

## Esther 3-4

<p><b>1. What was the BIG Danger for God's people in Esther 3? Is danger like this a new or an old thing?</b></p>	<p><b>2. Why did Mordecai ask for Esther's help? Why was Esther scared? (4:8, 11)</b></p>
<p><b>3. How did Esther answer the question: Whose side will you be on? How should we answer this question?</b></p>	<p><b>4. Rescue for God's people depended on one weak, small Saviour. Who was that in the story? Why are they a good picture of Jesus?</b></p>

### **Suggestions for prayer:**

**Thank You** – for sending Esther to be a saviour for your people Israel. Above all, thank you for sending us the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour.

**Sorry** – that we don't always trust you when it's hard to live for Jesus.

**Please** – help us to choose to be one of God's people and to follow Jesus whether this is easy or hard.

## Notes to help the grown-ups

Here are some notes to go with the first page of the worksheet. The aim of the questions is to see if the children have followed what was said if they understand the meaning too. Please do encourage them to have a Bible open in front of them as they try to answer the questions. Don't worry if the children only manage to answer some of the questions. They are designed to help prompt further conversations about things they've heard today.

### 1. What was the BIG Danger for God's people in Esther 3?

Is danger like this a new or an old thing?

The BIG danger comes from Haman's wicked plot to kill all of God's people (the Jews) in the Persian Empire. This kind of danger is not a **new** thing it is an **old** thing. God's people have always faced danger, because our world is in rebellion against God – ultimately it hates God. And so, it is also opposed to people who love God and live for him. Above all this is seen in the Lord Jesus, God's Son, who was rejected and killed because he loved God and live for God. This means that people who follow Jesus today can often be mistreated, even killed.

*Note: The longstanding opposition is hinted at when Haman is called an "Agagite" (3:1). Haman is related to King Agag, the king of the Amalekites. The Amalekites are a nation in the Old Testament who repeatedly mistreat God's people and try to kill them starting back in the days of Moses. King Agag was defeated by King Saul (1 Samuel 15) – who happens to be from the same tribe of Israel as Mordecai, the tribe of Benjamin (2:5). Haman's connection to Agag and Mordecai's connection to Saul is no coincidence and points to this longstanding rebellion of the world against God and his people.*

### 2. Why did Mordecai ask for Esther's help? Why was Esther scared? (4:8, 11)

Mordecai asked Esther to help because she was the Queen. As the Queen she knew and could talk to King Xerxes about Haman's wicked instructions to kill God's people. She might be able to help save them.

Esther was scared because if she went to see the king she would be breaking the law and in BIG danger (4:11). To go and see the king with out an invitation means she could be killed, unless the king had mercy. We'll have to wait until next week to see if he does...

### 3. How did Esther answer the questions: "Whose side will you be on?"

How should we answer this question?

Esther had to decide if she was going to be on the side of God's people or to be on the side of the Empire. To be on the side of God's people put her in big danger, because she would need to go and see the king. In the end she decides she will be on God's side and be part of his people. She goes to see the King, and pleads with Mordecai and the Jews to pray for her (4:16).

*Note: You may have noticed that it doesn't mention prayer explicitly in these verses. But it is implied. Mention of "mourning...fasting, weeping and wailing" (4:3, 16) is clearly connected to prayer. The fact that prayer is not explicitly mentioned in the whole book, much like God not being named, is a clear hint that the religious life of God's people in the Persian Empire is not what it should have been. And yet still God is graciously at work...*

We too need to answer the question of whether we are going to be on the side of God's people. Being part of God's people means we follow the Lord Jesus and trust him to forgive us our sins.

#### **4. Rescue for God's people depended on one weak, small Saviour.**

##### **Who was that in the story? Why are they a good picture of Jesus?**

The small, weak saviour is Esther – she needs to go and plead with the King for rescue. And **all** of God's people are depending on her. She is a good picture of Jesus. He too appeared small and weak as he went to the Cross to die for our sins. All of God's people depend on him for rescue.

# CRAFT CHALLENGE

Try and design a Crown for Queen Esther.

You could take a picture and post it on the church Facebook Page or share it on Twitter.

## WORDSEARCH

W	I	S	A	C	K	C	L	O	T	H	F	L	E
T	A	R	G	N	I	T	S	A	F	S	O	C	M
I	C	S	H	Q	F	T	L	D	R	K	A	C	E
T	E	Q	A	S	X	W	Y	N	N	R	I	E	D
P	D	A	T	Q	U	E	E	N	A	G	S	N	G
E	R	N	H	Z	L	L	I	K	L	Y	B	F	G
R	O	N	A	L	G	T	F	I	W	O	E	N	C
I	M	I	C	J	T	H	O	A	N	R	D	P	E
S	T	H	K	H	X	T	F	A	K	T	I	F	S
H	S	I	R	K	J	E	W	S	N	S	M	M	T
R	I	L	P	U	Q	Y	A	L	J	E	A	R	H
K	D	A	K	E	Y	W	O	A	T	D	P	R	E
G	E	T	E	E	R	T	P	E	C	S	E	M	R
G	F	E	I	X	D	F	U	H	A	M	A	N	Z

Mordecai  
Haman  
Esther  
Kill  
Destroy  
Annihilate  
Sceptre  
Perish  
King  
Queen  
Sackcloth  
Fasting  
Hathack  
Side  
Jews