



**Book of Esther/ Lesson 6
Mordecai Is Honored**

Mordecai Is Honored

Esther 6:1-14

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 gritter** 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- The king remembers what Mordecai has done	Verses 1 - 3
2- The king seeks Haman's counsel	Verses 4-9
3- Haman falls down before Mordecai	Verses 10-11
4- The collapse of Haman	Verses 12-24

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 16:18

“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A nametag for each child/ young youth in your class and one small ball.Masking tape.
- Yellow/gold and purple construction paper, markers, stickers,sequins and/or craft precious stones.

ATTENTION GETTER!

A Moment of Honor Game

This game will be a great way for the children in your class to get to know one another as well as be introduced to the lesson today.

You will need a nametag for each child in your class. Have all of the children sit in a

circle. Choose one child to stand in the middle. The servant will begin by calling out the name of one of the children sitting in the circle. That child is to name their favorite Bible hero [biblical character that he admires] and then call out someone else's name. But this has to be done before the child in the center tags them. The child speaking must remain seated. The catch is that they must say their favorite Bible character before they get tagged. If the child from the center tags the child called on before they say their favorite Bible character then that child becomes the center child and the center child will take that person's place.

Rotate so everyone has a turn to speak. Optional: To spice it up a bit, you could have a small ball for the children to pass around as they call out the names. This will also help the center person to pinpoint quicker who to tag if they are finding it difficult. It's fun when it's our turn. **We all enjoy a chance to be noticed and heard. In today's lesson, someone will have his turn to be honored.**

LESSON TIME!

Lesson Goal: Pride goes before a fall.

The main Goal of this Lesson is the consequences of Pride and how it would make you fall

Review of previous lessons:

Do you remember our lesson last week? Proud Haman, carried away by his anger with Mordecai the Jew — the man who would not bow to him — built a gallows 75 feet high. Will Mordecai hang on that gallows? And, what about the Jewish people? Remember, Haman had persuaded the king to sign a decree that all the Jewish people be destroyed on a certain day. It did not look good. Yet, **God is the defender of His people**, and the story will continue to unfold.

Remember, from a previous lesson, Mordecai had heard of a plot to kill the king and had taken immediate action to warn him. Mordecai asked for no reward for his deed, and no reward was given. The matter seemed to have been forgotten. However, one night the king could not sleep, and he asked that the "records of the chronicles" (a sort of daily journal or history of the kingdom) be read before him.

Esther 6:1-3

The king remembers what Mordecai has done

6 That night ¹the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. ² And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ³ Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

God's plan to save His people is being revealed now;

Haman filled with Anger had the king issue a decree to kill all Jews;

Esther and her people have been praying and fasting; she invited the king to her banquet without revealing her petition yet

Haman made a gallows to hang Mordecai on it and even though that was made in one night and probably Haman was excited about it spent the night supervising and seeing the making of it; he still wake up and headed to the palace to proceed with his plan to have Mordecai Killed At this point Evil had already been at its peak.

How would God Save Mordecai now that Haman is rushing to kill him?

God made the king unable to sleep that night; That was God's work; so the king asked for his kingdom records to be read to him that night maybe that would entertain him till he feels sleepy;

When the record was read to the king, he wanted to know how Mordecai had been rewarded for his loyalty and action to protect him.

Though it may have seemed Mordecai's good deed would go unnoticed by man, God saw everything. God does not forget the actions of the upright in heart. Though no one else may observe our heart-felt labors or good deeds, **God will reward us in His time and way.**

Esther 6:4-5

The king seeks Haman's counsel

⁴ So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had *just* entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. ⁵ The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

When the king learned that Mordecai had not been rewarded at all, he wanted to know who was in the court. He probably wanted to consult his leaders to see what could be done—"what honor or dignity" could be bestowed upon Mordecai?

Haman "just happened" to be in the king's court. He had come to ask the king's permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had built. The king ordered the attendants to bring Haman in.

