

Esther 1

<p>1. What in King Xerxes' Empire was impressive? What was silly and dangerous?</p>	<p>2. What is King Xerxes' Empire a picture of? How is this a warning for us?</p>
<p>3. Who are the two members of God's people we met?</p> <p>E _____</p> <p>M _____</p>	<p>4. Could we <u>see</u> God in Esther 1-2? Was he at work? How does this help us trust him?</p>

Suggestions for prayer:

Thank You – for the way you worked through the lives of Esther and Mordecai. Thank you that we can trust you to work through our lives too.

Sorry – that we can sometimes live following the world which ignores you rather than following Jesus.

Please – help us trust you are at work, even when you seem hidden. And please help us remember that while the world might look awesome, it can be silly and dangerous too.

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 in King Xerxes' Empire was impressive? What was silly and dangerous?

There was lots that was impressive about King Xerxes empire. It was **massive** covering 20 of today's countries. It was **mighty**, King Xerxes ruled over all these countries and had lots of important and powerful people who worked for him. It was **magnificent** seen in the 180 days of showing off the empire's greatness and in the banquets too. But it was also **dangerous** – Xerxes, the powerful man, was drunk and out of control and then used his power to exploit women who he kidnapped (and men who were kidnapped and made eunuchs!). The empire was also **silly** – Xerxes couldn't even control his own Queen and then introduces a law that was a total overreaction to her snub of him.

2. What is King Xerxes' Empire a picture of? How is this a warning for us?

The Persian Empire is a picture of the world that lives in opposition to God. The world might appear very impressive, but when it comes to the things that really matter it is dangerous and silly – because it rejects God and his Son the Lord Jesus. We need to hear the warning. Following the way of the world, and not the Lord Jesus, is very tempting. But following the way of the world will leave us in grave danger, because we'll be on the wrong side of God.

3. Who are the two members of God's people we met?

Esther – who becomes Queen Esther.

Mordecai – who works in the court of the King. He has an official role, but we don't know how important he was.

4. Could we see God in Esther 1-2? Was he at work?

How does this help us trust him?

God is not mentioned once in chapters 1-2 (we'll have to see if he's mentioned later in the book). But he was certainly at work. Esther enjoyed the favour of everyone (2:15c) including King Xerxes (2:17). She rose to the position of Queen because God was at work, while being hidden. More than that Mordecai "just happened" to be in the right place at the right time to hear of the plot to kill the King (2:21-22). He then reported it and it "just so happened" that the King's life was saved and Mordecai's intervention was recorded (2:23). All of this is evidence that God is at work, even if he's hidden. The importance of both Esther becoming Queen and Mordecai saving the King's life will become clear in the weeks ahead.

Often God can seem hidden in our world. But the book of Esther encourages us that when God appears hidden he **IS** at work, even through people like us.

COLOUR IN ESTHER & KING XERXES



MAZE - CAN YOU GET ESTHER TO HER CROWN?

