

BIBLE LESSONS

written by Margaret Law (Adelaide, South Australia, 1985). Presentation: Colleen Plant (email: hannahrt@bigpond.net.au)



LESSON 3: BORN FOR A PURPOSE

AIM: That the children understand they were not born by accident, but for a purpose, and God is working to bring that purpose to fruition. The children should be guided constantly into knowing that their part is to live God's Way so that they can reach full potential.

MEMORY VERSE:

'God saved us and called us to be His own people...' (2 Tim 1:9)

or

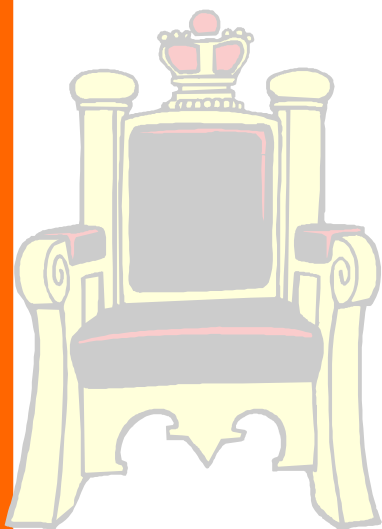
'You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit...' (John 15:16)



OPENING IDEA: SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR

Encourage children to see that with Jesus in their lives they can choose God's way and the other things will not hinder us.

SCRIPTURE: "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent,' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'" (Luke 16:27-31).



PREPARATION: In a small box, possibly shoe box size, place a number of items of interest to children, or pictures of these items, such as a toy car, picture of a house, a tennis ball, a small teddy bear, a \$5 note, a simulated report card with A's for every subject, and a picture of Jesus.

I have a box full of surprises this morning, and I think you will like all the things I have in this box. Let's see. Here is something most of you will like (show the toy car). And your dads and mums would like one, too, I suppose, only a real one. People will work very hard to earn enough money to buy one of these. Or look at this (show the picture of the house). We all like nice houses, and we'll work hard to get them, and work hard to keep them looking right.

Here are some other things (show tennis ball and bear). And look at this - we all like money. We work hard to earn it, and we enjoy spending it. And here is something else, a straight A report card. We'd all like that, wouldn't we? Actually, we'd like everything in this box, right?



But do you know that we could have this whole box filled to all these good things, but some day they would all disappear, and we would have nothing left. So, maybe we'd better see if there is something else in the box (show the picture of Christ). Yes, there is! And do you know who this is? Right, it's Jesus. And he's in the box for a very special reason. He wants to be there ... not in the box, but in our lives. And when everything else is gone, he will still be there.

That really gives us something better to live for, right now. It means we can enjoy all these other things (point to items from the box). We can even enjoy them more because he gave them to us. But we don't have to let them take his place. He came to take his place in our lives, and he will never leave us. That's good news! We not only have something to live for, we have someone to live with.

PRESENTATION: Have a chair set up at the front to represent a throne. Ask children how they would feel if they were chosen to be the king or queen of England. Choose a child and dress them up with crown and cloak, etc., and allow them to sit on the throne during the story.

STORY: CHOSEN TO BE QUEEN

Briefly tell the story of Esther:

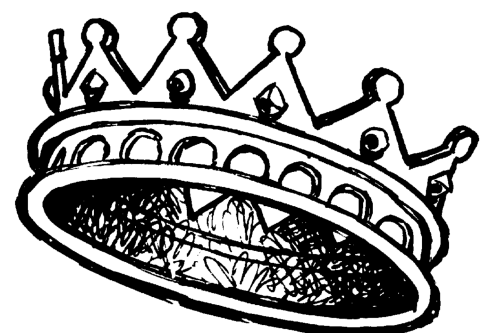
- The king required a new queen and called all the young girls to the palace (Esther 2:4).
- Esther was an orphaned Jew, living in Persia with her uncle Mordecai (2:7).
- Esther was chosen and loved by the king (2:16-17).
- Haman was a wicked man and very proud. He expected everyone to bow to him, but Mordecai would not bow to anyone but God (3:2).
- Haman hated Mordecai and planned to kill him and all the Jews (3:5,6).
- Esther heard of the plan and risked her life to come before the king without being asked (this often led to the death penalty) (4:11).
- Esther revealed to the king Haman's wicked plan and her people were saved (ch5).

