



PARENT STUDY

Individually this week, spend time reading Chapter 20 of *The Story* or Esther 2, 3, 5 and 7.

As you study, pray that God shows you things that encourage, challenge, enlighten, and spur you to a stronger faith in Him.

BY YOURSELF...

Use these simple questions and prompts to help you ponder and prepare to discuss this week's chapter with your family.

1. **Are there examples where showing your faith (through words/actions) changed the heart of someone in authority over you?**
2. **Esther sometimes seems 'selective' in what she shares with King Xerxes, and when she shares, but with a godly intent. Ethically, where do you feel it's appropriate to tactfully share only 'some' of the story with others, and at what point does it maybe become too secretive or deceptive in an ungodly manner?**
3. **What is something else from this story that stuck out to me? How can I share that with my family as we seek to grow as disciples?**



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FAMILY STUDY

This Week

Use the following resource to engage with God as a family.

Read THE STORY Chapter 20: *The Queen of Beauty and Courage* in *The Story for Little Ones/Children/Kids*

Do Together: Persian kings were famous for lavish banquets. So when Esther invited King Xerxes to a “big dinner”(Esther 5:8), the pressure was on. Make a big Persian dinner in honor of Queen Esther, although you may not want to break out the solid-gold dinnerware 😊. During the Achaemenid empire, Persian kings could get nearly any food they wanted. Fruit was very common, especially cantaloupe. A spinach salad may be an authentic touch for your meal. Fish was also popular. Have fun as a family planning out the menu early in the week. Set aside one night where everybody can be together to prepare the big dinner. Try something new. Use an exotic spice. As everybody’s working together or when everyone sits down, you can go through some of the “Talk About” questions. Queen Esther’s story is truly remarkable, and Esther is only one of two books in the Bible named for a woman.

Talk About

- * Esther kept it a secret from King Xerxes that she was Jewish. Do you think it was good for her to keep that secret?
- * When is it okay to keep secrets? When is keeping secrets a bad idea?
- * By being respectful and humble, the king granted Esther’s wish. Tell of a time where respect and humility helped you.

Pray Together: *Lord, we want to be used for your Kingdom, just like Queen Esther was. Fill us with your Spirit, so we are ready for such as time as this. AMEN.*

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