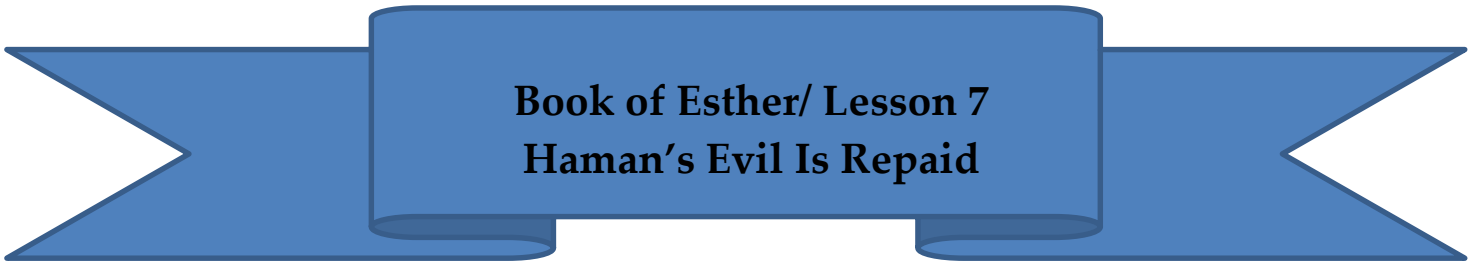


Haman's Evil Is Repaid

Esther 7:1-10

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 and Haman drink wine together	Verses 1
2- Esther finds favor in the king's sight	Verses 2-4
3- The wicked Haman exposed	Verses 5-6
4- Haman's humiliation before Esther	Verses 7-8
5- Haman crucified	Verses 9 – 10

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 12:21

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A pair of socks or two pieces of cloth to be used for two blindfolds.

As many cornucopia templates as needed for the children in your class, construction paper (various colors), glue sticks, and markers.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Where's My Shoes?

Divide the class into two teams. Sit on opposite sides of the room. Have everyone take off

their shoes and pile their shoes in the center of the room. Let the two teams mix them together. Have the two teams go back, sit down together, and close their eyes. Have them count to 25 slowly.

While they are counting and have their eyes closed, mix up and hide their shoes (in trash can, outside classroom, under chairs, etc.). After they have counted to 25 say, "Go!" and allow them to find their own shoes and put them on. The first team to have all their own shoes on, laced or buckled up wins.

Lesson Goal:

God worked everything out for good / God can turn trials into triumphs

Today, we are going to learn that the Lord can turn trials into triumphs. He can take something messed up and bring order to it, like our shoe activity. We do not know what it was like to walk in Esther and Mordecai's shoes, but we know they had to trust theLord through a very difficult time. God worked everything out for good, and He will do the same in our lives.

LESSON TIME!

Previous Events review:

The story of Esther is amazing. For throughout the story, we see the hand of God working, behind the scenes, to deliver His people in their great time of need. Do you remember the story? Wicked Haman, angry at Mordecai, the Jew, who would not bow to honor him, convinced the King of Persia to sign a decree that would annihilate Mordecai and all the Jewish people on a certain day. Still discontent to see Mordecai not bowing, he determined to hang Mordecai on a 75-foot gallows he had prepared—all he needed was the king's permission.

But even as Haman sought permission to carry out his evil deed, aservant was reading the king the "records of the chronicles." Reminded that Mordecai had saved his life, the king desired to honor Mordecai. Haman began to see the tables turning on him. How could he ask the king's permission to hang a man the king commanded to honor? As God moved to protect Mordecai and theJewish people, things would get even worse for proud Haman.

Remember Esther, the cousin of Mordecai, who had become the Queen of Persia? Mordecai had called upon Esther to entreat the king on behalf of her people. He encouraged her, "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). Esther knew to approach the king without invitation could endanger her very life; yet after prayer and fasting, Esther determined to go to the king onbehalf of her people.

The king received Esther's approach. Esther invited the king and Haman to a banquet, then another banquet. **At this second banquet**, she is ready to entreat the king. The king will be quite surprised to find his queen is a Jew. Haman will be surprised, too!
Again, at the second banquet Esther prepared, the king asked Estherfor her petition and promised her it would be granted. At this time, Esther boldly entreated the king for her own life and the life of her people.

Esther 7:1-4

Haman Hanged Instead of Mordecai

7 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. **2** And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What *is* your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what *is* your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

3 Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. **4** For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

[Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty] Contemplating on:

God's granting our requests/ calling us by name/ Our position at God's heart as sons and daughters of the KING

Having entered to the banquet, and drank from Esther's love for him, he said to her: "***What is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half my kingdom, it shall be done***" (2). **He calls her by her name**, and asks her to seek, up to half his kingdom; counting her a partner in his glory. At the same time, **he calls her "queen",** to remind her of her royal stature, which gives her the right to seek with boldness, to gain the king's heart, and his glory.
These are the same feelings of God toward every soul, He calls her by name, as His own bride, and calls her a queen, "*to come boldly to the throne of grace*" (Hebrew 4: 16); He requests from her to make him happy by asking from Him, up to half His kingdom. That is why the Lord instigated His disciple, saying: "*Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full*" (John 16: 24).

