

LESSON 63

Lesson Truth

God protects you by being in control of everything.

Procedure

Turn to page 31. Read the Bible references in Esther and answer questions 1-8 only. Answer the questions in numerical order, alternating from the top of the page (question 1) to the bottom of the page (question 2).

During the king's sleepless night he had the history records for several years of his reign read to him. Could it have been a "chance happening" that...

1. ...the king was unable to sleep on the very night that Haman was building gallows to hang Mordecai? Most Bible scholars believe that the gallows Haman built were gallows to hang him by impaling him (as shown in the workbook), rather than gallows to hang him by the neck.

2. ...the exact record about Mordecai not being rewarded for saving the king's life was read to the king? According to Matthew 10:42, the good things you do are always noticed by God.

3. ...Haman was in the king's palace to request permission to kill Mordecai at the same time the king was looking for someone to honor Mordecai?

4. ...Haman, who hated Mordecai so much, was the very one who was ordered to lead the king's horse throughout the town with Mordecai riding on it in honor?

Select students to read Esther 5:9-6:14. Read the Lesson Truth, emphasizing the perfect timing of the events described.

LESSON 64

Lesson Truth

God is in control of all things all the times.

Procedure

Do things just happen, or does God make them happen? Did you know that the name of God is never mentioned in the book of Esther? Does that mean that God didn't care about or have anything to do with what was happening?

Turn to page 31 and look at the box entitled "The 24-Hour Watchman." A 24-hour watchman is someone who is hired to guard valuable property all the time, day and night. On page 31 answer questions 9 through 11 only.

Did God see what Haman was doing that night? Was God pleased or displeased with Haman's actions? Why does more evil happen at night than day?

Darkness hides man's evil deeds, compare John 3:19. Does God see as well at night as He does during the day? Read Psalms 139:12.

Answer questions 12 and 13. What was Haman's importance and power in the kingdom of Persia? He was second in command. After reading Job 34:25-26, do you think these things "just happened" to Haman, Mordecai, and the king, or did God have something to do with them?

Read the Lesson Truth.

LESSON 65

Lesson Truth

Give thanks to God when He delivers you from danger.

Procedure

Select students to read Esther 7:1-10 and 8:9-11.

Turn to page 32. Write the correct answers vertically on the puzzle grid by comparing Esther 7:1-10 and 8:9-11 with the story paragraph in the workbook.

Look for a "hidden message" in the puzzle grid that tells what Esther and Mordecai may have thought when the Jews were spared from certain death. What is the message? "Thanks to God." How would you feel if you were sentenced to die and were pardoned and allowed to live? Would you be thankful? Who would you thank? Don't forget God! Does God want to hear "thanks" from you? Select students to read Psalm 50:14, 100:4, and 116:17.

Read the Lesson Truth. Can you think of times that God delivered you from danger? Discuss.

Lesson 67 Preparation: Instruct students to bring a noisemaker such as whistles, buzzers, or horns to the Lesson 67 Bible class.

HAPPENINGS IN THE NIGHT

1. What were these men building in the night (5:14)? **Making a gallows.**
3. Who was to hang on these gallows (5:14)? **Mordecai.**
5. Why did Haman come to see the king the next morning (6:4)? **To ask permission to hang Mordecai.**
7. What did Haman do after he carried out the king's command (6:11-12)? **Went home mourning, grieving, humiliated and discouraged.**



THE 24-HOUR WATCHMAN

9. What does God never do (Psalm 121:4)? **He never slumbers or sleeps.**
10. What does God see, even at night (Job 34:21)? **He sees everything we do and every step we take.**
11. Is there a dark place at night where evil men can hide from God's eye (Job 34:22)? **There is no place where evil men can hide from God.**
12. What is God able to do to the mightiest, strongest person (Job 34:24)? **Break them, shatter them, set others up in their place.**
13. How does Job 34:25-26 describe what happened to Haman? **God defeated Haman at night. He had to honor Mordecai publicly..**



2. What was the King of Persia doing on the same night (6:1)? **He could not sleep so he had a history book read to him.**
4. Who did the king read about in the history books (6:2)? **Mordecai.**
6. What did the king tell Haman to do for Mordecai (6:6-10)? **Honor him. Ride him through the city on the king's horse in royal robes.**
8. What did Haman's superstitious wife and friends predict would happen to Haman (6:13)? **Haman would come to ruin and fall before Mordecai.**

LESSON 66

Lesson Truth

The same God that protected Esther and Mordecai also protects you.

Procedure

Turn to page 32. Look at the "Persian Evening News" at the bottom of the page. Read the red headline. Do you remember all the ways God helped protect Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews? Write a short newspaper column about one of the ways God helped protect them. You should sign your name as the news reporter on the line that reads "Story By...."

Check student work by reading and discussing the following 10 ways God protected Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews. Select students to read the references listed from Esther.

1. Vashti was removed as queen (1:19).
2. Esther became the new queen (2: 17).
3. Mordecai discovered a plot against the king (2:21-22).
4. Mordecai's deed was recorded in the Persian history books (2:23).
5. The King was glad to see Esther (5:1-2).
6. The King could not sleep (6:1).
7. The King read about Mordecai on same

night that Haman was preparing to kill Mordecai (6:2-3).

8. Haman came to the palace at the exact time that the king wanted to honor Mordecai (6:4-5).

9. Haman was hanged on gallows that he built to kill Mordecai (7:9-10).

10. Most people fought on side of the Jews when the enemy came against them (9:2-3). Although not discussed in previous lessons, this was an interesting turn of events and was obviously God's provision.

