



**Book of Esther / Lesson 5
Haman's Anger At Mordecai**

Haman's Anger At Mordecai

Esther 5:1-14

Servants Preparation instructions:

- Pray, read the chapters in the bible and the lesson thoroughly.
- Within the lesson you will find actual verses of the chapter and explanation of the part
- Make sure to use the maps and the intro info [from lesson1] for all the upcoming lessons as reminder.
- **Attention glitter** is an ice breaker and intro to the lesson, use your discretion for age appropriation; if it does not suit your class age try tweaking it a bit to fit
- There are **activities and crafts**; they are meant to engage the class and have them pay more attention; use your discretion for age appropriation; if it does not suit your class age try tweaking it a bit to fit
- Announce the **Lesson goal** and have the kids point out where is the goal in the passages you read together.
- There are video resources/ games resources at the intro [from lesson1] make sure to incorporate some for each lesson.
- Questions and assignment at the end: you don't need to do all of them, but you can use them either during class for checking on comprehension/ or at the beginning of the next class for revision/ as a home work or at the end of the book as a competition assignment with rewards.

	Part	Chapters
2	The banquet of Queen Esther	3 - 7

Chapter outline:

1- Esther goes in to the king	Verses 1 - 2
2- Esther invites the king and Haman to her banquet	Verses 3-8
3- Haman had the gallows made for Mordecai	Verses 9 – 14

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 11:29

“He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will be the servant to the wise of heart.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

One “Have a Feast” template for each youth/child in your class, gray cardstock, glue, scissors, construction paper, glitter, sequins or small paper shapes, and assorted magazines to cut out food items.

A chalkboard and chalk (or dry erase board and dry erase markers).

A vegetable tray with dip.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Lookout!

Choose two children/youth. One will be the “inside,” and the other will be the “outside.” Have the remainder of the children/youth form a circle and lock arms. The “inside” child will stand in the middle of the circle. The “outside” child will be outside of the circle. The object is for the outside child to try to tag the inside child. The job for the children in the circle is to protect the inside child. You can say go and give a limited amount of time. Give other children the opportunity to be the inside and the outside child.

Overview of the Chapter:

Today we are going to learn about a very evil man named Haman. He hated Mordecai and wanted to kill him along with all of the Israelites. But God had a plan to protect His people. The Bible says that our enemy is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). But with God’s help and the help of our brothers and sisters we can be protected from the attack of the enemy. Compare the game just played to this truth. The lion is the one on the outside trying to attack the one on the inside. By staying together, praying for one another, and putting on the full armor of God, we can be protected from the attacks of the enemy.

LESSON TIME!

Lesson Goal: Wisdom has built her house [just like Esther] while Anger and hatred can destroy us. [Like Haman]

Wicked Haman had allowed his anger to consume him. Furious that Mordecai would not bow to him, he pursued a plot to have not only Mordecai killed, but all those who worshipped his God. Haman had persuaded the king to issue a decree for the destruction of the Jewish people on a certain day. God’s people were threatened with annihilation! Only days remained.

How foolish was Haman to allow his anger, hatred, and pride to govern his actions. Though he felt he would encounter little resistance from God’s people, he was contending with the almighty God—the protector of Israel [His People].

God was working behind the scenes on behalf of His people. Esther, a young Jewish girl, the cousin of Mordecai, had become queen of Persia. She was in the right place at the right time. After her, her maidens, and all the Jewish people fasted and prayed, Esther determined to come before the king, though, as an uninvited guest, she endangered her very life if the king was not pleased by the surprise visit. If her approach was acceptable, the king would raise his golden scepter.

Esther 5:1-8

Esther's Banquet

5 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on *her* royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the ^ahouse. **2** So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, *that* she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that *was* in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

3 And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What *is* your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!"

4 So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

6 At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, "What *is* your petition? It shall be granted you. What *is* your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

7 Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and request *is this*: **8** If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

After the three days of fasting and prayer, the time had come for Esther to go to the king. What relief she must have felt when the king held out his scepter—the sign that she was welcome to come into his presence.

