

WHAT WAS YOUR  
FAVORITE BEDTIME  
STORY?





# Behind The Scenes

God at work in the story of Esther



Hometown Community Church



# What Do We Know?

SETTING

SUSA, CAPITAL OF PERSIA

YEAR 3 OF KING XERXES' REIGN

CHARACTERS

KING XERXES

KING'S ADVISORS

QUEEN VASHTI

HAMAN

ESTHER

MORDECHAI

EUNUCHS + ATTENDANTS

THE JEWS

CONFLICT

KING XERXES V. VASHTI

MORDECAI V. HAMAN

HAMAN V. THE JEWS


ESTHER V. HERSELF

THE KING V. HAMAN

THEME:  
*God's silence is not  
God's absence*

CLIMAX

RESOLUTION



Will you obey when you are called?  
Where is God in your conflict?

*What do we know ?*

SETTING

**SUSA, CAPITAL OF PERSIA**

**YEAR 3 OF KING XERXES' REIGN**

God is where you are

What do we know ?

CHARACTERS

**KING XERXES**

**KINGS'S ADVISORS**

**QUEEN VASHTI**

**HAMAN**

**ESTHER**

**MORDECHAI**

**EUNUCHS + ATTENDANTS**

**THE JEWS**

God is in the characters of your story

*What do we know ?*

CONFLICT

**KING XERXES V. VASHTI**

**MORDECAI V. HAMAN**

**HAMAN V. THE JEWS**

**ESTHER V. HERSELF**

**THE KING V. HAMAN**

God is in the midst of your conflicts



What do we know ?

CHARACTERS

**KING XERXES**

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**MORDECHAI**

**EUNUCHS + ATTENDANTS**

**THE JEWS**

God is in the characters of your story

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. **2** But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. **3** In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Esther 4:1-3

**4** When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress.

She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

**5** Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

6 So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. 7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

9 Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, 11 “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law.

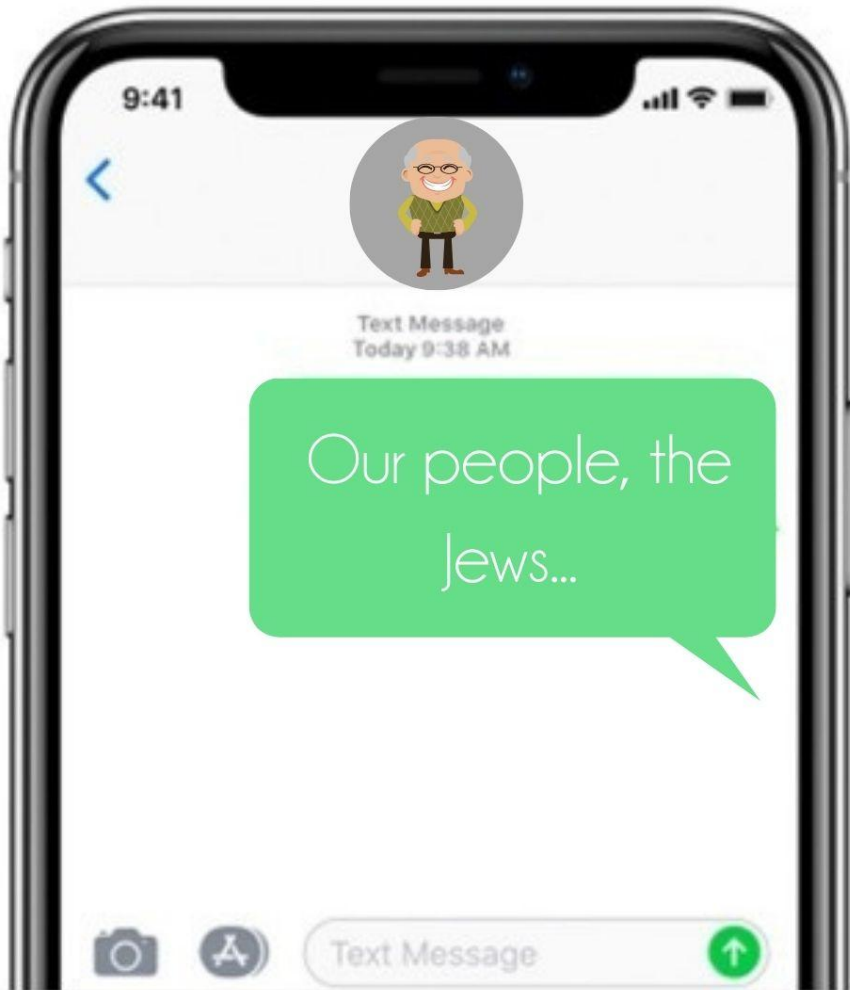
**And if I perish, I perish.”**

17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.



























# What does Esther do?

She decides to obey.

She asks for help.

She fasts and prays.

She finds what SHE can do.

She prepares.

She acts.

*Where is God in your conflict?*

Are you looking for him?

Are you asking for help?

Are you finding out who you are in Him?

# What does Esther do?

She decides to obey.

She asks for help.

She fasts and prays.


She finds what SHE can do.

She prepares.

She acts.

# Let's Do This...

1. Be alone for just 15-30 mins and ask the ?s
2. Read the Bible: Psalms, Ephesians, James or Mark...
3. Breathe and be silent for 5 mins
4. Ask God to show you new things and speak clearly
5. Text someone or journal to process thoughts



Will you obey when you are called?  
Where is God in your conflict?