

ESTHER: COURAGE TO TRUST GOD

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Main idea: God is sovereign, protects so have courage

Magic: nickel disappear, upside-down cup, silks off rope

Coloring book of colors

INTRODUCTION

Ever had a time when picked on? Afraid?

ME when young picked on, afraid!!!

TRANSITION Story in Bible about one going through that

I. HONOR GRANTED (1-2)

BACKGROUND – Assyria world power
Conquered Jews, in captivity

XERXES king, Vashti wife, removed
Shame to her by actions but refused
Shame to king in culture
Shouldn't have wanted to shame her
Woman of great courage

MORDECAI uncle raising ESTHER
Esther made queen, great **honor**
Mordecai gate keeper for Palace
Uncovers plot, saves kings life
God sovereign control

II. HONOR CHALLENGED (3-5)

HAMAN #2 man to king, all bow down to
Not Mordecai, **shame** to Haman
Shame to bow to any man but God
Law signed to kill all Jews & take property
Law unchangeable by king

JEWS hear about law, very sad

ESTHER hears about law from Mordecai
Asks her to help Jews - King not know she is a Jew
Not allowed to see king unless called (killed)
Fasts with servant girls
Importance of prayer, fasting

ESTHER TO KING – accepts, not kill

Woman of great courage

Invites to lunch today with Haman

As lunch invites to banquet tomorrow, request then

HAMAN proud, sees as **great honor**

On way home Mordecai **not bow down**, bad mood

Complains to family about Mordecai

Tell him to get revenge, build gallows 25 meters high

Revenge never helps feel better

III. HONOR VINDICATED (6-7)

KING ZERXES not sleep that night

Read court records, about Mordecai save his life

God sovereign control

No **honor** given Mordecai for act

Haman comes early, wants to kill Mordecai soon

King asks Haman how to **honor** special man

Tells him: king's horse, garments, parade

King tells Haman to do this for Mordecai

MORDECAI **greatly shames** by having to do this

Pride great enemy, causes much harm

Tells family – they say God protecting Mordecai

Can't harm him, leave him alone

Immediately taken to banquet with king, Esther

ESTHER (fasting, praying)

Asks to spare her people because all killed

Woman of great courage

King asks who would kill them

Says it is wicked Haman

HAMAN - **Great fear, guilt, shame** on Haman

King so angry leaves room

Haman pleads with Esther, falls on her in misery

King returns, thinks he is attacking his wife!

Blindfolded and taken away - **Great shame, guilt**

Servants tell about Haman's gallows

No one likes Haman, afraid of his power

Hung on own gallows

Reap what you sow

IV. HONOR ENHANCED (8-10)

KING XERXES can't change law to kill Jews
Makes new law Jews can protect selves
All hear new law
All afraid of Jew's God – heard about Mordecai
Great honor for God, Jews, Esther
Jews safe, kill many enemies
Reap what you sow

MORDECAI given Haman's land, money, position
Great honor for Mordecai

PURIM celebrated by Jews today – great time!

CONCLUSIONS LESSONS (can ask children)

1. GOD IS IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING

Plan and purpose for all
Uses all for **His glory**, our growth
Gives us opportunities to be used by Him

Esther 4:12-14 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

2. WHEN OTHERS TRY TO HARM US, GOD PROTECTS

God protects us
Gives us **honor**
-before Him always
-before others eventually

God is in control of all, so nothing to fear
We can, must trust Him

3. TAKES COURAGE TO STAND FOR RIGHT

Vashti did – lost everything (still right thing to do)
Esther did – gained everything
We need courage to do right, stand when needed

CHALLENGE to follow Jesus, trust Him - CLOSING PRAYER