The king told Esther that she could ask for anything she wanted; even up to half of his kingdom! God had given Esther a great amount of favor with the king. Esther may have thought she could ask the king for her petition right then and there, but she had a plan. She asked the king and his "right-hand man," Haman, to come to a nice dinner in his honor. At that time, she would tell the king of her request.

King Ahasuerus had a very nice time at the banquet. He asked Esther again to voice her request. Once more she delayed; she asked that the king and Haman come back the next day for another banquet.

From Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty:

The annex to the book of Esther presents to us a magnificent, detailed portrait of Esther's encounter with the king. (Chapter 15); It mentions that, after she took off the sackcloth in which she had worshipped, and arrayed herself in splendid attire, she invoked the aid of the all-seeing God and Savior.

It is as though she proclaims that, for His sake, she took off the sackcloth, and for his sake she put on the attire of glory, and that, without Him she would never set forth to act. She invoked Him, not only to accompany her, but to be in her heart, and to speak on her tongue; and even to let her hide in Him when He aims His arrows toward the king's heart, to turn it from cruelty to love.

She invoked God, the Savior of all, having known that *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes"* (Proverb 21: 1).

[Discussion Question]

Why did Esther delay her Request?

When Esther came to the palace the king informed her that he will give her up to half of the kingdom; yet she did not ask her petition on behalf of her people.

And again, after the banquet the king asked her what was her petition and again, she delayed till next day? What was the reason

- *Ask the young youth / Children and see if they can reach the answer. If not; here is the answer:*

- 1- A wisdom that was given to her from God
- 2- She was wise enough not to ask the 1st time so that the king would not investigate and her secret that she is a Jew would be revealed; giving Haman the chance to complain against the Jew before Esther gets the chance to please the king with her banquet
- 3- So that the king would not think that she is abusing his love; she wanted to present her love and care first.
- 4- Delay was part of God's plan and wisdom so that Haman's evil would be completed by making a cross for Mordecai to crucify him
- 5- Also, in God's plan as we will learn later that the king would not be able to sleep and would bring his records to review to discover the favor of Mordecai and decides to reward him.

Remember: **Wisdom has built her house** [just like Esther] while **Anger and hatred can destroy us.** [Like Haman]

Applicable Lesson:

Be patient, don't rush God's plan, be wise in waiting for the Lords; He arranged everything in His wisdom to be done at the right time and the right place. Don't be angry with God when things don't go as per your plan; He is always having the ultimate plan for your Good and Salvation.

Craft: [Use if suitable to the age group you are serving]

Have a Feast

For this craft, you will need one “Have a Feast” template for each child in your class, gray cardstock, glue, scissors, construction paper, glitter, sequins or small paper shapes, and assorted magazines to cut out food items.

Copy the platter template onto gray cardstock to resemble a silver platter. Have the children/youth cut out the platter and use glue and construction paper, glitter, sequins or small paper shapes to decorate the platter. Allow enough space for the children to write, “God used Esther to save His people.” Next, using magazine cutouts allow the children to find food items to cut out and glue onto their platter. Have them take their platters home to remind them how that God used Esther to stop Haman’s wicked plan.

Esther 5:9-13

Haman’s Plot Against Mordecai

⁹ So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai. ¹⁰ Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh. ¹¹ Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.

¹² Moreover Haman said, “Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king. ¹³ Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.”

The Bible says that Haman went out with a joyful and glad heart. He was glorying in his wealth, his possessions, and his power. He was the second most important guy—or so he thought—in the kingdom. With his great power and influence, he was even able to get the king to issue a decree to destroy those that irritated him!

But, when he left the banquet and saw Mordecai, all of his joy was immediately dissipated! He could not enjoy his power, wealth, and prestige; for there was Mordecai, the Jew, refusing to tremble (or be afraid) before him. Mordecai did not even stand up when Haman passed by. The Bible says Haman was filled with indignation. He was consumed with anger toward Mordecai.

Haman restrained himself and went home to the company of his wife and friends. Haman boasted of his importance, his power, possessions, and wealth, and even his invitation to

the Queen's Banquet; then he shared his dilemma. All these things gave him no joy as long as Mordecai the Jew sat at the king's gate.

