

# The Story of Esther

You can listen to the story of Esther on this link or read the story below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3lv9dFc4HM&t=5s>

Long ago, in a country called Persia (Babylon), there was a king named Xerxes and a queen named Esther. Now Esther was a Jew. The Jews had been driven out of Israel, their home, about 70 years before and exiled in Persia. Although they did their best to make a living in this strange land, they prayed that someday they would be able to return to their home. Esther's uncle Mordechai, was the leader of the Jews. Mordecai encouraged Esther to hide her faith from the King and his advisors, which she did.

Haman was a powerful man in the kingdom - Prime Minister of Persia in fact. He decided that given his rise in power, it would be appropriate for everyone to bow down to him. But Mordecai refused to bow down to him. Haman was very angry and asked the King to authorize a royal decree to annihilate the Jews. All the Jews were to be killed, in every province and every nation of the land. There would be no place to run, and no place to hide.



This is where our brave Queen Esther comes into the picture -- Mordecai, having found out about Haman's evil intentions, sent Esther a message. He told her what Haman was plotting and asked her to go to the King on the Jews behalf.

Esther was afraid. She hadn't been allowed to see the King for a month. In fact, no one could see him without being invited. But she fasted and prayed for three days, mustered up her courage and went to see the king. King Xerxes held out his golden sceptre and spared her life. He even offered "half my kingdom for your wishes,"

All she asked was that the King and Haman join her for dinner that night.



As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: If the king regards me with favour and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfil my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question." Of course, both the King and Haman agreed to attend a second banquet with the lovely young Queen.

Haman was very pleased that he'd been asked to dine with Xerxes and Esther two nights in a row and was filled with pride. But then he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and still Mordecai refused to bow to him. Haman was filled with rage. He decided that night to build a gallows with which to hang Mordecai and planned to speak to the king about it the very next morning. That way, he'd have the whole matter dealt with during the day and be able to enjoy the next evening's banquet in peace.

That same night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the Chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. The book was turned to the day Mordecai exposed a plot to assassinate the King. The King was reminded of this tale and asked what reward Mordecai had received. The king's attendants told him that nothing had been done for Mordecai.

The next morning, just as Haman was arriving to ask that Mordecai be hanged the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honour?" Haman, still filled with pride, mistakenly thought the king was referring to him. So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honour, have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honour, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!'"

Imagine Haman's shock when the King commanded, "Go at once. Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate." Haman obeyed the king, of course, but not happily! He was very upset that Mordecai, his enemy, was being honoured by the king. Immediately after leading Mordecai around the city proclaiming, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!", Haman had to go to the banquet with the King and Queen.

Finally Esther shared the secret of her faith and proclaimed herself a Jew. She begged the king to spare her people. One of the king's attendants told the king of the gallows that Haman had built to have Mordecai hanged.



The king was furious with Haman and ordered that he be hanged on those gallows. Haman's pride and cruelty had led to his own destruction and the brave, young Esther had saved her people.

Queen Esther had to speak out and tell the King that she was Jewish and ask that her people be left unharmed. She had to be brave, not thinking of herself but of others

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord,  
Please help us to do the right thing.  
To speak out against things that are wrong.  
To help those who can't help themselves.  
Please strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit.  
In Jesus' name. Amen

The Bible speaks out against the unfair treatment of others. Our verse for this week is a long one but it is very clear. Remember that when we ask God, God will help us. He loves to come near to us.

*"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



## **Video links**

Teaching Kids about Jesus: Story of Esther (3mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWnMGSw97Wg>

Crossroads Kids Club: God's Story - Esther (4mins)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw\\_Uw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw_Uw)

Superbook: Esther (26mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q94wBYdMwtE>

## **Word search**

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/word-search/wordsearch-esther.htm>

## **Colouring sheet**

<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/cb/46/46/cb46469566a7307542c95268aa5b394e.jpg>

