LESSON 10

ESTHER AND THE KING



Aim: **To show the children how God prepared Esther for the work he had planned for her.**

Scripture Reading: **Esther 1:1–12; 2:1–18**

Memory Verse: **The Ten Commandments**
Review Exodus 20:1–7.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

What do you think makes a person beautiful? There may be some giggles over this, but Sunday school is a good place to learn that God has created some people with very good looks. Beauty is given to glorify God and praise him. God made the world and the creatures who inhabit it (Ps 8:1). Our stories for the next three weeks are about a young woman who became a queen because of her beauty.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. King Xerxes of Persia was very powerful. He ruled over lands from India to the Sudan. He was very rich. He gave a feast for all his governors and officials, showing off all his wealth. It lasted six months! (Est 1:1–4).
2. Later the king gave a feast for everyone in his capital city of Susa. That feast lasted a week. At the feast his Queen refused to appear before the guests, probably because they were very drunk. King Xerxes was so angry that he dismissed her as queen (1:5–12, 16–19).
3. A great search was held to find the most beautiful girl to become the new queen (2:14).
4. Esther was a young Jewish girl from the country of Israel. Her parents had died, so her uncle Mordecai looked after her. Esther and Mordecai had been captured and taken to Persia with many other Jews when Persia's army conquered Israel. Esther was absolutely beautiful (2:5–8).
5. Esther was chosen to go to the palace to be given a year's beauty treatment. She not only had good looks, but also a good heart; therefore, she got on well with those in charge (2:9, 12).
6. When it was Esther's turn to be seen by the king he liked her more than anyone else and chose her to be his new queen (2:15, 17–18). **Show Picture 10.**
7. All this time Mordecai kept giving Esther advice, and she listened to him. Mordecai told Esther not to tell anyone she was a Jew who had been brought as a prisoner from Israel (2:10–11).

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Our Response to the Story

King Xerxes was a very powerful and wealthy man. He could be very ruthless, too. He had dismissed his queen because she would not do as he ordered. Esther was a very young girl whose parents had died and whose people had been taken prisoner in war. She had very little power except that which her beauty and character gave her. But as a Jew she knew how God had cared for and protected her people in the past. So she left home and went to live a completely different life in the royal palace. That must have taken much courage. Esther is an example of trust and obedience.

Instil the Memory Verse

Review Exodus 20:1–7.



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