As the most important person in the kingdom of Persia, except for the king himself, Haman seemed to be on top of the world; yet he was, likely, the most miserable man in the kingdom; for **consumed with hatred**, he had no ability to enjoy his power, prestige, and wealth. How sad! One could seem to have everything, yet be miserable. Proverbs 13:7 states, "There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches." True riches are to be found in a right relationship with God. Wisdom has built her house [just like Esther] while **Anger and hatred can destroy us.** [Like Haman]

[Discussion Question]

What was Haman's Sin?

Haman had wealth and power; yet he was not happy, was filled with anger and Hatred; he reminds us with king Ahab who was angry because he did not get Naboth's field; even though he had the whole Kingdom; but what was the real reason?

- *Ask the young youth / Children and see if they can reach the answer. If not; here is the answer:*
- Haman's sin was pride.
- The lack of true relationship with God was a main reason for Haman's heart to be filled with Pride
- The heart of the proud does not get enough of glory; the Pride will lead to other sins; such as hatred, planning evil actions; trying to kill [planning to kill Haman], it may go beyond that to destroy the people of the person he hated [the Jew]
- Because of his pride; he made himself the center of everything and that all the world revolves around him; as long as Mordecai does not give him the praise and the pride he wanted he lost all enjoyment and felt as if he should take revenge of Mordecai and his people; sin is really very sinful and pride is the origin of so many evil things.

Applicable Lesson:

Sit in a quiet time, pray; examine yourself; have you been angry at your friends or people you may know because they have not given you the respect you think you should get?

Have you been thinking that the world revolves and evolves around you and that you are the center of everything? Have you been fighting with your friends over little things and causing yourself to be angry?

Pray that God would purify and cleanse you, Pray that you would be humble; run to your father in confession, repent and seek guidance of how to be humble and to rebuke the pride sin.

Esther 5:14

¹⁴ Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made

The bad Effect of the Company around you:

Haman's family and friends certainly did not encourage him towards righteousness. Instead, they gave him ideas on how to express his anger—a 75-foot gallows could be built in order to hang Mordecai. Perhaps, his family and friends wanted to be on Haman's good side, so they could share in his power and influence.

Warning! Be careful in choosing friends. They can encourage you to righteousness, or they can encourage you to evil. What kind of friend would encourage you on a path that would destroy you? Godly friends will correct you when you are acting wrongly. Consider these scriptures in Proverbs: "Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Proverbs 27:5, 6).

Haman really liked the idea his family and friends had given him! It made him feel good about himself and much better to imagine the world without Mordecai refusing to bow down to him. His sin caused him to lose all perspective. The gallows were built on his property in one night. He could not wait to get Mordecai out of his life.

The Effect of anger, jealousy, and hatred:

Haman was so filled with hate that it led him to consider murder. In Genesis 4, we see another story about anger, jealousy, and hatred--the story of Cain and Abel. Do you remember this story? Cain became angry because God accepted Abel's sacrifice and not his own. Abel's sacrifice came from his heart and was according to God's instructions. But Cain wanted God to accept the sacrifice made from his hands. He wanted God to be impressed with what he had done. In Genesis 4:7 the Lord said to Cain, "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." How Haman needed to heed this same message; for sin certainly was crouching at his door!

Applicable Lesson:

It is a good thing to learn from the mistakes and bad choices of others. Let us not, as Haman, allow pride, anger, and hatred to consume us. The Bible warns us not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to. Pride can destroy us. Bitterness, anger, and hatred can destroy us—they can assume control of our lives. If we are wronged, we must forgive (Colossians 3:13). (See, also, Ephesians 4:26,27.) We must not allow sin to crouch at our door and threaten our destruction. As Christians, we are exhorted, "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31). **Wisdom has built her house [just like Esther] while Anger**

and hatred can destroy us. [Like Haman]

“Haman” Activity/ Game:

Hangman

Before class, pick out some words that are found in Esther 5:9-14. Use words to describe Haman’s character. For example: pride, wealth, honor, anger, elevated, etc.

