GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Esther Speaks with Courage

Esther 4:1-5:8;7:1-8:17



YOUR BIBLE READING

Courage can mean using our voice to protect others.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Esther Decides to Speak

Esther 4:1-5:8;7:1-8:17



Queen Esther learned that her Jewish people were threatened with destruction by a royal order arranged through Haman. In Susa and throughout the provinces, Jewish families mourned. Mordecai wore rough mourning clothes, and Esther heard about his distress. She sent a trusted attendant to ask what had happened. The answer included a copy of the written order and a request that she go to the king on behalf of her people.

Esther explained the danger of that request. People could not simply enter the king's inner court whenever they wished. Anyone who came without being called could be put to death unless the king extended his golden scepter. Esther had not been summoned recently. Being queen gave her a position near power, but it did not make every action safe. The decision before her involved real risk as well as responsibility.

Mordecai sent back a serious reply. Esther should not assume that living in the palace would keep her safe while her people were destroyed. He also asked whether she might have reached her royal position for a time such as this. His words did not offer her a guaranteed easy outcome. They challenged her to consider what her position made possible when other people's lives were in danger.

Esther asked the Jews in Susa to gather and fast for her for three days. She and her attendants would do the same. Then she would go to the king, despite the law and the danger. Mordecai followed her instructions. On the third day, Esther put on her royal clothing and stood in the inner court. The king saw her and held out the golden scepter. She approached and touched its tip.

Remember: I can seek wise help and speak up for someone in danger.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Speaking for Her People

Esther 4:1-5:8;7:1-8:17



The king asked Esther what she wanted. She invited him and Haman to a meal she had prepared. At the meal, he asked again about her request. Esther invited them to another meal the following day. She did not yet make the full appeal. The story moves through these steps without giving us every reason for her timing, so we can follow her actions without inventing secret plans or thoughts for her.

At the next meal, Esther asked that her own life and the lives of her people be spared. She explained that they had been marked for destruction. The king demanded to know who was responsible. Esther named Haman. The danger was no longer only an order about people somewhere in the kingdom; the king now understood that his queen and her own people were among those threatened by it.

Haman's wrongdoing was exposed, and he was put to death. Yet Esther's work was not finished. The earlier royal order still existed. Esther came before the king again, weeping and asking that her people be protected. She could not bear to see their destruction. The king allowed Esther and Mordecai to write another order in his name. The first decree was not simply erased as though it had never been issued.

The new order allowed Jewish communities to gather and defend their lives against attackers. Royal messengers carried it quickly through the provinces in the languages people used. The news brought light, gladness, and celebration to the Jewish people. Esther had spoken more than once and continued after the first success. Her position had become a means of making danger known and securing practical protection for people who had faced a terrible threat.

Pause and think: When might speaking up with a trusted adult's support help someone who is being treated unfairly?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Courage with Support



Esther did not pretend that she was safe simply because she was important. She named the danger and asked her community to stand with her. For us, courage can also include asking for support. If someone is being threatened or treated cruelly, a child should tell a trusted adult. You do not need to face a powerful or unsafe person alone to prove that you care.

Notice that speaking once did not finish Esther's task. Haman was gone, but the threatening order still needed an answer. Sometimes helping means checking whether a real need has actually been addressed. An apology matters, but so does stopping the hurtful action. A promise to include someone matters, but so does making room for them when the group next meets.

The fasting in this ancient account is not an activity children are being asked to copy. What we can consider is the pattern of thoughtful, supported action. Esther listened to what was happening, understood who was at risk, and used her voice to seek protection. We can ask how our own words might help an overlooked person be heard and cared for.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Courage uses a voice and a position of influence to seek practical protection for others.

When might speaking up with a trusted adult's support help someone who is being treated unfairly?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Why was approaching the king risky for Esther?

2. Whose lives did Esther ask the king to spare?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Esther approached the king and exposed Haman's plan.
- ☐ A new order allowed the Jews to defend themselves.
- ☐ Mordecai told Esther about the threat to the Jews.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Esther speaking to the king at the meal.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can seek wise help and speak up for someone in danger.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Esther 4:14-16;7:3-4

A thoughtful conversation

The Hebrew Esther account names fasting without explicitly mentioning prayer in this scene. Do not ask children to imitate fasting or approach dangerous people alone; emphasize supported, thoughtful action.

Activity answers

1. She had not been invited, and the law threatened death for an uninvited visitor.
2. Her own life and the lives of her Jewish people.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us speak with courage and care for people in danger. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Esther 4:1-5:8;7:1-8:17. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 17_Es_04_04_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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