



Story: The Golden Scepter

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

15 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")

15 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

Directions

- Print pages 2-31 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.



Before holding up the picture:

What did we talk about last time in class? *(Haman wanted to kill all the Jews)*

What did Mordecai not do that made Haman mad? *(Mordecai wouldn't bow to Haman)*

What was Haman's plan? *(To have all the Jews killed on the 13th day of the 12th month)*

When Mordecai heard about the new law what did he do? *(cried, wore sackcloth and ashes outside the King's gate)*

Why was Esther scared to go talk to King Xerxes? *(anyone who goes to him without being summoned, is put to death; the king hadn't called for her in 30 days)*

What did Esther ask Mordecai and the Jews to do? *(fast and pray with her for 3 days)*

Hold up picture:

Esther and the Jews fasted and prayed for three days. On the third day, Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace. When King Xerxes saw her, he was pleased, so he held out his golden scepter to spare her life. Then Esther went near and touched the end of the scepter.



Hold up picture:

The king said, “What do you wish for Queen Esther? I would give you up to half the kingdom if you asked for it.” Esther replied, “I wish to invite the King and Haman to a banquet I have prepared.”



Hold up picture:

So King Xerxes summoned Haman and they went to the banquet Esther had prepared. The King again asked Esther, “What is it you wish for?”



Hold up picture:

Esther replied, “If it pleases the King, let the King and Haman, come to another banquet tomorrow which I will prepare and then I will answer the King’s question.”



Hold up picture:

Haman left the palace in a joyful mood, but when Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow to him, he was filled with rage, but he restrained himself and went home.



Hold up picture:

When Haman got home, he called for his friends and his wife, Zeresh, and he bragged to them about his riches, his many children, and how the King had promoted him above the other officials and servants of the King. And he told them how Queen Esther had invited no one but him to a banquet with herself and the King. But he said he could not be happy as long as Mordecai the Jew was sitting at the King's gate.

Explain / Ask:

Haman is being very proud and arrogant. He's bragging about all the things he has and how important he is to King Xerxes. He had a lot to be happy about, but he couldn't find happiness as long as Mordecai wouldn't bow down to him. Mordecai was hurting Haman's pride. What does the Bible teach about people who are proud or boastful? *(Pride comes before destruction, it's better to be humble)*



Hold up picture:

Haman's wife and friends had an idea. They told him to build a pole 50 cubits high and then ask the King to have Mordecai hanged (or impaled) on it. This idea pleased Haman so he had the pole erected that night.



Hold up picture:

But also that night, King Xerxes could not sleep, so he ordered the book of the King's chronicles to be read to him. Does a good bedtime story help you go to sleep sometimes? **(yes)** Well, when the King heard the section of how Mordecai had discovered the plot by two servants to kill the king, King Xerxes asked, "What honor or reward was given to Mordecai for saving my life?"

Explain / Ask:

Do you remember how Mordecai saved the King's life in our last lesson? **(yes, he overheard two servants plotting to kill the King and he told Esther.)** Well, that event was written down in the King's chronicles and the King realized he never did anything to thank Mordecai.



Hold up picture:

The King's servants replied, "Nothing has been done for Mordecai."

Just then, Haman entered the outer court of the King's palace, because he wanted to suggest to King Xerxes that he hang Mordecai on the pole he had built.

The King asked his servant, "Who is standing out in the court?"

The servant told the King, "It is Haman."

King Xerxes said, "Let him in."



Hold up picture:

As soon as Haman came in, King Xerxes asked Haman, “What should be done for a man that I wish to honor?”



Hold up picture:

Well, Haman assumed the King was talking about him, so he said, “Put the man in one of your royal robes and put him on one of your royal horses. Then have one of your most noble princes lead the horse through the city proclaiming, ‘This is what is done for the man the King delights to honor!’”

Explain:

Haman is so prideful that he assumes the King wants to honor him. Haman had no idea that King Xerxes was thinking of honoring Mordecai!



Hold up picture:

King Xerxes said, “Go at once and get the robe and horse, then do exactly as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew who sits at the gate. Do not leave anything out.”

Explain / Ask:

How do you think Haman is feeling now that he knows the King wants to honor Mordecai? (*shocked, disappointed, jealous, mad*)



Hold up picture:

So Haman had to do what the King ordered, even though he didn't want to honor Mordecai. Haman put one of the King's robes on Mordecai and put him on one of the King's horses. Then he led Mordecai through the city saying, "This is what is done for the man that the King wishes to honor."



Hold up picture:

Afterwards, Haman hurried home humiliated with his head covered. When Haman told his wife and friends what had happened, they told him, “Since Mordecai the Jew has begun your downfall you will not prevail against him.”

Explain:

Haman’s friends and wife are basically telling Haman that he’s not going to be able to win against Mordecai.



Hold up picture:

While Haman's friends were still talking, the King's servants came to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

Explain / Ask:

What are some lessons we can learn so far from this story? *(Esther was brave and trusted God when she approached the king; Being prideful like Haman can backfire on you.)*

What do you think will happen at Esther's second banquet? *(Answers will vary)*