IMPORTANT POINTS: Esther was a 'nobody' before coming queen.
She took the opportunity offered to her.
She was faithful to God.
She loved her people.
She was brave and courageous.
She was chosen for a purpose.
God has a purpose for everyone's life.

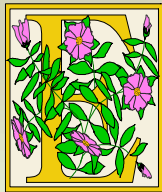
PRESENTATION ALTERNATIVE:

This story could be told using stick puppets on the attached sheet.

SONGS: Kids Under Construction
I am a Promise



QUEEN ESTHER



Esther was an orphaned Jewish girl living in Persia with her cousin Mordecai and the rest of the Israelites who had been taken from their homeland to Persia. The king of the Persian empire chose Esther above all others to be his new queen. She was very beautiful and the king loved her.

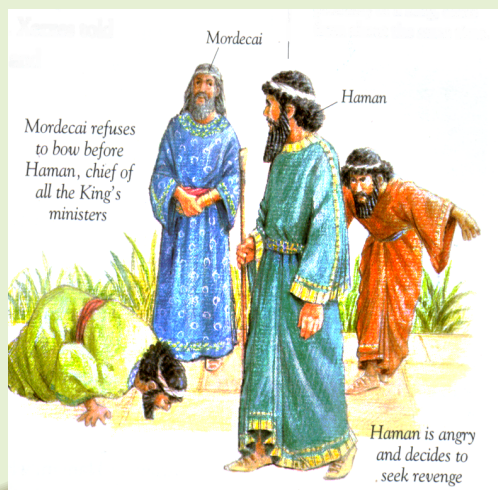


Esther comes before King Xerxes, and he chooses her to be his queen

One day Mordecai overheard two men plotting to assassinate the king. He told Esther and she promptly told the king, so he was grateful to Mordecai.

One of the king's officials, Haman, was a wicked and proud man who resented Mordecai because he was liked by the king and also because he refused to bow down and worship anyone but God. So Haman plotted to kill Mordecai and all the Jews. He convinced the king to make a law that everyone must bow down and worship the king. If anyone broke this law they would be hanged.

When Esther heard of Haman's plan she was afraid and terribly sad for the people she loved, but she bravely risked her life by going before the king without being invited, to plead with him to save her people from being destroyed.



