



Story: Esther Saves the Jews

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

14 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")

14 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-29 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? *(answers might vary)*

What happened when Haman left the first banquet? *(he saw Mordecai wouldn't bow to him and he was angry)*

What did Haman's wife and friends suggest he do to Mordecai? *(build a tall pole and ask the King to hang Mordecai)*

What happened when the King couldn't sleep? *(his servant read about the event when Mordecai saved the King's life)*

When Haman went to ask the King to hang Mordecai what happened? *(Haman had to lead Mordecai around town on the King's horse while wearing the King's robe...Haman was humiliated)*

Hold up picture:

So the King and Haman went to dine at Queen Esther's second banquet. King Xerxes again asked Esther, "What is your request? I would give you up to half the kingdom if you requested it!"

Esther answered saying, "If it pleases the King, my request is that you save my life and the lives of my people for we are to be killed!"



Hold up picture:

The King demanded to know, “Who has dared to threatened your life?”

Esther replied, “The enemy is this wicked Haman!”

Haman was terrified as King Xerxes got up in a rage and went out into the palace garden.

Ask:

When you get really mad, do you have to go somewhere else to “cool down” or “walk it off”? *(answers might vary)*



Hold up picture:

While King Xerxes was out in the garden, Haman started pleading with Esther to save him because he knew the King would threaten his life.

When King Xerxes returned from the palace garden, he found Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. King Xerxes was angry and said, “Will Haman also attack my Queen while I am in the house?”



Hold up picture:

Then the King summoned the guards to seize Haman. One of the servants told King Xerxes, “Haman had constructed a pole 50 cubits high. He was planning to hang Mordecai on it.”

So, the King said, “Hang (or impale) Haman on the pole.” Haman was led out to be executed and then King Xerxes was no longer angry.



Hold up picture:

That day, the King gave Esther all of Haman's estate (house, land, possessions). Esther told King Xerxes how she was related to Mordecai. The King gave Mordecai his signet ring, which he had taken back from Haman. Then Esther appointed Mordecai to look after Haman's riches and possessions.



Hold up picture:

Afterwards, Esther fell at the King's feet weeping and begging him to put a stop to Haman's evil decree to kill the Jews. She said, "If it pleases the King, let an order be written overruling Haman's plan to kill all the Jews."



Hold up picture:

King Xerxes told Esther and Mordecai, “You yourselves write a law concerning the Jews as you please in my name and seal it with my signet ring, for whatever is written in my name and sealed with my ring can not be changed.”



