

Bringing [The Story Home](#)-Ch. 20- Week of June 11th The Queen of Beauty and Courage

Bringing The Story Home is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in “The Story” curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.



Big Idea: God Helps Me When It's Hard!

Bible Basis: Esther 1–9

Key Verse: What if you don't say anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this. —Esther 4:14

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the Big Idea from TrueKidz. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table or at some point this week. The Living Faith activity encourages your family to make some foods that were popular in Persia.

Table Talk:

Younger Elementary

- **What do you think Esther made for the big dinner with King Xerxes and Haman?**
- **What's your favorite food?**
- **Queen Esther was King Xerxes' favorite, but she took a risk by speaking to the king without being invited. Did she just barge in and demand to be heard? Why not?**
- **The king granted Esther's wish because she was respectful and humble. Tell of a time where respect and humility helped you.**
- **Have you heard the saying, "Attitude is everything"? How would you describe Esther's attitude?**
- **If you were in Esther's place, what would you have asked the king to do?**

Older Elementary

- **Esther kept it a secret from King Xerxes that she was Jewish. Do you think it was good for her to keep that secret?**
- **When is it okay to keep secrets? When is keeping secrets a bad idea?**
- **At first Mordecai encouraged Esther not to tell anybody she was Jewish, then he told her to go before the king and beg for mercy for her people. Have you ever had a family member tell you to do something for God?**
- **Esther prepared for her meeting with the king by fasting and encouraging others to fast with her. What does it say about Esther that she went to God with her request first?**
- **Talk about a time when you went to God in prayer before making a decision. What happened?**

Living Faith: Persian kings were famous for lavish banquets. So when Esther invited King Xerxes to a “big dinner” (Esther 5:8), the pressure was on. Make a big Persian dinner in

honor of Queen Esther, although you may not want to break out the solid-gold dinnerware. During the Achaemenid empire Persian kings could get nearly any food they wanted. Fruit was very common, especially cantaloupe. A spinach salad may be an authentic touch for your meal. Fish was also popular.

Have fun as a family planning out the menu early in the week. Set aside one night when everybody can be together to prepare the big dinner. Try something new. Use an exotic spice. As everybody's working together or when everyone sits down, you can go through some of the "Table Talk" questions. Queen Esther's story is truly remarkable, and Esther is only one of two books in the Bible named for a woman.

For dessert, your family may want to bake Hamantaschen (ha-man-tosh-en), a traditional Jewish cookie made for Purim (see Esther 9:18–32), a celebration that honors Esther and Mordecai for saving the Jewish people from extermination. These triangular cookies look a little funny, and the name Hamantaschen means "Haman's ears." But they're fun to make and taste delicious. Look in a cookbook or go online and search for Hamantaschen.

[Prayer Time:](#) Dear God, we want to be used for your Kingdom, just like Queen Esther was. Thank you for helping us even when we have to do hard things! In Jesus' name, Amen.