

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



FOR JUST SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Esther 4 Mordecai persuades Esther to help

At a dangerous and difficult time, God worked through Esther to save his followers. Esther's boldness and decision-making guided by God, and her trust in God even when she didn't understand all that was going on around, allowed her to have a Godly influence on others. God comes near to us through others he places in our lives and we can be a Godly influence to others.

Each child will need:

- Four or five pieces of their favourite fruit(s) in a bowl (if this isn't possible, children can draw pictures of their fruit salad)
- Equipment to make a fruit salad: bowl, cutting board

You will need:

- Four or five pieces of your favourite fruit(s) in a bowl

Start It

Screen share: Display the word BOLD on the screen. Ask the children to annotate or share their understanding of what it means.

Play a game of Who Am I? – the BOLD edition. Send one player away and ask the rest of the group to choose a person or character who they think is BOLD or demonstrates BOLD actions or decision making. The player returns and asks questions to determine who was chosen. The rest of the players can only answer 'yes' or 'no'.

Some examples they could choose from are: celebrities, Disney characters, sports and athletes, children's TV characters, fictional characters, Bible characters and YouTubers.

Ask: Invite the children to share why they think that the different people or characters they suggested were bold.

- **Say:** This week we are exploring the story of someone who made bold and courageous choices. The book of Esther in the Bible is the story two Jewish people who risked their lives to save others. One of them was called Esther. Esther acts boldly in faith that God will intervene in a terrible situation.

Sing It

A happy and up-tempo song of praise reminding us that God will lead us where we belong.

'We lift you higher' by Fearless Bnd (3 mins 42 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUWo2S_eYzk&t=25s

Tell It

- **Say:** Who was Esther?

Video

Watch *Bible Story: Esther* by Tailrace Kids (3 mins 9 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOPgxCeg0ow>

Discuss

- What jumps out at you in this story?
- What different emotions do you think Esther felt while trusting God throughout the story?
- Where do you see God at work in this story?

Screen share: Esther 4:5-14 (ICB)

'Then Esther called for Hathach. He was one of the king's eunuchs chosen by the king to serve her. Esther ordered him to find out what was bothering Mordecai and why.

'So Hathach went to Mordecai. Mordecai was in the city square in front of the king's gate. Then Mordecai told Hathach everything that had happened to him. And he told Hathach about the amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasury for the killing of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the order to kill the Jews, which had been given in Susa. He wanted Hathach to show it to Esther and to tell her about it. And Mordecai told him to order Esther to go into the king's presence. He wanted her to beg for mercy and to plead with him for her people.

'Hathach went back and reported to Esther everything Mordecai had said. Then Esther told Hathach to say to Mordecai, "All the royal officers and people of the royal areas know this: No man or woman may go to the king in the inner courtyard without being called. There is only one law about this. Anyone who enters must be put to death. But if the king holds out his gold sceptre, that person may live. And I have not been called to go to the king for 30 days."

'And Esther's message was given to Mordecai. Then Mordecai gave orders to say to Esther: "Just because you live in the king's palace, don't think that out of all the Jews you alone will escape. You might keep quiet at this time. Then someone else will help and save the Jews. But you and your father's family will all die. And who knows, you may have been chosen queen for just such a time as this."

Discuss

- Who did God place in Esther's life as a Godly influence?
- Is there a time when you have felt in the right place at the right time?
- Are there situations in your life at the moment you think God has put you there for a reason?

● **Say:** At a dangerous and difficult time, God worked through Esther to save his followers. Esther's boldness and decision-making guided by God, and her trust in God even when she didn't understand all that was going on around, allowed her to have a Godly influence on others. God comes near to us through others he places in our lives and we can be a Godly influence to others.

Action It

Ask: What does it mean to be a Godly influence?

Screen share: 'But the Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.' (Galatians 5:22-23 ICB)

● **Say:** This list of qualities is sometimes called the fruits of the Spirit. Perhaps that's because, like fruit, if you grow them (and eat them!), life will be sweet.

Ask: How do you demonstrate these fruits in your life? Can you think of some examples?

Screen share: 'For just such a time as this.'

● **Say:** Esther was in the right time and place to do something for God.

Ask: Where are the places God has put you in, for such a time as this? How can you demonstrate your faith as evidently as Esther's?

Explain that together you are going to make a fruit salad. Using the different fruit children have chosen, in turn invite them to consider the 'fruit of the spirit' they could demonstrate.

As they slowly eat each piece, ask the children to think how they could show these qualities in different places like:

- in their home
- in their school
- in their church
- in their neighbourhood
- online
- in your ... (can you put in some places unique to you?)

Pray It

Invite children to share a particular situation, person or place where they feel God's influence is needed. Invite other children in the group to pray for each other as they take turns sharing.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.