What would we ask for:
God longs to hear every soul ask Him, to receive; For He intend to grant her even Himself, to make her a heir who enjoys the fellowship of His glories. Before such exalted divine love, what would the church or the human soul, as a member in the church, ask for? She, like Esther, will not ask for wealth, honor, nor earthly blessings, but will ask for the sake of her salvation, and that of her brethren; saying: "***If I have found favor in Your….. etc***

Here, Esther is shown as a true mother, who embraces in love all her brethren, works and seeks for their sake.

With the same spirit, **St. John Chrysostom** says: [Nothing could make man like Christ, like his care for his brethren[1]]; and: [I cannot believe that there is salvation for him who does not work for the sake of his brethren[2]]; and: [Nothing is as worthless as a Christian who does not care for the salvation of others … Everyone is able to help his neighbor, even with just his good will, if he has nothing to offer…. If you claim to be a Christian, and do nothing to help others, your words would be contradictory, like saying that the sun cannot give light[3]]

Trust and Twirl [game]

Goal of the game: what it means to trust in the Lord even when we cannot "see" what He may be doing.

Queen Esther learned that she had to trust in the Lord even when she did not understand what He was going to do. This game will help us to always remember to trust in the Lord.

You will need a pair of socks or two pieces of cloth to form two blindfolds. Choose children/young youth who want to form two pairs. Give a blindfold to each pair. One partner of the pair will need to wear a blindfold (Let the pairs decide who is to be blindfolded first). Only one partner is to be blindfolded. Give one blindfold to each pairand have them put them on. Only two pairs of children will race at a time.

Next, have both children/young youth in each pair stand back-to-back. Then have them link arms and line up at one end of your meeting room. Tell partners that on "Go," they must race to the opposite wall andback by spinning around in circles. Tell the seeing partners that they're responsible for the welfare of their blindfolded partners. Have them race to the other end of the room. Switch blindfolds and race again. Allow a turn to other pairs of children who would like to race. **Talk to the class about what it means to trust in the Lord even when we cannot "see" what He may be doing.**

Esther 7:5-6

5 So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!"

So, Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

Astonished, the king questioned, "Who would dare murder his queen and her people?" Esther quickly identified "wicked" Haman as the "adversary and enemy." The king, now, realized Esther, his queen, was a Jew, condemned to die under Haman's crusade to kill the Jews (Esther 2:10, 3:8-9).

Haman's wicked plot to destroy Mordecai and the Jews had turned against him. He stood before the king and queen terrified. He had nowhere to run, nowhere to hide.

Esther 7:7-8

[7] Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine *and went* into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. [8] When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther *was*. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I *am* in the house?"

As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Overwhelmed by Esther's revelation and no doubt filled with anger, the king now went outside to his palace garden. Persuaded by Haman, the king had made a decree to destroy the Jewish peopleon a certain day. Once a king makes a decree, it cannot be reversed or changed. It becomes law! Queen Esther was special to the king and the thought of her now under his own edict, sentenced to be killed, must have broken his heart.

While the king strolled the palace garden, Haman began to beg Esther to spare his life, "for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king." How quickly the tables can turn on the wicked!

Haman filled with fear for his life and wanting to plead to the queen to spare him, he fell on the couch when Queen Esther humiliating himself to beg for forgiveness, perhaps because his fear andemotions had overcome him, perhaps also because he had indulged himself in the wine at the banquet and could not keep good balance. It was not good timing for Haman; for at just that moment, the king walked back in. Disgusted with Haman's actions that are empty from every wisdom, the king accused Haman of assaulting the queen. Haman was now a doomed man, suffering the consequences of his wicked heart.

[From Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty] What the king said: "'Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?'", proclaims how God sees in the true Haman, namely, the devil, who enters into the heart of the believer to confiscate the soul from God's hand and bosom; like Haman who seemed intending to draw Esther from the king's bosom, and rape her! … **God is a jealous God, who would not endure to see the enemy enter into His house, and take away by force His bride from His hands!**

Esther 7:9-10

[9] Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"

[10] So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

Harbonah, one of the king's seven eunuchs (Esther 1:10), wasted notime in telling the king about the gallows which Haman had built during the previous night to kill Mordecai, the man who the king had just honored for saving his life (Esther 5:14). Without any hesitation, the king ordered Haman to be taken and hung on the gallows he had built for Mordecai.