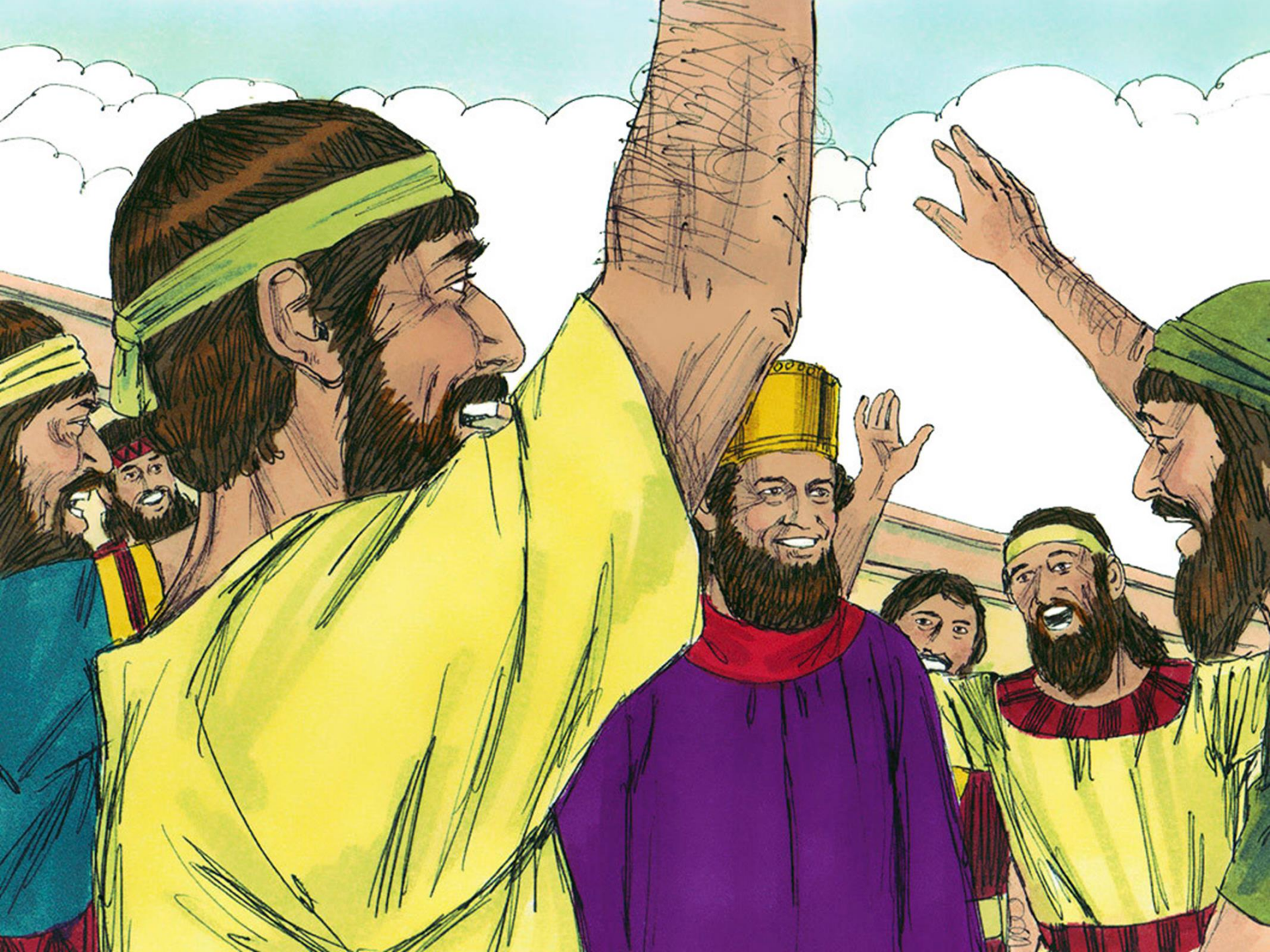
Hold up picture:

So the King's scribes were called and a new law was written giving the Jews the right to gather and defend themselves if anyone attacked them. They could also seize the properties of their enemies.



Hold up picture:

Copies of the new law were sent out through the kingdom. Everyone knew the Jews would be ready and waiting if anyone attacked them on the 13th day of the 12th month.



Hold up picture:

When Mordecai left the palace he was wearing a royal purple robe and crown. The Jews celebrated the news of the new law and their enemies became afraid of them.



Hold up picture:

On the 13th day of the 12th month, the time came for the King's command to be executed. The enemies of the Jews hoped to overpower the Jews. But the Jews gathered to defend themselves and they were helped by the governors and nobles because they feared Mordecai whose fame had spread throughout the kingdom.



Hold up picture:

Anyone who attacked the Jews were struck down. In the capital city of Susa, 500 men who hated the Jews were killed and Haman's 10 sons were hanged, but the Jews did not seize their enemies possessions.

Esther asked King Xerxes to allow the Jews to continue to fight their enemies the next day and the King granted Esther's request.

In all the provinces of the kingdom, the Jews killed 75,000 of their enemies., but they did not take the possessions of their enemies.



Hold up picture:

King Xerxes advanced Mordecai in his kingdom to be second in command. And Mordecai recorded all of these events in the chronicles of the King.



Hold up picture:

Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews asking them to celebrate this victory every year on the 14th and 15th days of the 12th month. Haman had plotted and cast a lot, known as Pur, to destroy the Jews. So the celebration was called the Feast of Purim.

Explain / Ask:

The Jewish calendar is different from our calendar, so Purim is usually near the end of March for us.

Who is never mentioned in the whole book of Esther? **(God)**

Even though God's name is never mentioned, do you think God had a hand in these events? **(yes, Esther became queen so she was in a position to help save the Jews)** Just like we saw with King Nebuchadnezzar, God rules in the kingdoms of men and He will raise up people to positions of power to use them for His purposes.