



THE BIG IDEA | God can help me overcome difficulty.

SCRIPTURE | Esther 2, 4

Today we are going to learn about a woman who overcame difficulty to help her people. Hopefully, through her story, you'll discover how God can use you to overcome difficulty, too!

Look up the scripture and read the story (or have your child read it aloud).

- Esther 2 starts with King Xerxes being angry with his wife, Vashti, because she would not come to him when he called her. King Xerxes was so angry, in fact, that he began to look for a new wife.
 - **How did King Xerxes go about finding a new wife?**
 - **What made Esther stand out from the other girls?**
- The king really liked Esther, and she was eventually made queen. But there was something Esther didn't share with anyone.
 - **What secret was Esther keeping from the king?**
- But soon, Esther would be faced with a difficult decision. Her cousin, Mordecai, sent word to her about a very sad situation, one that caused him to be so upset, he wept in the city streets.
 - **What caused Mordecai to be so sad?**
 - **What did he ask Esther to do?**
- Esther was faced with a very difficult decision. It was against the law for her to go to the king without being called for. She could die for doing so. But not going to the king would mean many, many more would die.

ACTIVITY | Domino Challenge

INSTRUCTIONS: Using dominos (or some item you have around the house that can be stood up on end and knocked over - could be hardback books of about the same size - line up as many

items as they can without knocking them down. Encourage them to find ways to line them up and keep them up as they work. Then, tell them to knock them over at the end.

We can clearly see God was “lining up all the dominoes” of Esther’s life, so that she could be ready for this new challenge. And just like God did for Esther, God helps us overcome difficulty.

DISCUSSION

Who are people you can turn to when you have difficulty?

Read Esther 4:14. What does this verse mean?

How can you help someone who is having difficulty?

PRAYER

In today’s Bible story, we read how Esther faced a very difficult situation. She wasn’t sure exactly what to do, so she asked Mordecai and all the Jews in Susa to fast – that means to not eat and maybe not drink – for three days. People fast so they can pray and hear from God more closely. When we face difficulty, we can also ask those around us to join us in praying. Let’s try that right now! Pray aloud with your child about a difficult situation they are facing.

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