Proud Haman would be hung on the gallows he built in his anger and hatred of Mordecai. Proverbs 26:27 warns, "Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him."

God had seen the desperate situation of Mordecai and His people. God had seen the wickedness of Haman—his pride, anger, and hatred. As the story in Esther comes to a close, we see that it was God who orchestrated the events that transpired. God's hand was upon Esther as she was chosen Queen of Persia. She was in the right place at the right time to be an instrument in God's hands. God's hand was on Mordecai as he revealed a plot that saved the king's life and was, later, remembered by the king at just the right time—the very time Haman intended to ask permission to hang Mordecai.

Our **God can turn trials into triumphs.** No matter our circumstances, we can go to God in prayer, and He will help.

How will you respond when a **trial** comes your way?

Will you realize God is in control, even if the situation seems "out of control?" Will you trust He is working all things together for His good purposes though you may not see it at the time (Romans 8:28). No difficultyis insurmountable to God, and no weapon formed against you will prosper. *[have a quick discussion with your young youth]*

Wicked Haman is no longer a threat. Yet, what about the king's decree to destroy all the Jews?

If it is a law that cannot be changed,how will God work that out? Do you think He will? Our lesson continues next week.

Cornucopia of the Spirit [Craft/ age appropriation discretion] :

Using the templates enclosed with the curriculum make cornucopias filled with the fruit of the Spirit. In today's lesson, welearned that Haman's pride and hatred ended up destroying him. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit so we do not do the works of the flesh. This craft will help us to remember the fruit of the Spirit.

You will need the templates provided with the curriculum, construction paper (various colors), glue stick, and markers. Pass out a "cornucopia" template to each child, use construction paperor paper scraps to make nine different kinds of fruit. List a fruit of the Spirit on each fruit that is cut out. Refer to Galatians 5:22-23. Glue the cornucopia onto a sheet of construction paper and thenglue the fruit onto the cornucopia. Write "The Fruit of the Spirit" on the outside of the cornucopia or on the construction paper background.

PRAYER

Lead the youth in a prayer of thanksgiving that God turns our trials into triumphs. Ask the youth to share any specific trials that they may be experiencing and pray for those situations.

General discussion ideas

Discuss the Virtues/Values learned [review discussion on all]:

Prayer and fasting [Esther. Mordecai and her people]
Being Faithful to God and your faith' refusing to bow down to evil and save yourself [Like Mordecai]
Pride before fall [Haman]
Trust in God; He is in control, and He will protect His people
God has His timing and plan; be patient.

CHAPTER 7 questions:

1. When Esther revealed Haman's plan for destroying her people to the king, Haman:
a) Begged Esther for his life b) threatened to kill Esther
c) asked God for forgiveness
2. What was the king's punishment to Haman?
a) He forgave him b) he was hung on the gallows c) he was cast into prison

Application Questions

What can I learn from Esther about being a good leader?

What can I learn from Esther about being brave in the face of adversity?

What can I learn from Esther about being humble?

What can I learn from Esther about being a good wife?

What can I learn from Esther about being thankful for what I have?

What can I learn from Esther about having faith even when things look hopeless?

What can I learn from Esther about standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult?

What can I learn from Esther about trusting God?

Exegetical Questions

How does Mordecai's position change by the end of the story?

Why does Haman want to kill all the Jews?

What is the irony in Haman's death?

What is the meaning of the gallows that Haman had built?

What does the title "Haman Impaled" suggest about the story's ending?

How does Queen Esther save her people?

What lessons can we learn from Esther's story?

Observation Questions

How did the king react when Esther told him what Haman had planned to do?

What did Haman's wife and friends say to him when they saw he had been hanged?

How did the people react when they found out the king had put Haman's plan into action?

How did Haman convince the king to approve of his plan?

What was Haman's plan for Mordecai?

How did the people react when they saw Haman's body?

What did Mordecai tell Esther to do after Haman's death?

What happened to Haman's wife and friends?

Group Discussion Questions

What does Esther's request for Haman's death instead of the Jews' show about her character? (Esther 7:5-6)

What does the book of Esther teach us about God's sovereignty? (Esther 4:14; 5:13; 9:22-24)

Why do you think Esther was so bold in approaching the king without being summoned? (Esther 7:7)

How does Esther's plan to save her people compare to God's plan of salvation? (Esther 7:3-4)

What is the contrast between Mordecai and Haman in Esther 5-7? (Esther 5:9-14; 7:6)

