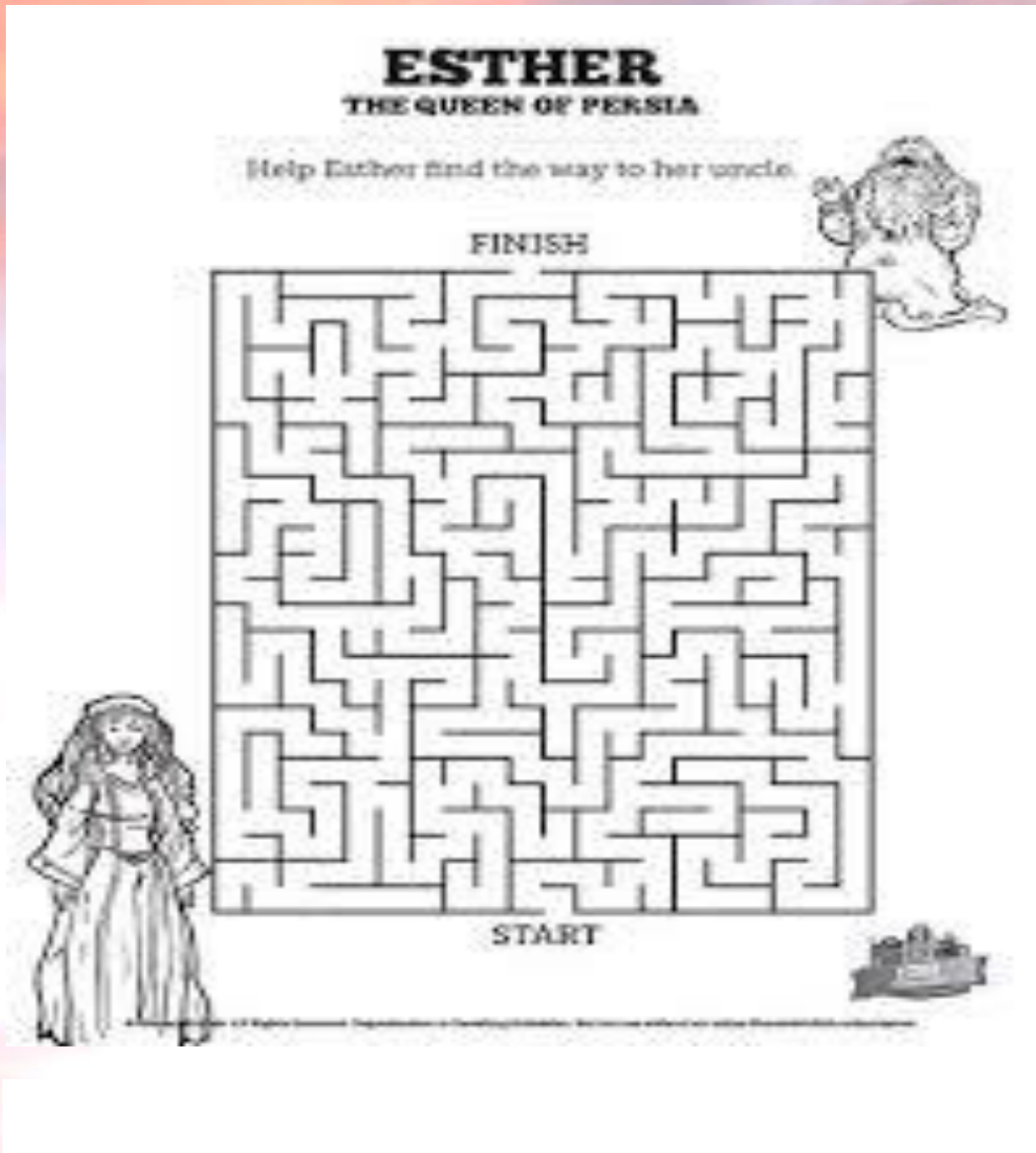
Let us ask God for courage.

Gracious God, You have promised to direct us to what is best for us. Help me to recognize Your voice, teach me to be quiet so that I can listen to You. Do not allow the noise of wrong influences and ungodly advice muddle my thoughts and distract me from listening to the right things. Help me to focus my hearing on helpful words and advice. Help me to stay strong against discouraging remarks. Give me courage to do as You want. Help me to stay focused and follow Your commands. These things I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



Activity:

Before you do the activities, please read the whole book of Esther. It is in the Old Testament. Perhaps you can read 2 chapters every day.



BIBLE QUIZ - ESTHER

Match the question or statements in column A with the answers in column B by putting the correct letter in the answer column

	Column A	Answer		Column B
1	The name of the King of Persia		A	Benjamin
2	She disobeyed the king by not coming to him when he commanded,		B	Haman
3	Mordecai was of which Tribe of Israel.		C	Letters were sent through Persia allowing the Hebrews to defend themselves.
4	Who did Queen Esther invite to her banquets?		D	Mordecai
5	How did the king reward Mordecai for saving his life?		E	A Ring
6	What did Esther ask Mordecai and the Hebrews to do before she went before the king?		F	Haman led him through the streets on horseback.
7	How did the king stop the destruction of the Hebrews?		G	Queen Vashti
8	Which holiday celebrates the deliverance of the Hebrews?		H	King Ahasuerus
9	What did the king do when Esther came before him uninvited?		I	Fast
10	This man wanted to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom.		J	The king and Haman
11	This piece of jewelry was used to seal the letters of the king.		K	Purim
12	This man raised Esther as his own daughter after her parents died.		L	He held out his Golden sceptre.

(Answers next week)