

ESTHER

Bible Text: Esther 3:1—8:8

Lesson Focus: In the story of Esther, good triumphs over evil.

Big Question: What do I stand for?

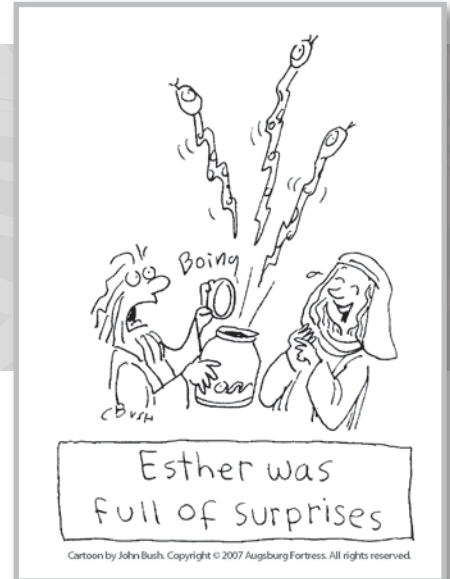
Key Words: IDENTITY, CHALLENGE, VALUES

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] The story of Esther is about a queen who remained faithful to God.
-] Esther is the only book in the Bible where God is not mentioned.
-] Queen Vashti was banished from her throne because she wouldn't come to the king when he summoned her (Esther 1:19-22).
-] Esther didn't initially tell King Xerxes she was a Jew (Esther 2:10, 20).
-] Mordecai, Esther's cousin, uncovered a plot to kill King Xerxes (Esther 2:21-23).
-] Haman, the king's right-hand man, wanted to have all the Jews killed, and not just Mordecai (Esther 3:5-6).
-] King Xerxes could have chosen to have Esther killed because she came to see him when he hadn't summoned her (Esther 5:1-2).
-] Jewish people today still celebrate Purim, a reminder to them of God's faithfulness (Esther 9:18-32).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Who was planning a big surprise for the Jews but ended up being the one surprised?
-] Even though God's name isn't mentioned in Esther, how do you know God was present?
-] In a day when women were powerless, what was surprising about Esther?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 174: History's Six Most Notorious Heretics

-] What do you think Lutherans believe today?
-] What do your friends believe? How is it different from the Lutheran faith? Are there any similarities between your friends' beliefs and your own beliefs?

Here We Stand Student Book page 195: How to Work for Peace and Justice on Behalf of People Who Are Poor and Oppressed

-] How can you fulfill the call to work for peace and justice?

LIFE CONNECTION

Standing up for what you really believe might be hard sometimes. Start small. Every time you notice something you want to stand up for this week, write it down. You'll be surprised what that list can reveal about what you believe.

ESTHER

True/False Quiz

Choose the true statement for each pair of statements.

1a. Xerxes is the name of a remote village in Siberia.

1b. Xerxes is the king who ruled over 127 provinces.

2a. Mordecai's cousin was Ezra.

2b. Mordecai's cousin was Esther.

3a. Mordecai uncovered a plot to kill King Xerxes.

3b. Mordecai uncovered a plot to kill all the Jews.

4a. Haman was a godly man who worshipped the Lord.

4b. Haman was a wicked man who wanted to kill the Jews.

5a. Haman had a gallows built because he wanted to hang Mordecai.

5b. Haman had a gallows built because the town needed a new ride in its amusement park.

6a. When King Xerxes discovered that Mordecai had saved his life, he made Haman honor Mordecai.

6b. When King Xerxes discovered that Mordecai had saved his life, he quickly forgot about it and did nothing.

7a. Haman begged Mordecai to save him.

7b. Haman begged Queen Esther to save him.

8a. Purim is a festival celebrating God's deliverance.

8b. Purim is what your pet cat does.

Answers: The true statements are 1b, 2b, 3a, 4b, 5a, 6a, 7b, 8a.