

Chapter 20 – The Queen of Beauty and Courage
Day One – A Beautiful Queen

Today's reading: Page 275 through break on page 279

This reading covers: Esther 1-2

Summary: With God's help, Esther became queen.

Do together: Draw a picture of beautiful Queen Esther. Don't forget her purple robe and gold crown.

Think about: Being considered by the king to be queen was a big deal. Do you think Esther was nervous or afraid? She probably was, a little bit, but she trusted God and knew he was with her. She also knew her cousin, Mordecai, loved her and was thinking of her. No one knew it, not even Esther, but God had already decided that she would become the queen for a very special purpose. Did you know God has a special plan for your life too?

Also read: Proverbs 19:21; Ephesians 1:11-14

Prayer: Father, thanks for being with me when I'm nervous and afraid. Show me my purpose, so I can do your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 20 – The Queen of Beauty and Courage

Day Two – A Bad Man

Today’s reading: Break on page 279 through top of page 281

This reading covers: Esther 3

Summary: Haman wanted to hurt God’s people.

Do together: Three items in each group have something in common. One item is different and not like the others. Find the one that doesn’t belong and explain why.

Green beans	Gold fish	Car
Potatoes	Earrings	Truck
Meat Loaf	Necklace	Motorcycle
Carrots	Bracelet	Dog

Think about: Why do you think Mordecai wouldn’t bow down before Haman? Would that be like worshipping someone other than God? Do you remember what God told his people about worshipping idols? The Jews who lived there were different from other people, because they worshipped only the one true God. It was a scary time for the Jews, but do you think God would help them overcome? Here’s a hint: God planned all along that Esther would become queen, remember?

Also read: Exodus 20:3; Isaiah 41:10; Romans 8:28

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for being my Forever Friend and always walking with me no matter how scary things might be. I know it’s okay to be different when it means doing what you want me to do. I pray in your name, Amen.

Chapter 20 – The Queen of Beauty and Courage**Day Three – Be Brave**

Today's reading: Top of page 281 through end of the chapter

This reading covers: Esther 4-9

Summary: Esther showed courage as she allowed God to use her to save her people.

Do together: Pretend to be a rodeo rider on a mean bull. The bull is bucking and jumping and you are doing all you can to stay in the saddle. Pretend to be a lion tamer inside a cage with only a chair and a whip between you and the lion. Pretend to be a high wire artist, walking across a skinny wire high above the ground with no net. You can wobble, but don't look down.

Think about: When Esther realized she was the only one who could talk to the king, she knew she was taking a risk. The king might be mad, because he hadn't invited her in to see him. He might even kill her! Esther was scared but she had courage to do what she did because she loved her people. She knew she was the only one who could save them. What was it that gave her courage? There's another person in the Bible who did a really brave thing, because he loved all people and he was the only one who could save them from their own sin. Do you know who it was?

Also read: Psalm 121; John 3:16

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you risked your life and gave it up to save me. Give me courage when I'm worried or afraid because I know you are with me. In your name I pray, Amen.

Chapter 21 – Rebuilding the Walls**Day One – Sad News**

Today's reading: Page 150 through break on page 152

This reading covers: Ezra 7; Nehemiah 1

Summary: Nehemiah is sad when he hears that things in Jerusalem are not good.

Do together: Every day we hear about sad things around us. Look at today's local news and see if there is something that makes you sad. Now, see if there is any way you can help with the situation. It might be helping with those who are hungry or children whose families need some help.

Think about: Nehemiah was sad because the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and other people were making fun of his friends. But this sadness turned into action, as we will see tomorrow. It's one thing to be sad; it's another thing to do something about it. When you look around, what do you see that makes you sad, something that just isn't right? Now, what are you going to do about it?

Also read: John 13:17; James 2:15-16