



THE BIG IDEA | God has a plan for my life

SCRIPTURE | Esther 8:5-17

Last week, we heard Esther's story of having to make a difficult decision. Today, we'll hear more of her story and see how God had a plan all along.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Look up Esther 8:5-17 in your Bible and read it.*

- Let's quickly review last week's story. Mordecai, Esther's cousin, asked her to go before her husband, King Xerxes, to ask him to save the Jewish people from being killed. King Xerxes didn't know Esther herself was Jewish. In those times, no one was allowed to go to the king unless they had been called, so Esther could have been killed for going to him unannounced. It was a difficult decision for Esther to make.
- Today's passage brings us to what happens next. It opens with Esther standing before the king.
 - **What did Esther ask King Xerxes to do?**
 - **What was the king's response?**
- Esther's secret was out – she was Jewish and she wanted the king to save the Jewish people.
 - **How did Esther's actions help to carry out God's plan?**
- God had a plan for Esther to help save the Jewish people. She was in the place she was as queen in order to carry out God's plan.

ACTIVITY | Under Construction

We are wrapping up our Brave series by talking about how God has a plan for each of us. By listening to God and following the plan, we can do great things together!

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide items from around the house to build a tower - use anything you have! For example, you could use a combination of things like: plastic cups, dry spaghetti, marshmallows, yarn, string, or Jenga blocks to build a tower. Encourage your child to devise a plan (and give them a little help if they need it), and work together to help them, construct their tower.

PRAYER

- Esther had to wait for the king to give her permission to talk to him. We don't have to wait to talk to God. We can talk to God anytime! He is listening and wants to hear from us.
- Dear God, thank You for what You've taught us today. Thank You for helping Esther be brave in saving the lives of her people. Help us to be brave, too, and trust You. Thank You for having a plan for my life.

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

