

# Old Testament

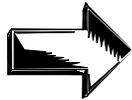
## Esther becomes queen Esther 1:19-2:23

### Younger Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

### Older Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

Sometimes we don't want to listen to our parents when they tell us to do something. Today's lesson is about a young girl who listened—let's see what happens.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Teachers: We did not include the section about the former queen Vasthti.

Mordecai (More-da-ki) was a man who served King Xerxes (Zerk-seas). He was a Jew, which meant he was one of God's chosen people. The Jewish people were captured and taken to a foreign land where they had to work and live.

When Mordecai was a young man, he began to raise his young cousin, Hadassah. She was also called Esther. In fact, he adopted her as his daughter because her parents both died. She grew up to be a very pretty young lady.

One day, the king issued an order to everyone in the whole land. A search was to be made for the most beautiful women in the land to be the next queen. All the women got to have special beauty treatments for 12 months—that's a year!

Esther was chosen as one of the women who might be the next queen. Esther did not tell anyone that she was a Jew because Mordecai told her not to. She followed his instructions.

Everyone loved Esther. She was kind and loved all people. The man in charge of everything liked Esther and gave her special food and beauty treatments.

Mordecai would walk back and forth by the palace gate to check on Esther. He wanted to make sure Esther was taken care of.

Finally it came Esther's turn to go to the king. Wisely, she asked the man in charge what she should do. He told her exactly what to take.

### Lesson Goals

See how God is in control  
Remember that God looks at the beauty INSIDE of us  
Respect and listen to our parents

The king loved Esther!! He thought she was so beautiful. He crowned her queen! He had a great banquet and also pronounced a holiday for everyone. He even gave everyone a gift!

Mordecai was happy too. He knew that God was doing something important. He knew that Esther was a Jew—one of God’s chosen people. He knew that someday Esther would do something special to help her people.

One day, Mordecai overheard two people trying to find a way to kill the king. He quickly told Esther the news. Esther told the king. Sure enough Mordecai was right. Mordecai’s name was written down as the one who saved the king. (Next week we’ll learn what happened!)

God tells us that He looks at how beautiful we are on the inside (1 Samuel 16:7 and 1 Peter 3:4-5). What does that mean? God cares about your attitude and heart more than what you look like on the outside.

God did a beautiful thing for us too. He let His Son, Jesus, take our punishment. Jesus did something amazing for us. God knew that there was only one way to get to Heaven. We had to be clean and pure. The problem is that we have all done wrong—sinned. Our hearts are dirty on the inside and that means we are separated from God. Jesus died on the cross for all the dirty sins that we have done. He died for us! It was not for anything that He had done wrong. Jesus can clean us and make us pure when we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our heart. We do this by praying and telling Him we are sorry for all our sin and telling Him that we want to do what He wants and live for Him. Jesus hears our prayer and comes into our lives. He promises that once He comes into our life, He will never leave us. He will be our friend in good times and bad times. He will always stick with us. If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to us about Him anytime.

**Learning Activities**

Try ideas to help the kids learn the lesson and apply it to their lives.

Find a pad of Sticky notes. Write an encouraging word or sentence on the note and stick it on the person’s arm, elbow, or back. Let them know how proud you are of them. Be sure you give everyone a note. It will make a huge difference in that child’s life to know that you cared and wrote a special word to them.

**Memory Verse Activities**

God did something amazing in today’s lesson. Esther became queen. Let the kids look back at some of our old lessons from the Old Testament. Let them think of ways that they saw God doing something that seemed impossible. Share how God still does miracles and can do things that seem impossible!

**Prayer Time**

Take time to pray for special requests together. Hold hands and pray. Let them see how important it is to talk and listen to God.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Let the kids help you. It is a good way to learn responsibility and grow in understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. They can help by reading Scripture, counting the children, passing out cups, praying or visiting with you.

Planning for Lesson 81  
Esther has courage  
Esther 4-9

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Esther becomes queen

Mordecai (More-da-ki) was a man who served the King.

When Mordecai was a young man, he began to raise his young cousin, Esther. In fact, he adopted her as his daughter because her parents both died. She grew up to be a very pretty young lady.

One day, the king made an order to everyone in the whole land. A search was to be made for the most beautiful women in the land to be the next queen. All the women got to have special beauty treatments. They had special oils put on their skin, hair, face etc.

Esther was chosen as one of the women who might be the next queen. She was pretty but she also was kind to people and cared for them.

Everyone loved Esther. The man in charge of everything liked Esther and gave her special food and beauty treatments.

Mordecai would walk back and forth by the palace gate to check on Esther. He wanted to make sure Esther was taken care of.

Finally it came Esther's turn to go to the king. Wisely, she asked the man in charge what she should do. He told her exactly what to take.

The king loved Esther!! He thought she was so beautiful. He crowned her queen! He had a great banquet and also pronounced a holiday for everyone. He even gave everyone a gift!

Mordecai was happy too. He knew that God was doing something important. He knew that someday Esther would do something special to help her people.

God loves us too and thinks that we are beautiful. God made us just like we are and smiles because we are special to Him.

Let's sing "Jesus loves me," and pray, thanking God for loving us.

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Hands-on Activities  
For  
Esther becomes Queen

Bring special lotions or creams for everyone. Even boys like lotion (if it doesn't smell like a girl!)

If you have lots of girls, bring fingernail polish etc to have a "beauty treatment" time today.

Decorate crowns and take time to crown everyone as the most beautiful person in the world!

Make a "crown" snack by decorating a cookies or other snacks with frosting and sprinkles.

Talk to older kids about the importance of being beautiful on the inside. So often we look at others on the outside and we compare. God tells us that He looks at our heart and how we treat others. That is the measuring stick to show how beautiful we really are.

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