Do these events seem planned? Haman, filled with pride and love for himself, had come in to the court to present his selfish request to the king—to see Mordecai hung on the gallows he had built. The king also had Mordecai on his mind at just that time, but for quite a different reason. **Our God is awesome and able to deliver us!**

Esther 6:6

The king seeks Haman's counsel

⁶ So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"

When Haman came into the court, the king asked Haman's opinion on what would be a good reward for someone who pleases the king—"...The man the king delights to honor." Naturally, Haman thought the king was referring to him. Captive to his own pride, Haman always thought of himself; As a result of the pride sin; he thought that everything is about him and revolves around him. Who else would the king be so pleased with and desire to honor? *Pride goes before a fall.*

Esther 6:7-9

The king seeks Haman's counsel

⁷ And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, ⁸ let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal ^acrest placed on its head. ⁹ Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then ^bparade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'

Since Haman thought the honor was to be his, he suggested that this person wear the king's clothes, ride the king's horse, and be led through the city, proclaiming how the king honors those who please him. Imagining himself as the one being honored; Haman loved this plan! This would show everyone how important he really was. Little did Haman know that one he most despised, Mordecai, was the one the king had determined to honor.

Pride goes before a fall.

In the pride of his heart, thinking that there is no man worthy to be honored more than him, he exaggerated in his suggestion, and did not perceive that: "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*" (Proverb 16: 18); and, "*When pride comes, then comes shame, but with the humble is wisdom*" (Proverb 11: 2); And according to **father (Mar) Ephraim the Syrian**: [The temporal glory is like a rock hidden in the sea, not known to the sailor before his ship crashes into it, its bottom torn off. And water gushes in to sink it]

Honor Race Game [optional]

The objective of this game is for the children/young youth to work together as a team and honor others. They will have a race without dropping their passenger.

Have the children/young youth divide into teams of three children. Have them make a "human pyramid." Do this by having the two largest children get on their hands and knees and the lightest as a passenger on their back. Have all of the teams line up together in their pyramids. When you say "go" see who can get to the finishline first (set a finish line with masking tape prior to starting).

You can race a few times and have the winners serve the others in the class in some way. Be careful not to let this game get too wild, since someone could get hurt.

Esther 6:10

Haman falls down before Mordecai

¹⁰ Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

Much to Haman's surprise and dismay, the person to be honored was Mordecai, the very one he was seeking the king's permission to hang on his gallows. To make matters worse, the king ordered Haman to be the one to lead Mordecai through the streets and honor him in the manner that Haman had suggested.

Can you imagine? After all of the evil that Haman had planned for Mordecai in his heart, he now must honor Mordecai! God had certainly turned the tables! Could God have been trying to teach Haman a lesson about pride and humility? **Pride goes before a fall.**

If Haman could not endure Mordecai on account of his race, and his reference to God; Here the king glorifies and honors him, calling him "**the Jew**", a fact the king probably knew through his investigation concerning his reward, Notice that God is giving credit to the Jew and Mordecai being one of them; that is part of God's plan to save His people.

How amazing! ... Abasing himself, Mordecai was lifted up by the king to an exalted honor; while, having his heart haughty with pride, Haman fell underneath Mordecai's feet... For the sake of his brethren, to save their life, and to turn the dark day of their perdition into the joyful feast of 'Purim', Mordecai abased himself, to be exalted. While Haman, on the other hand, through the evil counsel of his wife and friends, got proud, to fall down and perish, together with all his household.

Esther 6:11-12

¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!" ¹² Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

So, Haman got the robes, the horse, and led Mordecai through the streets, calling out to everyone that this is how the king honors those who please him. Haman returned home, humbled, embarrassed, and very upset. Does it make you wonder how enthusiastic he was as he gave his proclamation?

Mordecai refers to the soul, glorified in the Lord, victorious by the Holy Spirit, setting forth to heaven (the King's house), as though her own house; whereas the **wicked soul**, fallen down like **Haman**, would not go back to the paradisiacal life, but would hasten to her own house, namely, to the 'ego', to live her life self-centered, filled with sorrow and shame, with her head covered, and with a veil on her mind, that keep it from beholding the divinities, seeing the heavenlies, and soaring in the eternities..

What did "Covering the head" indicate for men indicate at that time?

Covering the head for men has been a sign of great sorrow and shame.

When David escaped from Jerusalem before his son Absalom, "he wept, and had his head covered and went barefoot. And all the people who were with him covered their heads" (2 Samuel 15: 30). And "when the nobles of Judah went to the cisterns, found no water, and returned with their vessels empty, they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads" (Jeremiah 14: 3).

Esther 6:13

¹³ When Haman told his wife Zereesh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zereesh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."

When he returned home and told his wife, friends, and advisors what had happened to him, their tone was quite different. It did not look so good for Haman, now. It looked as though his evil plan could backfire on him.