Mordecai refuses to bow before Haman, chief of all the King's ministers

Haman is angry and decides to seek revenge

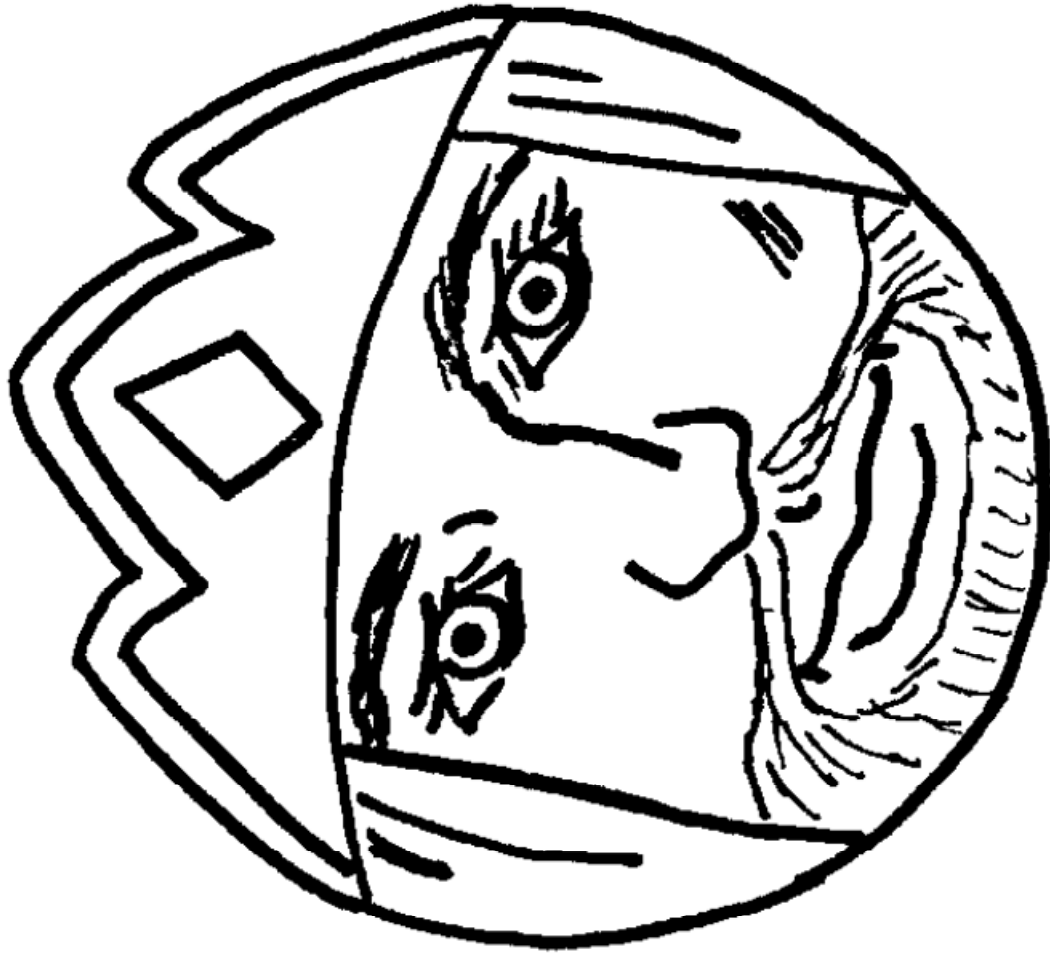
The king was appalled and demanded to know who was responsible for such an order. When Esther revealed that Haman was behind the plan, the king had him hung on the same gallows that had been built by Haman for Mordecai and the Jewish people.

Through the unselfish act of Esther, her people were saved. She was an ordinary Jewish girl who became a queen and was faithful to God. Esther had been born for a purpose.