Use these words to allow the children/young youth to play a game of Hangman. Split your class into three groups of 5 or 6 children. Decide which child from each group will be the ones giving the words. Tell them three words from your list. The other four or five children will guess. You will have three games going on at the same time. This will allow everyone to get a turn within a short period of time. You can do this on the chalk or dry erase board, or have the children use paper.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of contemplation to guard their hearts against bitterness, anger, and hatred and to be ready to forgive when they are wronged just as Christ forgave them.

CHAPTER 5 Questions:

1. When Esther went before the king, what did she request?
 - a) the presence of the king and Haman at a banquet
 - b) the Jews' safe exit from the land
 - c) the protection of the king's guard

2. Zeresh, Haman’s wife told Haman he should:
 - a) Throw Mordecai in prison
 - b) build gallows to hang Mordecai
 - c) let the guards kill Mordecai
3. When Esther went to the king and he held out to her the golden scepter that meant:
 - a) She will be beheaded
 - b) She will live and can speak to him
 - c) She must be punished.

Application Questions

What does Esther 5:15-16 teach us about the importance of our witness for Christ?

What can we learn from Esther 5:13-14 about the power of God's providence?

What does Esther 5:11-12 teach us about the importance of God's timing?

What does Esther 5:6-8 teach us about the importance of obedience?

What can we learn from Esther 5:4-5 about the power of God's Word?

What can we learn from Esther 5:9-10 about the power of God's protection?

How can we learn from Esther 5:3 to be bolder in our prayers?

What does Esther 5:1-2 teach us about approaching God with our requests?

Exegetical Questions

What is the irony in Haman's plan to honor Mordecai?

What is the significance of Esther's fasting?

How does Mordecai's promotion illustrate God's justice?

What does Esther's request to the king reveal about her?

What is the meaning of Esther's statement, "If I have found favor in your eyes, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for another five months"?

What can we learn from Esther's humility in the face of her new position?

What does Esther's courageous stand teach us about being faithful to God?

How is Mordecai's deliverance from Haman's plot an example of God's providence?

Observation Questions

Who does Haman encounter as he walks down the palace street in Esther 5:9?

Who does Haman consult with about his plans for Mordecai in Esther 5:14?

How does Haman react to Mordecai's words in Esther 5:11-12?

When does Haman plan to carry out his plans for Mordecai in Esther 5:14?

What does Mordecai tell Haman in Esther 5:10?

What does Esther request of the King in Esther 5:3?

What are Haman's plans for Mordecai in Esther 5:14?

What is the King's response to Esther's request in Esther 5:4-5?

Group Discussion Questions

What was Esther's plan for dealing with the king's decree to kill all the Jews?

How do you think Haman's anger affected his decision making?

What would you have done if you were Esther and had just found out that you were chosen to be the queen?

How do you think Esther's fast and prayer helped her in her plan?

Why do you think Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman?

Why do you think Esther went to the king even though she knew it was against the law, and she could be put to death?

What do you think would have happened if Esther had not gone to the king?

What do you think the outcome of the story would have been if Esther had not intervened?

Assignments on Esther 5

Please read Esther 5 and answer the following questions.

1. Why would it have been hard for Esther to seek an audience with the king?
2. **Application:** List some admirable qualities we can observe in Esther.
3. What did the king do when Esther stood before him? What promise did he make her—5:1-3? (Think: Do all the bad things we anticipate really come to pass?)
4. What was Esther's first request – 5:4? (Think: Why might she have done this instead of just making her ultimate request?)
5. **Special Assignment:** What harmful methods did Esther avoid that some wives sometimes use to get their way with their husbands?
6. How did the king respond to Esther's request? What did he say at her banquet— 5:5,6?
7. What request did she make then – 5:7,8? (Think: Would you have been as patient as Esther was in getting to the point?)
8. How did Haman feel as he left the banquet? What upset him as he went home – 5:9? (Think: Why might Esther have invited Haman to the banquets?)
9. What did Haman brag about when he got home? What still upset him – 5:10-13?
10. What did his inner circle advise him to do? How did he respond – 5:14?
11. **Application:** Describe several characteristics of Haman that we should avoid.