He was now in a very tough spot. How could he ask the king to kill Mordecai, now, after the king had honored him? Things were about to get even worse for Haman! **Pride goes before a fall.**

by which they prophesied what will dwell on him, or probably perceived that what happened was not a matter of coincidence, but was realized by a hidden hand; hence they could not offer him any word of encouragement or hope. It so seems that their words destroyed his will, and made him reluctant to

go to the banquet of Esther; for it is written: "While they were still talking with him, the king's Eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther has prepared" (14).

Esther 6:14

¹⁴ While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

While Haman's wife and friends were giving him advice, the king's men came to pick him up for the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Haman was a proud man—he felt the world revolved around him. Indeed, he had a position of great power and prestige. He loved the praise of men as they acknowledged his greatness. Mordecai, the Jew, honored God above any man and would not bow as Haman passed by. Consumed by his pride, anger, and hatred, Haman sought to destroy Mordecai and all the people who worshipped his God.

But, Haman's wicked deeds are turning on him. How foolish Haman was! As it says in Proverbs 16:18: "*Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.*"

Haman went to the banquet with a spirit far different from that when he received the invitation the day before; he went to it like a lamb taken to the slaughter. Yes indeed, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hand of the living God" (Hebrew 10: 31); And as the psalmist says: "The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; in the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. The Lord is known for the judgment He executes. The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands" (Psalm 9: 15, 16).

May we be cautious and guard our lives against pride, anger, hatred, bitterness—the things God hates. It is not a wise thing for one to be at odds with God, especially when you consider, God desires we have a meaningful, fruitful, abundant life as we yield to Him. A life dominated by our fleshly nature, centered on ourselves, will only bring us misery. Haman was miserable. Even when it seemed he had it all, he could not be satisfied because one little person would not bow. Now, he will reap the consequences of his self-centered life. *Pride goes before a fall.*

The Bible says God sees everything. He saw the situation of Mordecai and His people. God protected Mordecai from Haman's wicked plot and God will protect the Jewish people. God also saw Haman and observed his ways. Psalm 18:27 states, "*For You will save the humble people, but will bring down haughty looks.*"

The Royal Crest [Craft] Do as appropriate for the age you serve:

In Esther 6:8 we see Haman's idea to honor the one who pleases the king. One of the things he states is that there should be a royal crest placed on the horse's head to signify that this was a royal procession. The king that we serve is Jesus, and we are subjects in His kingdom. To help us always remember, we will make a royal crest.

You will need yellow/gold and purple construction paper. Allow the children to get as creative as they want to. The crest should be round and using markers they can write

What did the king do to Haman after learning of his plot against the Jews?

What was the purpose of the second banquet Esther prepared for the king and Haman?

What does it mean that Esther spoke to the king "as was her custom"?

Observation Questions

What does Esther's intercession for Mordecai in Esther 6:7-9 symbolize?

What does Haman's speakers to his wife in Esther 6:13 reveal about his character?

What is the significance of Mordecai's being allowed to sit on the king's horse in Esther 6:11?

How does Esther's banquet in Esther 6:14 foreshadow her coming revelation of Haman's plot in Esther 7?

What is the symbolic meaning of the gallows Haman has prepared for Mordecai in Esther 6:14?

What does Haman's plot against Mordecai symbolize in Esther 6:2-6?

What is the Significance of Mordecai refusing to bow to Haman in Esther 6:10-11?

What does Mordecai's clothing symbolize in Esther 6:1?

Group Discussion Questions

What does it mean to trust in the Lord? (6:14)

What does it mean to have Reverence for God? (6:3)

What would you have done in Esther's position? (6:4-5)

How does Esther's boldness save the lives of her people? (6:14)

How does Esther show humility before Mordecai? (6:4-5)

What can we learn from Mordecai's character? (6:10)

How does Haman's anger towards Mordecai lead to his downfall? (6:12-13)

How does God's timing save the day? (6:1)

Assignments on Esther 6

Please read Esther 6 and answer the following questions.

1. What problem did the king have that night? What did he do as a result – 6:1?

2. What did he learn about – 6:2? How would this relate to Haman's claim that the Jews were of no profit to the king?

3. What question did the king ask, and what was the answer – 6:3?
4. Who had come during the meantime? What did the king ask him – 6:4-6?
5. Whom did Haman think the king would honor? What does this show about him?
6. Describe the honor Haman suggested be given – 6:7-9.
7. What command did the king then give? Who led the horse – 6:10,11?
8. Explain how this outcome differed from Haman's plans that day.
9. How did Haman return home? What did he tell his wife and friends – 6:12,13?
10. What did his friends conclude? (Think: What does this show about the friends?)
11. What summons did Haman then receive – 6:14