

Explore It FOR LEADERS



BRAVE ESTHER

Esther

God uses his followers to bring justice for other people. The book of Esther tells the fantastic story of two people, Esther and Mordecai, who were willing to stand up for people who needed help and whose lives brought God's justice to them.

Through this story we can explore the idea that taking a stand is not an easy option. It often requires great courage, strength, commitment, or significant impact on our own lives. Who do we feel called to make a stand for?

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper (optional) – see Action It section

You will need:

→ Print out a selection of images showing female Superheroes in their classic poses – see Start It section

→ A large sheet of paper and pens (optional) – see Action It section

Start It

Play a game of Superhero Statues. Show images of female superheroes in their classic poses and get the children to try them out. Examples: Black Widow, Shuri, Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Scarlet Witch, Captain Marvel, Gamora, Batwoman. Now let the children choose their favourite four. Play music from the Superhero films and encourage the children to move to it.

'The best music from Superhero films'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlewFONOMJ0>

When you pause the music, each child strikes one of the four Superhero poses. Select an image at random, and anyone in that pose is 'out'. They can help choose the next image. Make the game end quickly by reducing the number of images, so you can get everyone up and playing again!

Ask: Who is your favourite female superhero?

● **Say:** In today's Bible story we will discover an Old Testament superhero. Esther showed the courage to stand up for people who had no voice, and it changed their lives for ever.

Sing It

Give the children the opportunity to share their memory verse and then sing this week's Micah 6:8 song together. Remind the children that we will be choosing our favourite version next week.

**'The Lord has told you what is good.
He has told you what he wants from you:
Do what is right to other people.
Love being kind to others,
And live humbly, trusting your God.'**

— (Micah 6:8 ICB)

'Micah 6:8 Veggie Tales' by New Life Church (2 mins 48 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayQUBo0FGTs>

Tell It

🗣️ **Say:** Today we are going to learn about brave Esther, who spoke out against injustice and stood up for those who had no voice.

Video

Screenshare: *Esther - Bible Story* by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 06 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3IsMSEEuG4>

Discuss

- ➔ What kind of background did Esther come from?
- ➔ Why was Mordecai special to King Xerxes?
- ➔ When Esther became Queen, Mordecai told her to keep something a secret. What was it and why do you think he asked her to do it?
- ➔ Why did Haman, the second most powerful man in Persia, dislike Mordecai so much?
- ➔ What unfair rule did Haman make that impacted the Jewish people?
- ➔ Mordecai asked Esther to go to the king to see if he would save the Jews. Why was this such a scary thing to do?

🗣️ **Say:** In the Bible Mordecai says these words to Esther:

'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 for just such a time as this.'

— (Esther 4:14 *ICB*)

Discuss

- ➔ What do you think Mordecai meant when he said, 'You may have been chosen for just such a time as this'?
- ➔ How would you have felt if you were in Esther's position?
- ➔ How did Esther's bravery save the Jewish people?

Action It

Ask the children to write part of Esther 4:14 in the centre of a sheet of paper, or write it in the centre of a large sheet if you are meeting together in person.

'You may have been chosen for just such a time as this.'

— (Esther 4:14 *ICB*)

Ask the children to think about the people that they meet at school, in their church or in the wider community. Where have they seen people – individuals or groups of people – being treated unfairly? Discuss as a group, then write down examples around the verse.

Ask the children if there is anything that we can do about these situations, and jot down the answers in a different colour.

Ask: Which of these actions do you think you could take to stand against injustice?

🗣️ **Say:** We can all make a difference standing up to the injustices we see in the world. Just like Esther, we may feel uncertain, but we also may 'have been chosen for such a time as this'.

Pray It

● **Say:** Esther asked the people to pray for her before she spoke out. Today we have discussed actions that we can take to stand up against injustice.

Ask: Who could you ask to pray for you and support you while you step up like Esther?

Spend time as a group praying for the issues mentioned in the Action It section and ask God to give the children courage to be brave like Esther and speak out against injustice.

Explore It

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