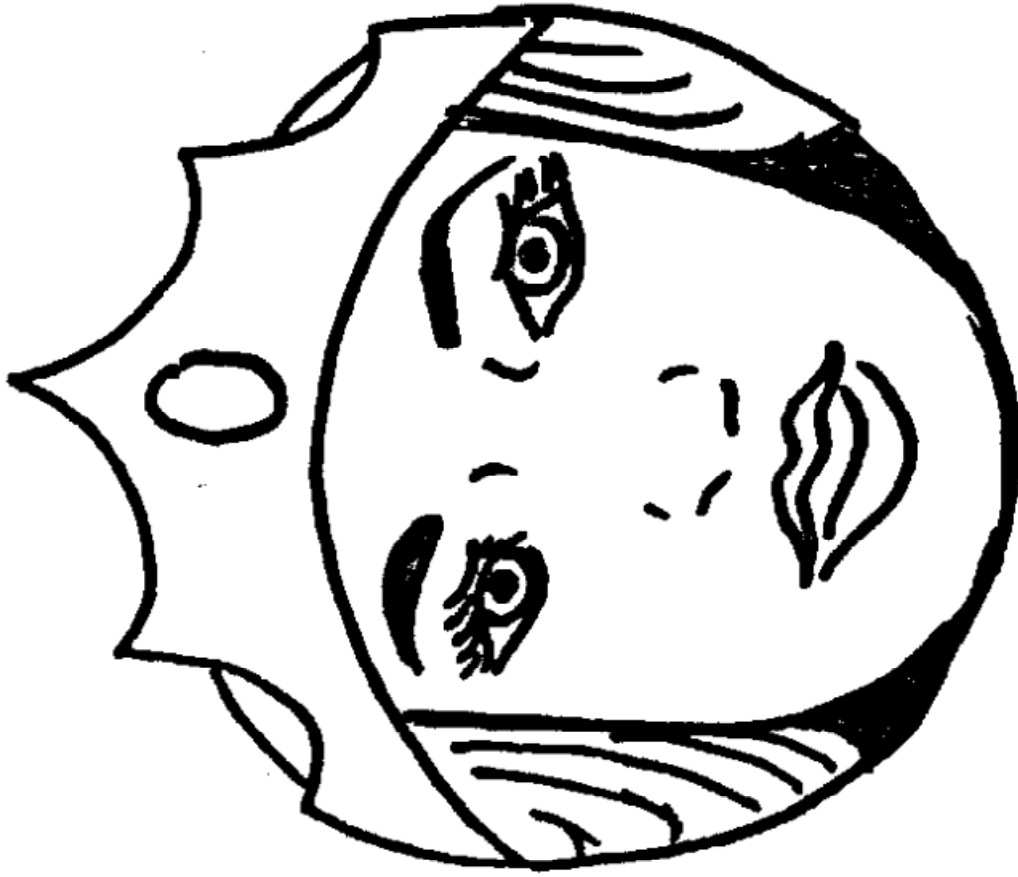
You are born for a purpose

Esther

Stick Puppets - Colour in the faces. Cut out the four shapes and glue onto cardboard. Attach each face to a stick to make a puppet.



THE KING



QUEEN ESTHER



MORDECAI



HAMAN



Using the yellow chart, write the word that corresponds with the coded numbers on the blank lines below to find out God's purpose for our lives.

