

# Behind The Scenes

God at work in the story of Esther



Hometown Community Church



Setting

Characters

Conflict

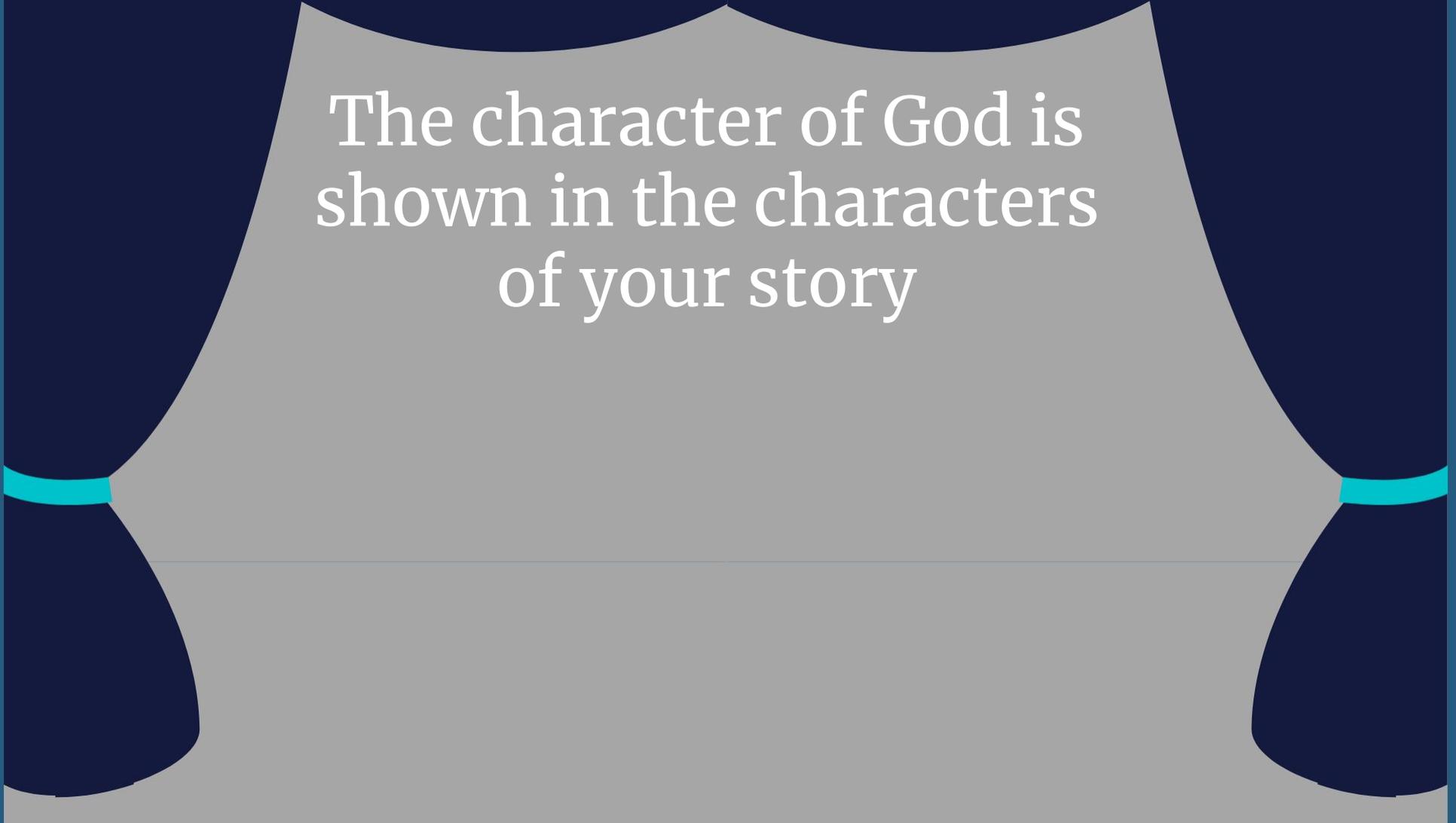
Theme

Climax

Resolution

# Recap

- In Susa at the King's palace
- Huge party
- Issued the edict banning Vashti; requiring women to respect their husbands
- We need a new queen

The image features a stylized stage. On the left and right sides, there are dark blue curtains with a light blue horizontal band near the bottom. The center of the stage is a light gray backdrop. The text is centered on this backdrop.

The character of God is  
shown in the characters  
of your story



This is what happened during  
the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes  
who ruled over 127 provinces  
stretching from India to Cush

Esther 1:1 NIV

At that time King Xerxes  
reigned from his royal throne  
in the citadel of Susa,

Esther 1:2 NIV

And in the third year of his  
reign he gave a banquet for all  
his nobles and officials.

Esther 1:3a NIV

The military leaders of persia  
and Media, the princes, and the  
nobles of the provinces were  
present

Esther 1:3b NIV

# King Xerxes

- Loves to show off
- Loves to have power
- Loves control

Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed,

Esther 1:19a NIV

That Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.

Esther 1:19b NIV

Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest.

Esther 1:20 NIV

# King Xerxes

- Loves to show off
- Loves to have power
- Loves control
- Arrogant, reckless, and careless





After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles.

Esther 3:1 NIV

All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

Esther 3:2 NIV

# Haman

- 2nd in command
- Power hungry
- People don't seem to like him

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate.

Esther 3:8a NIV

Their customs are different  
from those of all other people,  
and they do not obey the king's  
laws; it is not in the king's best  
interest to tolerate them.

Esther 3:8b NIV

If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury.

Esther 3:9 NIV

# Haman

- 2nd in command
- Power hungry
- People don't seem to like him
- Wealthy
- Dishonest

Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials.

Esther 5:10b-11 NIV

# Haman

- 2nd in command
- Power hungry
- People don't seem to like him
- Wealthy
- Dishonest
- Show off





THE  
ICE GUY?

Now there was in the citadel of  
Susa a Jew of the tribe of  
Benjamin, named Mordecai son  
of Jair, the son of Shimei, the  
son of Kish

Esther 2:5 NIV

Who had been carried into exile  
from Jerusalem by  
Nebuchadnezzar king of  
Babylon, among those taken  
captive with Jehoiachin king of  
Judah

Esther 2:6 NIV

# Mordecai

- Jewish exile
- Family line of King Saul

Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother.

Esther 2:7a NIV

This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

Esther 2:7b NIV

# Mordecai

- Jewish exile
- Family line of King Saul
- Raised Esther

During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

Esther 2:21 NIV

But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.

Esther 2:22 NIV

And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

Esther 2:23 NIV

# Mordecai

- Jewish exile
- Family line of King Saul
- Raised Esther
- Looks out for others





Disney  
MULAN

# Carry on the Story

- Women brought in to be Queen
- Esther impresses Hegai
- Esther impresses Xerxes
- She is made Queen

Esther had not revealed her  
nationality and family  
background, because Mordecai  
had forbidden her to do so.

Esther 2:10 NIV

When the turn came for Esther  
(the young woman Mordecai had  
adopted, the daughter of his  
uncle Abihail) to go to the king,

Esther 2:15a NIV

She asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

Esther 2:15b NIV

# Esther

- Cunning
- Wisdom



# Where is God?

- In the unlikely and villains
  - God shows love and forgiveness
- In the heroes and the likely
  - Working for a greater purpose
  - Wisdom in decisions

# Your story

- Who are the characters in your story
- Where is God in those characters?
- Who doesn't know God yet?
- Who does know God?