

BIG IDEA: God has a purpose in my life and wants to do something good through me
BIBLE BASIS: Book of Esther
KEY VERSE: “God is working in you. He wants your plans and your acts to fulfill his good purpose.”
Philippians 2:13 (NIRV)

THE BIG BIBLE STORY

Preschool video: <https://youtu.be/INRq93fnMJY>

Elementary video: https://youtu.be/SaS_ePAjCvk

After God saved Daniel from the lions’ den, a new king came into power. His name was King Xerxes (*pronounced: Zerk-zees.*) King Xerxes had just about everything—money, power, and fame. But there was one thing he didn’t have anymore—a queen. Dating is *sooo* hard when you’re a king, so King Xerxes decided to have a royal beauty pageant instead. After competing for his attention, King Xerxes would choose the most beautiful woman to be his queen.

400 of the most beautiful women were brought to the King, but one of them was by far the most beautiful of all—an Israelite woman named Esther. Not only was she beautiful, she was smart, and courageous, and best of all, she loved God with her whole heart. But she didn’t dare tell the king that she was an Israelite. The Israelites weren’t very popular in that foreign land and she feared that she would never be chosen if the king found out. When King Xerxes met her, he immediately fell in love and declared that Esther would now be *Queen* Esther.

A short time later, King Xerxes chose a man named Haman to be his second in command. Haman was an evil man. Not only was Haman evil, he hated the Israelites and wanted to see them destroyed. So evil Haman came up with an evil plan. He lied to the king. He said that the people from Israel refused to obey his laws and recommended that the king give an order to destroy them. Unfortunately, it worked! King Xerxes believed Haman’s lie and he gave the order that all of the Israelites be found and killed.

One of those Israelites was a man named Mordecai. Mordecai was Queen Esther’s cousin, and when he found out about the order, he sent a message to the Queen telling her to beg the king for mercy. Mordecai told Esther, “Maybe this is why you were made queen—so that you could save your people.” There was only one problem. There was a rule that no one, including Queen Esther, could approach the king without first being invited. If you broke the king’s rule, he could forgive you by raising his scepter. But if he didn’t raise his scepter, the penalty was death!

Queen Esther knew she could be killed, but if she didn’t do something, her people would be killed instead. So with every bit of courage, Queen Esther put on her royal robes and approached King Xerxes. For a tense moment, Queen Esther didn’t know if she was going to live or die. But to her relief, the king raised his royal scepter. He forgave her and asked, “What is it my Queen? What do you want? I’ll give you anything.” She replied, “If it pleases you my King, come to my feast today and bring Haman with you.”

At the end of the feast, King Xerxes knew that Queen Esther must want something more. So he asked her again, “What do you want my Queen? Ask for anything and I’ll give it to you.” Then Queen Esther answered,

‘Your Majesty, I hope you will be pleased to let me live. That’s what I want. Please spare my people. That’s my appeal to you.’

The king couldn’t believe that someone would threaten his Queen and her people, so he asked her, “Who is this man that would dare to do such a thing?” Queen Esther pointed her finger at Haman and said, “That man! I am an Israelite and Haman is our enemy. He is trying to wipe us out.” The king was furious at Haman and ordered his men to put him to death. And even though King Xerxes couldn’t change his law, he gave the people of Israel weapons so that they could defend themselves. Mordecai was right! It wasn’t just by luck that Esther had been made queen. God put her there so that she could help protect His people.

BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

For Preschoolers:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- For what reason do you think God made Esther queen?

For Elementary:

- What was your favorite part of this story?
- God had a purpose for Esther’s life. Do you think He has a purpose for your life too? Why or why not?
- What do you think would have happened to the Israelites if Esther wasn’t the queen?

BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES

Prayer: Write a prayer to God. Ask Him to help you show love and share the good news of Jesus with the world around you.

Journal: What do you think God’s purpose for your life might be? In other words, what are some ways God can use you to do good in the world? Write about it.

Bible: Read it for yourself: Esther 5:1-8. Draw a picture of the story or write to God your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you like it.

Art: God has a purpose for your life: to tell others about Jesus. Draw a picture of yourself telling a friend about Jesus.