

# [HOMEPAGE]

*For families of junior soldiers*

## THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

### Esther— The Girl Who Became Queen

## MEMORY VERSE:

Esther 4:14b (NIV)

“It’s possible that you became queen for a time just like this.”

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week.

## PARENT POINT:

What does courage mean to you? Talk to your child about what it means to show courage. Tell your child ways that they’re courageous.



**THIS WEEK MARKED** the conclusion of the four-week unit on Old Testament people. Today the junior soldiers learned about courage and faithfulness through the story of Esther. As a young girl, Esther became the queen of Persia. One day she was asked to step out in faith to save her people.

Mordecai, Esther’s cousin, raised her after both of her parents died. He raised her as if she was his own child. One day, the king of Persia, Xerxes, wanted a new queen. All of the young women of Persia went to the palace to see the king. Of all the women, the king selected Esther. She never told the king that she was Jewish.

The prime minister, Haman, wanted to destroy the Jews. As the Jews of Persia mourned their fate, Mordecai sent word to Esther and told her about the situation. He asked Esther to plead her people’s case before Xerxes. At first, Esther was hesitant because such intercession could mean death. It was common knowledge that anyone who approached the king without being summoned was executed. Recognizing that Esther may be the only hope for her people, Mordecai said, “Who knows? It’s possible that you became queen for a time just like this” (Esther 4:14 NIV). She instructed Mordecai to ask the Jews to fast and pray on her behalf.

Esther went to the king, and when he asked her what she wanted, she invited the king and Haman to a banquet in their honor the following evening. That night Haman and the king attended the banquet prepared by Esther. She pleaded with the king to spare the lives of her people. She revealed that Haman was the enemy of the Jews. The king was furious. He ordered that Haman be destroyed in the same way he wanted to destroy Mordecai. Esther and her people were safe.

## INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson helped junior soldiers understand that God has a purpose for all of His children. Through the example of Esther, junior soldiers learned about courage and faithfulness. They were challenged to step out in faith.