

OUR PART IN THE STORY:

Daily devotions on Sunday's Narrative Lectionary text

Esther

Esther 4:1-17

SHARE your highs and lows for the day.

READ Sunday's entire text each day to learn the story deeply. *his reading only makes sense in the context of the entire Book of Esther. There are many elements that may not be appropriate for small children, so preview and share what is appropriate for your family.*

❖ The story of Esther is succinctly retold in this video: <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/29259/The-Story-Of-Esther>. This one is a reading of the Bible text, animated with Legos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSTqZuaF3Dk&feature=youtu.be>.

TALK about what you just read, and relate it to your highs and lows. *The questions and prompts below are intended to spark discussion and action. Use one each day or several at one sitting.*

- ❖ What was the response of Mordecai and the rest of the Jews to Haman's plan? How was Esther's response different?
- ❖ What do you think about Mordecai's risky plan to send Esther, uninvited, to petition the king?
- ❖ Why do you think Esther chose to take that risk? What would you have done in her place?
- ❖ For what have you been called, in such a time as this?

PRAY for your family and friends, for the courage to take important risks, for your highs and lows, and for wisdom, courage, and vision to understand your calling.

BLESS each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead and saying, "For such a time as this, you are called by God."

OUR PART IN THE STORY:

Daily readings based on Sunday's Narrative Lectionary text

Esther

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Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

MONDAY: King Ahasuerus Deposposes Queen Vashti

Esther 1:1-22

- ❖ Why do you think Queen Vashti refused the King's summons? Can you imagine her state of mind or her motivation?

TUESDAY: Esther Becomes Queen

Esther 2:1-23

- ❖ Which issues of ethics, power, or oppression speak most powerfully to you?

WEDNESDAY: Haman Undertakes to Destroy the Jews

Esther 3:1-15

- ❖ In what situations do or would you stand for your principles, against powerful authorities?

THURSDAY: Esther's Banquet, Haman's Plans

Esther 5:1-14

- ❖ Why do you think Mordecai's defiance so infuriated Haman?

FRIDAY: The King Honors Mordecai

Esther 6:1-14

- ❖ Can you find any empathy for Haman? Can you imagine how he felt, as all of his plans went completely awry?

SATURDAY: Esther Saves the Jews

Esther 7:1-8:17

- ❖ Where is God's presence in this book?