	1	2	3
A	AND	HIS	US
B	SAVED	TO	2 TIMOTHY 1:9
C	OWN	US	BE
D	CALLED	PEOPLE	GOD

D3

B1

A3

A1

D1

C2

B2

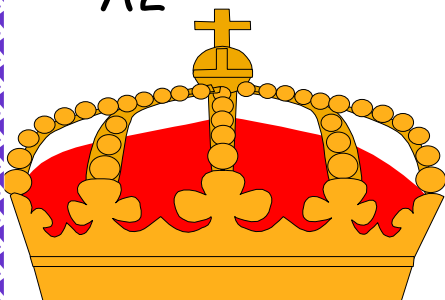
C3

A2

C1

D2

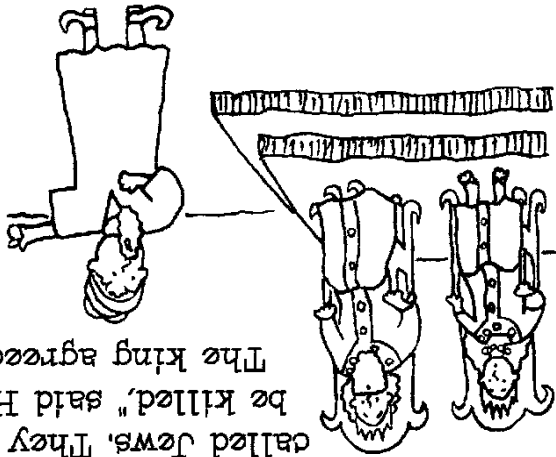
B3



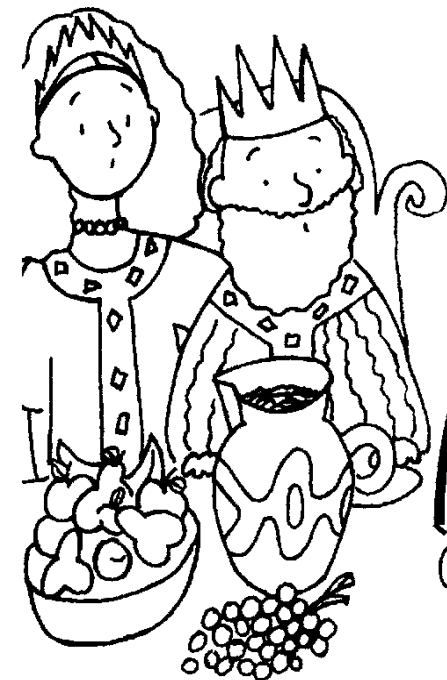
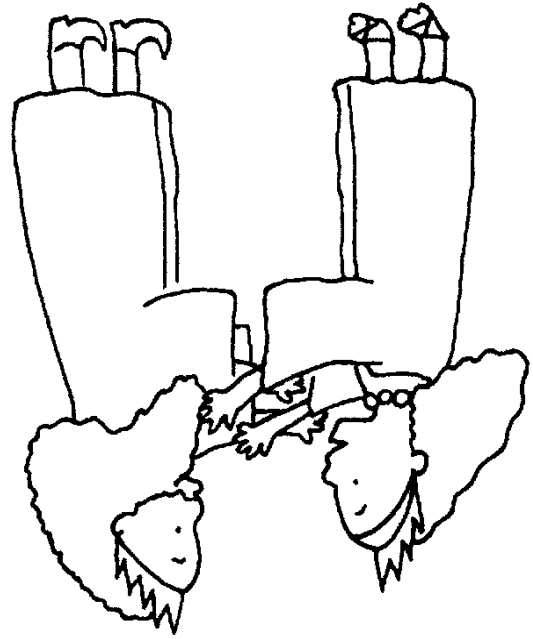
Esther and Haman

Esther 3:1-7:10

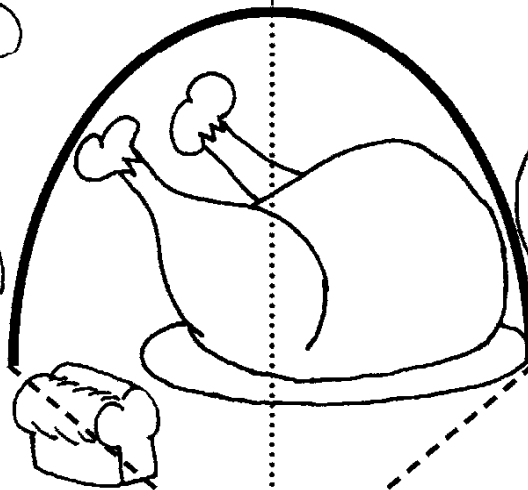
The king of Persia had a beautiful queen named Esther. She was a Jew who loved God. No one in the palace knew she was a Jew. One day an evil, powerful man named Haman went to the king. "There are people in Persia who do not worship our gods. They are called Jews. They should be killed," said Haman. The king agreed.



The king was surprised, but he did as she asked. The Jews were saved because of Esther and her trust in God.



Esther knew she was the only one who could save her people, the Jews. She made a beautiful dinner for the king and Haman. After dinner the



king said to Queen Esther, "Ask for anything you want and you can have it!" Esther answered, "Spare my life and the lives of my people, the Jews."



ESTHER

Esther was an orphaned Jew before she became a queen. She was a 'nobody', but God had a purpose for her life. Write the key points of the story of Esther in your own words.