Do you remember Esther's secret? She was Jewish. Was that God's way of protecting the Jews? Did God know when He made Esther queen that Haman was going to try to kill the Jews?

Read the Lesson Truth. Our God is the same God that we have been studying about...Abraham's God, Noah's God, Joseph's God, and Esther's and Mordecai's God. He promises to be with you just as He promised to be with all of the famous Bible characters that you have been studying.

Lesson 67 Preparation: Instruct students to bring a noisemaker such as whistles, buzzers, or horns to the Lesson 67 Bible class.

LESSON 67

Lesson Truth

This lesson is a review of the story of Esther.

Additional Materials

Student: Noisemakers.

Procedure

Turn to page 32 and look at the picture at the bottom of the page. What is a "grager?" Our Bible class today is called (write on the chalkboard) "Honk If You Hate Haman," and if you listen carefully, you will learn how to use a "grager."

The Jewish celebration called "Purim" celebrates the story of Esther and how the Jews were spared. During Purim, children are given noisemakers. When the story of Esther is told, the children are instructed to show their disapproval of Haman and his actions by making noise, booing, hissing, and stamping their feet whenever they hear the name "Haman." The noisemakers used to celebrate Purim are called "gragers." I am going to read the story of Esther that you have been studying. Each time you hear the name "Haman," hiss, boo, stomp your feet, and make noise with your noisemakers. You can only make noise for 3 seconds, and I will count them on my fingers. When you see 3 fingers, stop your noisemaking so I can continue the story. Ready?

The king of Persia became angry

with his queen, so he sent her away and took another queen. His new queen was named Esther.

One day Esther's uncle, Mordecai, overheard soldiers plotting to kill the king. Mordecai immediately sent word of the plot to the king, and the king's life was saved. The record of Mordecai saving the king's life was written in the royal history books.

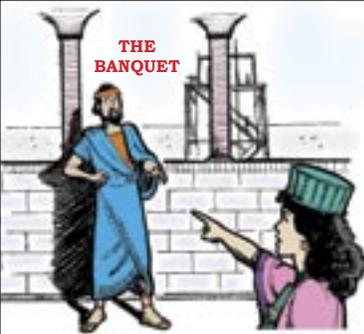
The king had an advisor whose name was HAMAN. He was so important in the kingdom of Persia that everyone respectfully bowed down to him...everyone, that is, except Esther's uncle,

Mordecai. Because Mordecai refused to bow to him, HAMAN persuaded the king that Mordecai and all of the Jews should be killed. HAMAN and the king did not know that Queen Esther was also a Jew, so without realizing it, the king had signed a law that would have had his own queen put to death.

Esther's uncle Mordecai told her that their only hope was for Esther to plead to the king on behalf of the Jews. Jews everywhere fasted, hoping that Esther could talk to the king about HAMAN'S wicked plan. So Esther spoke to the king and invited him and HAMAN to attend a banquet the next day. HAMAN felt great. "Just think," he said to himself, "I am such a powerful person that I banquet alone with the king and queen of Persia."

That night HAMAN had gallows built to hang Mordecai. But also that night, the king could not sleep, so he had his servants read to him from the official history of the Persian Empire. The servant read about the time when Mordecai saved the king's life. The king decided that Mordecai should be honored for his loyalty.

On the next morning, a strange thing happened. HAMAN appeared at the palace to tell the king that he had just built gallows and was going to hang Mordecai on



THE BANQUET

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
E						M				
S	H	E	E	U	C	M	O			G
T	H	A	N	K	S	T	O	G	O	D
H	A	M	E	I	T	H	V	A	R	
E	L	A	M	N	H		E	L	D	
R	F	N	Y	G	E	R	L	E		
					R	E	O	C		
							D	W	A	
									S	I

The king and Haman attended a second banquet given by 1. At the banquet, the king offered to grant any request made by Esther, up to 2 of the kingdom of Persia. Immediately Esther named 3 as an adversary and an 4, because his plan to kill the Jews would mean that Esther, who was also a Jew, would die. When the 5 learned that Esther would be killed because of Haman's plan, he became so angry that he had to leave the room. Realizing his doom, Haman begged 6 to spare his life. But as soon as the king returned to the room, the words from his 7 sealed Haman's doom, and the guards 8 his face because he was a condemned person. The king ordered that Haman be hanged on Haman's own 9. He then instructed 10 to write a new law in the name of the king allowing the Jews to arm and protect themselves. All Israel was spared thanks to 11.

PERSIAN EVENING NEWS

Today's Persian News Price: 5 Darc

QUEEN'S UNCLE BECOMES KING'S ADVISOR

Exclusive "How Did It Happen" Story by Student's Name

Students write story here.

GRAGERS



The New Royal Relatives

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them that day. But before HAMAN could speak, the king told him to honor Mordecai by dressing him in royal robes and leading him around the city on the king's own horse. This strange turn of events shocked HAMAN, but at least he still had a royal banquet to attend later in the day.

The time for the banquet finally arrived. Everything was beautiful. The food was wonderful. But then Esther said something that made HAMAN'S heart pound with fear.

"I have sad news, o king," Esther spoke. "Because of HAMAN'S plot to kill all of the Jews, I also must die, because I too am a Jew!"

Upon hearing this, the king became so angry at HAMAN that the king left the room in a rage. When he returned, he ordered that HAMAN be hanged on his own gallows.

Because of Esther's courage, the Jews were saved and Mordecai became the king's advisor in place of HAMAN.