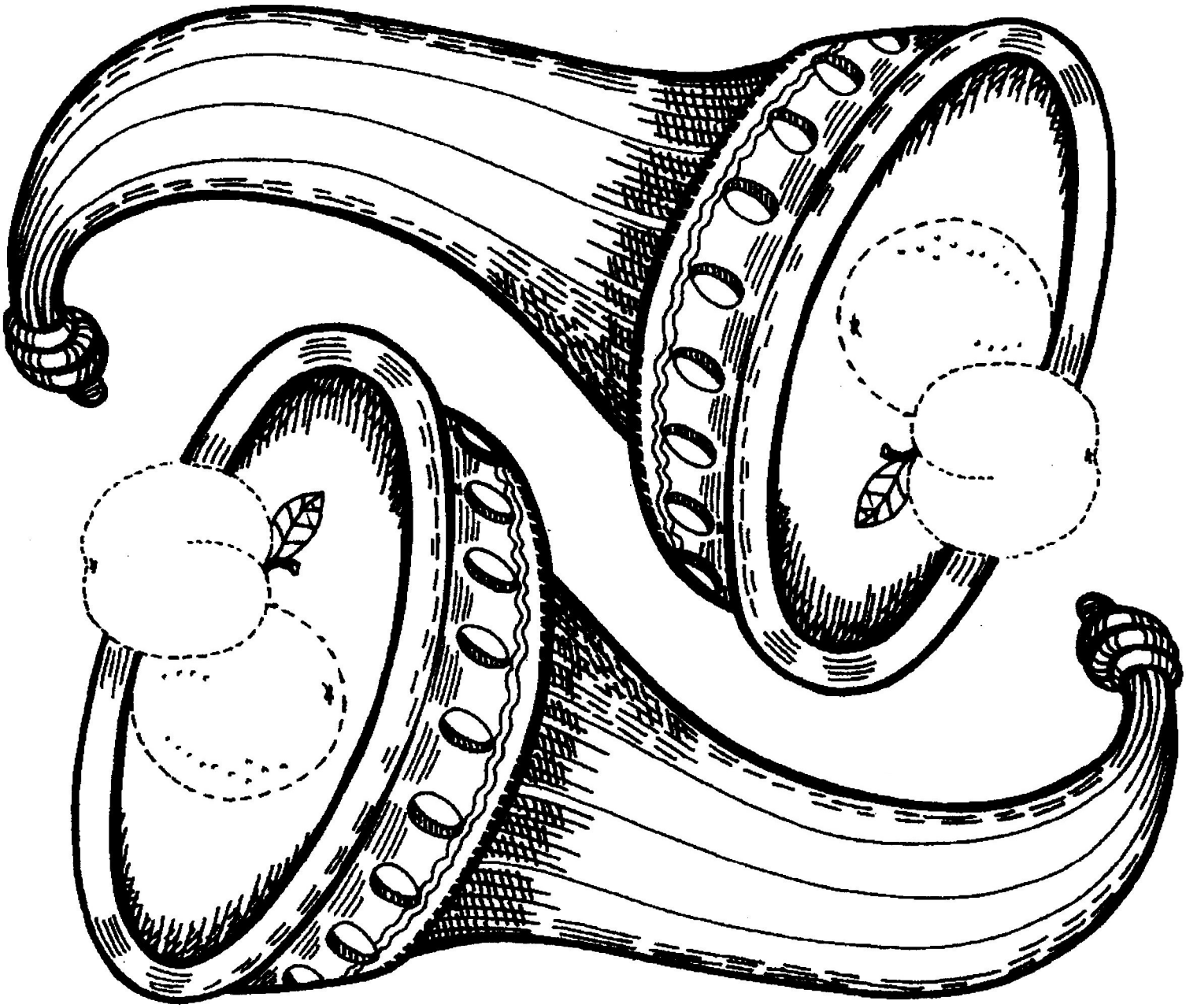
What do Haman's ten sons' deaths signify? (Esther 9:10)

How does Esther's victory over Haman encourage us in our spiritual battle against evil? (Ephesians 6:10-18)

What can we learn from Esther's example of prayer and fasting? (Esther 4:16; 9:31)

Assignments on Esther 7

Please read Esther 7 and answer the following questions.
1. At the second banquet, what did the king ask? What did he promise – 7:1,2?
2. What was Esther's request, and why did she make it – 7:3,4?
3. What problem did she say she could have borne without speaking? In that case, how did she describe the king's loss?
4. What questions did the king ask, and what answer did she give – 7:5,6?
5. Application: What can we learn from the facts: (1) Esther directly named the man who was guilty, and (2) she invited him to the meeting and accused him to his face?
6. How did Haman feel at hearing Esther's accusation? What lessons can we learn?
7. What did the king do after hearing Esther's request? What did Haman do then – 7:7?
8. When the king returned, what did he see? What did he think – 7:8?

9. What information was given to the king? What decision did he make – 7:9,10?
10. Special Assignment: List things about this outcome that are ironic.
11. Application: What lessons can we learn from the story at this point?

Template - Cornucopia Of The Spirit