

Esther 5:1-8:2

<p>1. Which bit of the story surprised you and why?</p>	<p>2. What happens to Esther that shows God is in control? (5:1-3)</p>
<p>3. What happens to Mordecai that shows God is in control? (6:6-11)</p>	<p>4. Fill in the blank: If God is in control he should be our Number ____ What might this mean for you this week?</p>

Suggestions for prayer:

Thank You – that you are always in control, even if it might not seem obvious, and even if life is tough.

Sorry – that we don't always make you number 1.

Please – help us trust you are in control and help us pray. And please help us to make you number one.

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 bit of the story surprised you and why?

This is just a good opportunity for you to chat with your children about the story. There are so many twists and turns that you should be able to chat away. You could get the children to think what it would have been like for the different characters at different points. What might Esther have felt when she went to see the King? How must Haman have felt when the king asked him to honour Mordecai? How do you think Mordecai felt after he saw his prayers were answered and Esther's life was spared? Etc. Etc.

2. What happens to Esther that shows God is in control? (5:1-3)

Right at the start of the story Esther's life is spared **AND** the King gladly grants her request. Eventually this would result in him protecting God's people by killing Haman.

If you get a chance you could talk about how Esther points us to the Lord Jesus. He was **THE** ultimate endangered believer who went to the place of ultimate power to plead for his people. (Take a look at how this is described in Hebrews 9:24-28.)

3. What happens to Mordecai that shows God is in control? (6:6-11)

Mordecai was honoured by the king and Haman walked him through the streets on the king's horse and in the king's robe. Before he was unrecognised and unrewarded even though he saved the life of the king. Now he was publicly praised and honoured for all he'd done. And more than that, when Haman had been killed, he was made Prime Minister – a place of real authority (8:1-2).

If you get a chance you could talk about how Mordecai points us to the Lord Jesus. Like Mordecai, Jesus was unrecognised for many years. But then he was put on display and honoured. First, this happened at Jesus' transfiguration (Mark 9:2-7). Second, and even more amazingly, this happened at Jesus' resurrection (Romans 1:3-4).

4. Fill in the blank: If God is in control he should be our **Number 1**.

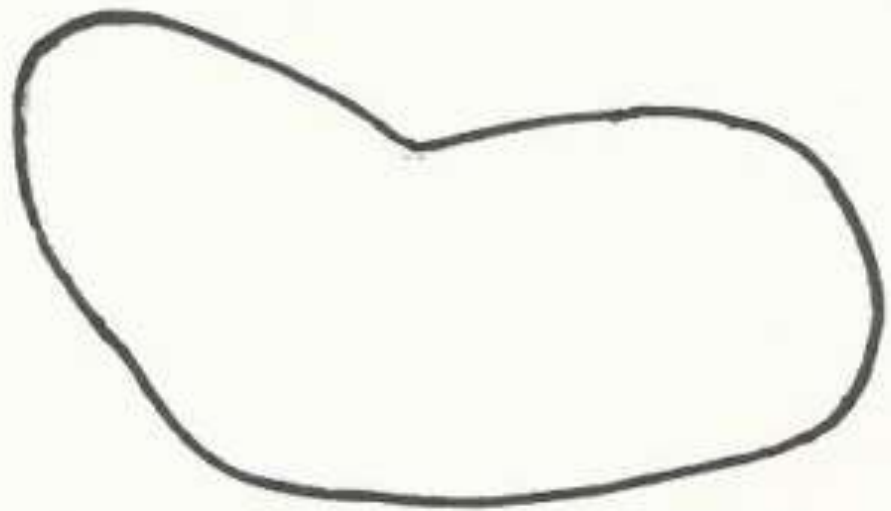
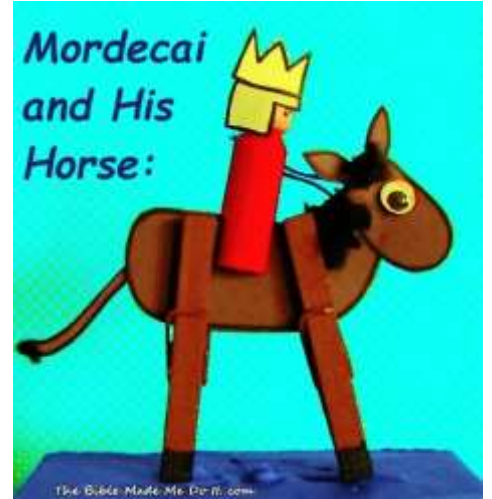
What might this mean for you this week?

For God to be our Number 1 we need to be people who: PLEASE; OBEY; TRUST; and LOVE him. Because his opinion matters the most. You could have a chat about what this might look like this week.

Mordecai was given a horse and crown by King Xerxes (Esther 6:8)

TO MAKE THE HORSE:

- Colour in the horse & the helmet.
- Cut them both out.
- Stick two pegs (coloured brown)) on the horse body for legs.
- Stick the helmet on another clothes peg to make Mordecai.
- Peg Mordecai on the horse body.



Horse Body



Horse Head



Mordecai's Hair and Crown in Profile

What do you think Esther ate at her banquet?

Draw all sorts of different food on her table & colour it in...