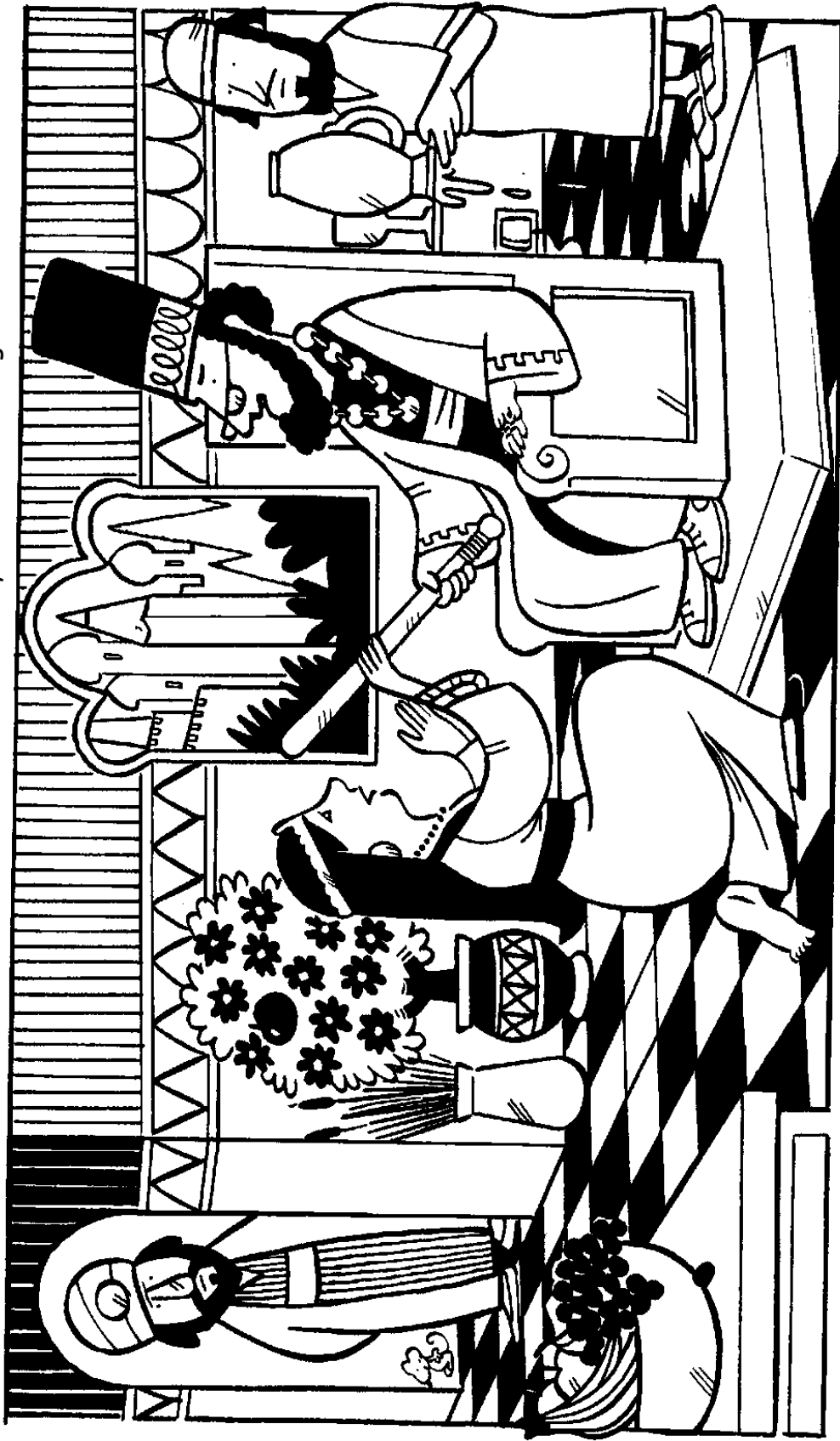


Lined writing area for notes

YOU were born for a purpose, too!

SPOT THE MISTAKES

Can you find at least 8 mistakes in this picture?
Can you find the hiding mouse?



Queen Esther has come to ask a favour of the king.
Esther invited the king to a banquet, with one other person. Who was he?
This story comes in Esther 5-7.

ANSWERS : Baseball bat, shoe missing, king wearing running shoes, upside down jar, border pattern changes, apple on tree, pencil in window, king wearing spectacles, power plug on wall, floor tiles,