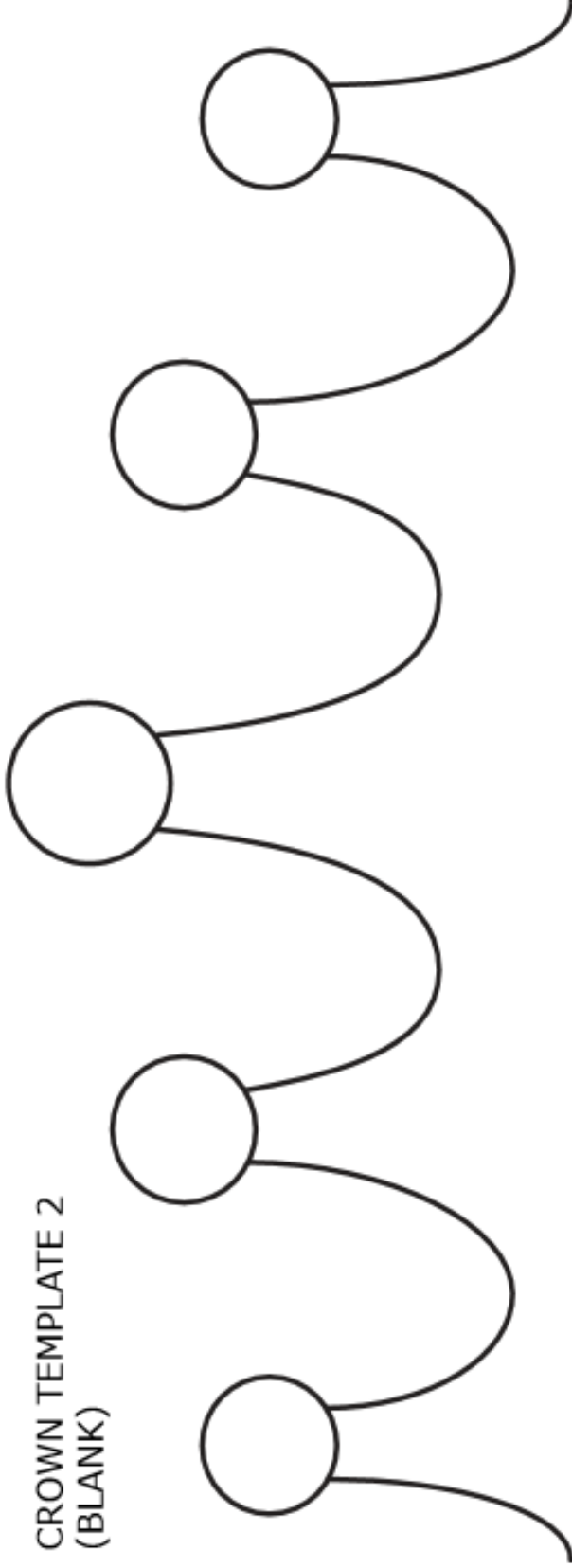
## **Crown to cut out and colour**

<https://www.firstpalette.com/pdf/princesscrown2.pdf>

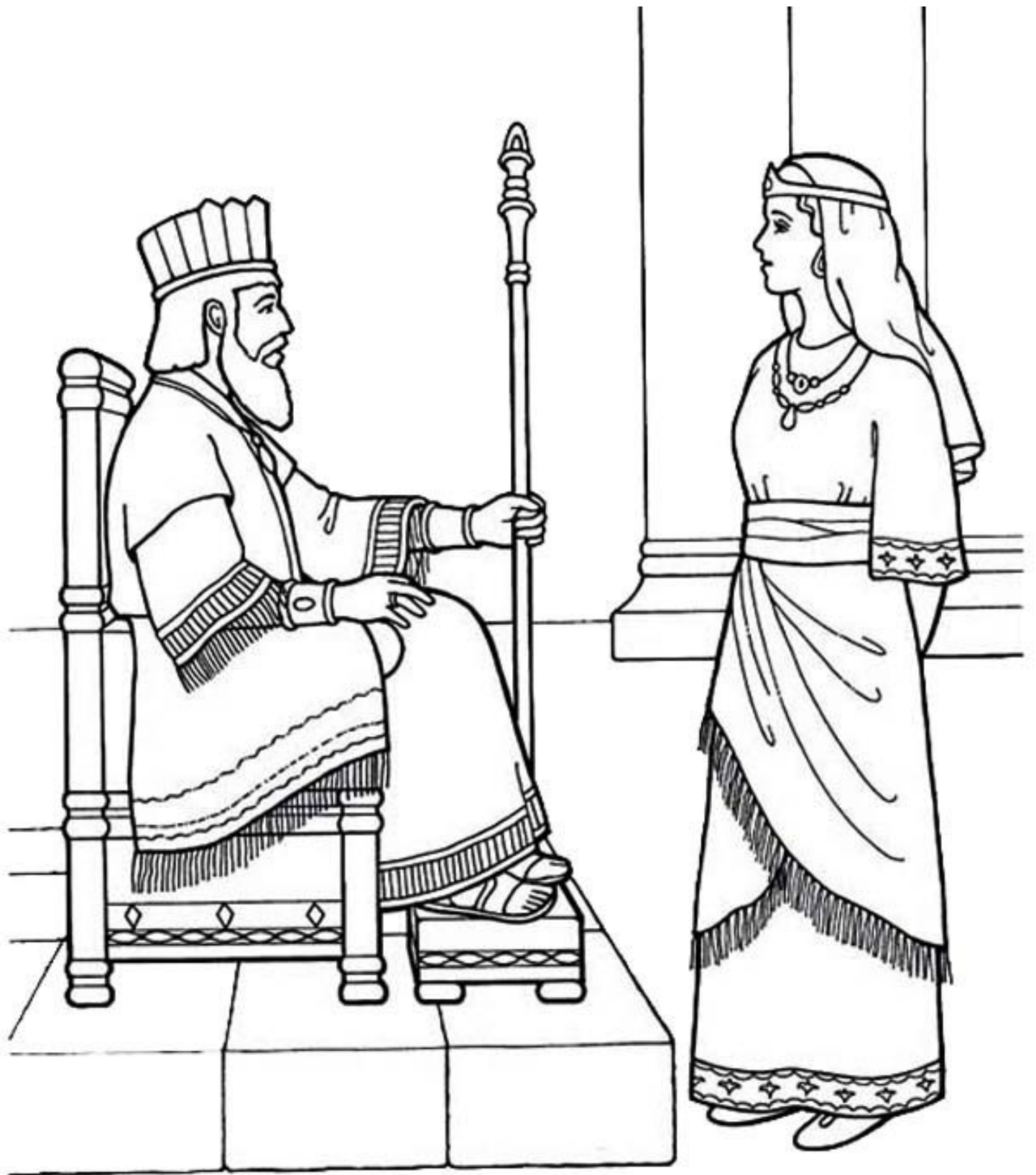
## **Link to Kingdom Kids Praise Party**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agT93G4v37A>

