

# Esther Becomes Queen

## Bible Experience

### *Esther's Purpose*

**Supplies:** Bible, a piece of modeling dough for each child

Say: **I need help looking for things in this room that are useful. When you see something useful, point at it and freeze. I'll come around and unfreeze you, and then you tell us what you see that's useful and what it does.**

After a few minutes, say: **You've pointed to some useful items. But you're useful, too; I asked for help finding things, and you helped me.**

**Esther was a helpful woman. She became queen and eventually saved her people.** Give each child a small piece of modeling dough and say: **I'll tell you the story of Esther, and you play with the dough while you listen.**

**Many Jews were being forced to live in another country. Esther and her cousin Mordecai were Jews. Mordecai raised Esther like a daughter.**

**When King Xerxes wanted a new queen, he called for a search throughout his kingdom. Esther, along with many other girls, was taken to the palace. Esther had many attractive features and pleased the king greatly. But Xerxes didn't know that she was Jewish.**

Ask: • **Have you ever done something that you thought was right but it was really scary?**  
**Explain.**

Say: **Mordecai wouldn't let Esther reveal her nationality because many people hated the Jews. So she prepared herself for the king. When a girl was chosen to present herself to him, it took a whole year to prepare! She was given seven maids and had 12 months of beauty treatments. Then Esther presented herself to the king and won his heart. The king of Persia chose Esther as his queen and declared a national holiday.**

After the story, ask children to share what they sculpted with their dough. Follow up with questions about how what they sculpted might be useful.

Say: **You used modeling dough to create some beautiful things. God used Esther to save the Jews, and God can use you to do good things, too.**

Read aloud Ephesians 2:10. Say: **God has a purpose for everything, including your life! If you continue to do the good works God has prepared for you to do, he'll take care of you as he took care of Esther.**

# Bible Application

## *Important Letters*

**Supplies:** Bible, stationery, pencils, envelopes

Say: **Because Esther was the queen, she saved her people from death. But without Mordecai's help, Esther might not have been brave enough to be queen. God had a purpose for Esther and Mordecai-he has a purpose for everything. Let's take some quiet time and think about the people we love and who love us.**

Give each child a few sheets of stationery and a pencil. Ask kids to write a letter to someone who loves them, thanking them for carrying out God's work. After they finish, have children sit in a circle and lay their letters in the center. Pray: **Dear God, we've placed letters to people we love in the center of this circle. Please help those we love and watch over them. Thank you for giving all of us a purpose. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Object Lesson

### *King's Scepter*

**Supplies:** Bible, baton or stick paper crown or hat.

Have kids think of something that happened to them this week. Tell them to not say their thoughts aloud yet. Hold the baton and the crown or hat, walk to the other wall, and face the kids.

Say: **When Queen Esther wanted to talk with the king, she had to wait until he held out his scepter to her; then she could walk over to him. A scepter is like a beautiful, gold stick. Let's pretend I'm King Xerxes.** Place the crown or hat on your head and say: **You can't come talk to me until I hold out my scepter.** Hold up the baton, and say: **You can walk forward, not run, only when I hold out my scepter. When I put it down, you must freeze.**

Start by holding up the scepter, and then put it down quickly. If kids keep moving when the scepter is down, have them take three steps back. As kids get closer, hold the scepter high and let all of them come to you for a group hug. Play several times, and let others take turns pretending to be the king.

Ask: • **What was the purpose of the scepter?**

- **What was Queen Esther's purpose?**
- **How do you know what your purpose for God is?**

Pass the scepter and let everyone share what they want to say.