

## Esther 8:3-10:3

<p>1. Can you remember being in danger and then being made safe? How did it make you feel?</p>	<p>2. How do Esther &amp; Mordecai declare rescue for God's people? And how do God's people respond? (8:15-17)</p>
<p>3. Why do other people become God's people (Jews)? (See 8:17b)</p>	<p>4. What is the rescue in Esther a picture of for followers of the Lord Jesus?</p>

### Suggestions for prayer:

**Thank You** – that, through Jesus, you have rescued us from the greatest danger of your judgement.

**Sorry** – that we don't always remember and celebrate your rescue of us in the Lord Jesus.

**Please** – help us remember the danger we have been rescued from everyday.

## 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. Can you remember being in danger and then being made safe?

How did it make you feel?

This links to the question I start my talk with. There I talk about times that we move from a place of danger to place of safety. This would be a good chance to chat with your children about this. It's likely that they enjoyed a sense of relief and happiness at being made safe. And the bigger the danger they are rescued from the bigger the sense of relief and happiness they will feel from being made safe.

### 2. How do Esther & Mordecai declare rescue for God's people?

And how do God's people respond? (8:15-17)

Esther and Mordecai write a new law that gives God's people (the Jews) permission to "destroy, kill and annihilate" anyone who attacks them (8:11). This made it possible for them to be rescued from the sentence of death that Haman had written. What's more the King and his nobles supported God's people too (9:3). Their rescue was assisted by the Persian Empire.

God's people respond to this rescue with joy and celebration (8:15-17). Don't miss that the celebration happens *everywhere*. The measure of celebration indicates the measure of danger the people were rescued from. This response is in **stark contrast** to the mourning and weeping that God's people responded to Haman's declaration (see 4:1-3).

### 3. Why do other people become God's people (Jews)? (See 8:17b)

We are told "many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had gripped them" (8:17b). People choose to become Jews because they want to move from a position of danger to a position of safety. God's people (the Jews) are now in a place of safety after the rescue is declared by Esther and Mordecai.

### 4. What is the rescue in Esther a picture of for followers of the Lord Jesus?

The rescue for God's people is from a very great danger – the danger that would cost them their lives. For believers in the Lord Jesus it's a picture of the rescue from God's judgement at the end of time through the Lord Jesus. This is the greatest danger we could ever face. Because of our sin it's a danger we deserve, because we've all turned our backs on God. But it's a danger we can be rescued from because the Lord Jesus has faced this danger for us on the Cross. There the judgement of God fell on Christ *for* us.

What must we do to receive this rescue? We need to hear and trust the declaration of rescue in the good news about the Lord Jesus.

**Quiz Answers:** (1) Xerxes; (2) Cousin; (3) Tried to kill; (4) sack-cloth; (5) two; (6) 20m (50 cubits); (7) horse; (8) Haman; (9) Purim (or "Dice").

## Quiz about Esther

How many of these questions can you answer all about the book of Esther.

(Answers at bottom of notes for grown-ups page)

1. What's the name of the King of the Persian Empire?
2. How is Esther related to Mordecai?
3. What did Bigthana and Teresh try to do to the King?
4. After Mordecai heard about Haman's wicked law what clothes did he put on?
5. How many banquets did Esther hold for the king and Haman?
6. How tall was the pole Haman set up to kill Mordecai on?
  - (a) 2 metres
  - (b) 10 metres
  - (c) 20 metres
  - (d) 100 metres
7. Haman had to lead Mordecai around Susa on which of the king's animals?
  - (a) camel
  - (b) lion
  - (c) snake
  - (d) horse
8. Who ended up being killed on Haman's pole?
9. What was the name of the festival Mordecai and Esther started?

**Craft challenge:** Can you make some dice?