CROWN TEMPLATE 2  
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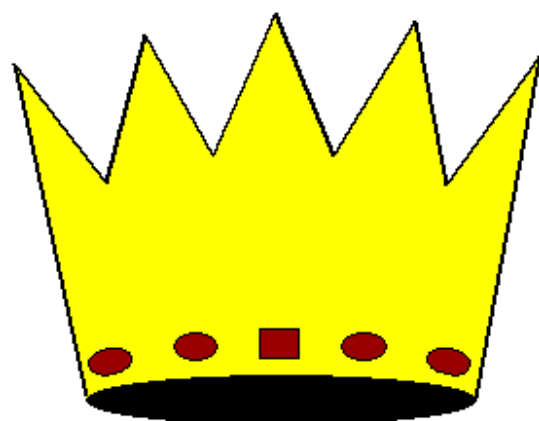




# Esther the Queen Word Search

A E V A S Y H T  
T X B R A V E S  
N W O R C Z O A  
W Y B K I N G F

brave  
crown  
fast  
king  
save

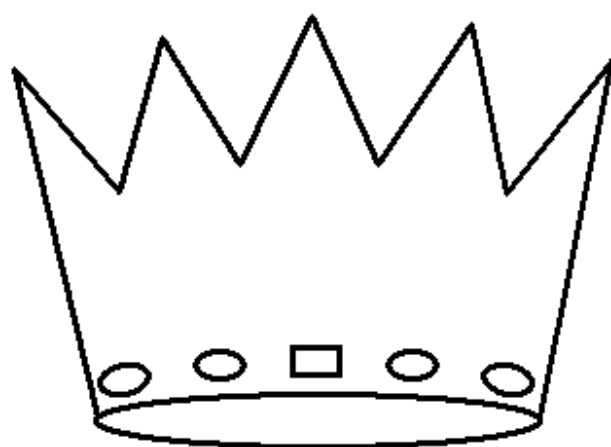




# Esther the Queen Word Search

I K I L L E D C P B S H H X K  
C A I G I I R B E N R A O A I  
H H C Q N O O A R X C A V G N  
O S E E W W U D M M Y L V E G  
S I G N D T E Z I N V I T E D  
E W A F I R I Y S U O L A E J  
N E R F O Y O V S R E Y A R P  
A J U N B K W M I D E T S A F  
A L O N A M A H O S U P P E R  
B H C Q U E E N N W M H Y D W

beautiful  
bow  
brave  
chosen  
courage  
crown  
fasted  
Haman  
honored  
invited



jealousy  
Jewish  
killed  
king  
Mordecai  
permission  
prayer  
Queen  
saved  
supper