

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**What I have Learned Term 4 – November 24, 2024**

**Lesson 5 An Anusual Competition – Esther 1 and 2**

<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>My Points</b>	<b>Questions</b>
5		1. Why did Queen Vashti refuse to come before King Xerxes? (Esther 1:12)
5		2. What did King Xerxes decide to do after Vashti refused to come? (Esther 2:2)
5		3. How did Esther become the new queen of Persia? (Esther 2:17)
5		4. What did Mordecai tell Esther to keep secret when she went to the palace? (Esther 2:20)

<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>My Points</b>	<b>Memory Verse</b>
10		Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”

<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>My Points</b>	<b>Home Connection</b>	<b>Parent/Guardian Signature</b>
5		<i>I have read the Scripture and story for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Teacher Use Only</b>
	Teacher’s Signature _____ Date _____



*Have you ever entered a competition? Did you win? Today's story is about a beauty competition with a very special prize. It may have happened like this:*

"Cousin Mordecai," Esther said, "did you hear? King Xerxes is sending his men to bring all the unmarried girls to the palace because he's looking for a new queen!"

"Yes, I heard," Mordecai replied. "But he's only asking for the pretty ones. I'm sure you'll be chosen."

"Oh, Cousin Mordecai," Esther said, "I don't want to leave you. You've taken such good care of me since my parents died."

"Don't worry about me, Esther," Mordecai reassured her. "This could be a good opportunity for you. Just remember everything I've taught you. But no matter what happens, don't tell anyone you are a Jew or that you're my cousin."

"Why, Cousin Mordecai?" Esther asked, looking confused.

"Because this isn't our home. We are Hebrews, and even though we've lived in Persia for a long time, some people don't like us and want to get rid of us," Mordecai explained quietly.

"I understand. I'll do as you say," Esther nodded.

"Don't be sad, Esther," Mordecai said gently. "There will be many beautiful girls at the palace. But remember, true beauty comes from being kind to everyone. That's the best kind of beauty."

When Esther was taken to King Xerxes' palace, she remembered Mordecai's words. There were many beautiful girls there, but some were not very nice. Esther, however, was kind to everyone. The king's helper, Hegai, noticed her kindness and quickly chose her to begin beauty treatments. He gave her special food, seven servant girls, and moved her to the best part of the women's quarters.

For a whole year, Esther received beauty treatments at the palace. She was bathed, oiled, and perfumed every day. The beauticians did her hair, and the designers made new clothes and shoes for her. Hegai gave her anything she needed.

Meanwhile, Mordecai walked near Esther's rooms every day, making sure she was alright. They couldn't talk to each other, but they might have seen each other from far away. Mordecai didn't want anyone to know they were related because then people would know Esther was a Jew.

One day, Hegai came to Esther with a smile. "Esther," he said, "the king wants to see you."

"Really? What should I do?" Esther asked nervously.

"Just be yourself," Hegai replied with a smile. "Don't worry, Esther. I think everyone in the palace and the king will really like you."

Hegai was right. Everyone liked Esther, especially the king. He liked her more than any of the other young women he had seen, so he made her his queen.

### **Extra Activity For The Week:**

**RESEARCH:** Ask your parents for help!

The Bible tells of many people who influenced others to do right or wrong. Find and read the text to find out who and how they influenced others:

- 1 Kings 18:30-38 (Elijah)
- 2 Kings 5:2-4 (Captive Maid)
- Daniel 1:8; 9 (Daniel)
- John 7:45-52 (Nicodemus)

**Be a positive influence for God's people!**