

Mordecai Is Honored

Esther 6:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 16:18

“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A name tag for each child in your class and one small ball.

Masking Tape.

Yellow/gold and purple construction paper, markers, stickers, sequins and/or craft precious stones.

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ATTENTION GETTER!

A Moment of Honor

This game will be a great way for the children in your class to get to know one another and be introduced to the lesson today. We are going to learn about the time when Mordecai was honored for saving the king's life.

You will need a name tag for each child in your class. Have all of the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to stand in the middle. The teacher will begin by calling out the name of one of the children sitting in the circle. That child is to name their favorite Bible hero and then call out someone else's name. But this has to be done before the child in the center tags them. The child speaking must remain seated. The catch is that they must say their favorite Bible character before they get tagged. If the child from the center tags the child called on before they say their favorite Bible character then that child becomes the center child and the center child will take that person's place.

You will want to explain to the children that everyone needs a turn to speak so they should rotate. Optional: to spice it up a bit you could have a small ball for the children to pass around as they call out the names. This will also help the center person to pinpoint quicker who to tag if they are finding it difficult.

LESSON TIME!

As we have learned over the past few weeks, Haman was a very proud man. He had a very important job in the government. He was second only to the king. He also was very rich. He loved the praise of men. There was even a decree in the kingdom that everyone was to bow down to Haman when he passed by.

Mordecai was a Jewish captive who had been brought to a foreign land. He was a humble man who loved and honored God. He stood up for what he believed in and would only worship God. Because of this he refused to bow down to Haman. This made Haman very angry so he put into place a plan to kill Mordecai and all of the Jews. **Pride goes before a fall.**

Mordecai had previously heard of a plot to kill the king. Even though he was in a foreign land, he had been willing to get involved when he heard about the crime, and he turned the people in. He had never been rewarded for this, and he had never asked for a reward. He did what he knew was right. He trusted God to take care of him. One night the king was reading the records of his reign and noticed what Mordecai had done. This is where our story begins today.

ESTHER 6:1-3

That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

When the record was read to him, he wanted to know how Mordecai was rewarded for his loyalty and for protecting him and was told that nothing had been done for Mordecai. The king wanted to reward Mordecai for his act of bravery and for helping the king.

What we learn from this event is that we need to always be willing to do what is right. Whether or not we are recognized for it, we need to stand up for what is right. Mordecai was in a place that he found out that someone was trying to overthrow the king. He knew what he had to do with the information. It didn't matter whether or not he would be rewarded.

But God is always faithful to take care of us. He will reward us in His way and in His timing. God wants us to do what is right and He blesses us every time we do.

ESTHER 6:4-5

So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

When the king learned that Mordecai had not been rewarded at all, he wanted to know who was in the court. He probably wanted to consult his leaders to see what could be done for Mordecai to honor him. But isn't it interesting that Haman had come to ask the king to kill Mordecai on the gallows he had built. The king ordered that the attendants bring him in.

This is such an interesting story. Here you have Haman who is filled with pride and love for himself. He wants to see Mordecai hung on the gallows that he built because Mordecai wouldn't worship him. So he comes to the king with his selfish request. Right at the same time, Mordecai is remembered by the king to honor him. How the Lord brings circumstances together at the right time so that He is the one to get all of the glory. **Pride goes before a fall.**

ESTHER 6:6

So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"

When Haman came into the court, the king asked Haman's opinion of what would be a good reward for someone who pleases the king. In his pride, Haman thought that the king would only be pleased with him and that the honor would be his.

How natural it was for Haman to think of himself. He always seemed to think of himself. So he wanted to think of something really great because he thought he was getting it. God is turning the tables on Haman and his pride is going to end up destroying him. **Pride goes before a fall.**

ESTHER 6:7-9

And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,

"let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head.

"Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

Since Haman thought the honor was to be his, he suggested that this person wear the king's clothes, ride the king's horse, and lead him through the city, proclaiming how the king honors those who please him. This would show everyone how important he really was. This certainly sounded like a good plan to Haman. Especially since he thought he was the one who was going to receive it. Little did he know that his biggest enemy, Mordecai was the one the king had in mind to honor. **Pride goes before a fall.**

Honor Race

The object of this game is for the children to work together as a team and honor others. They will have a race without dropping their passenger.

Have the children divide into teams of three children. Have them make a "human pyramid." Do this by having the two largest children get on their hands and knees and the lightest as a passenger on their back. Have all of the teams line up together in their pyramids. When you say "go" see who can get to the finish line first (set a finish line with masking tape prior to starting).

You can race a few times and have the winners serve the others in the class in some way. Be careful not to let this game get too wild because someone could get hurt.

ESTHER 6:10

Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

Much to Haman's surprise and horror, the person to be honored was Mordecai, the very one he was going to ask to hang on the gallows. He was then told that he was to be the one to follow the instructions and to take Mordecai through the streets and honor him in the manner that Haman had suggested.

Can you imagine, after all of the evil that Haman had planned for Mordecai in his heart? Now he has to honor Mordecai! It would certainly seem that God has a sense of humor. He was no doubt trying to teach Haman a lesson about pride and humility. **Pride goes before a fall.**

ESTHER 6:11-12

So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

So Haman got the robes, the horse, and led Mordecai through the streets, calling out to everyone that this is how the king honors those who please him. Haman returned home, humbled, embarrassed, and very upset. It makes you wonder how enthusiastic he was as he gave his proclamation.

ESTHER 6:13

When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."

When he returned home and told his wife, friends and advisors what had happened to him, they advised him to be careful and not to follow through on his plans to destroy Mordecai and the Jews because he couldn't win under the circumstances. His plans would backfire on him and they did.

He was now in a very tough spot. How could he ask the king to kill Mordecai now after the king had honored him? But things were about to get even worse for Haman. **Pride goes before a fall.**

ESTHER 6:14

While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

While Haman's wife and friends were giving him advice, the king's men came to pick him up for the banquet that Esther had prepared in order to expose Haman as the king's and Esther's enemy. Haman was humbled in front of all the people that were to bow down to him. God was getting ready to punish him for the evil he had brought to the people of God.

God protected Mordecai when Haman had set in motion a plan to kill him. Just in time, the king learned how Mordecai had saved the king's life. God protects and takes care of His children especially when life becomes very difficult and everything seems to be going wrong.

God will humble the proud but will honor those who are humbly following and worshipping Him. **Pride goes before a fall.**

The Royal Crest

In Esther 6:8 we see Haman's idea to honor the one who pleases the king. One of the things he states is that there should be a royal crest placed on the front of the horse to signify that this was a royal procession. The king that we serve is Jesus and we are subjects in His kingdom. To help us always remember that we will make a royal crest.

You will need yellow/gold and purple construction paper. Allow the children to get as creative as they want to. The crest should be round and using markers they can write inside of the crest. As a suggestion they can write, "Jesus is King" on the crest or they can write out James 4:10 which goes with today's theme, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up."

Provide stickers, sequins or stones for the children to glue to the crest for decorations. There is also gold, metallic foil available that can be used.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of praise and adoration for His son Jesus. Ask the Lord to always protect them from pride and to give them a humble heart. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.