

# HEROES OF FAITH

## ESTHER: THE BRAVE QUEEN

The Lord gives us His courage, but in today's scary world, that courage is tested every day. God gives us His Word to strengthen and encourage us, so we need to read it every chance we get. Today's hero of faith understood what it meant to have her courage tested, and we can learn a lot from her example. Let's jump into the Bible and meet Queen Esther!

**Read: Esther 2:15-18 ; Esther 3:1-6 ; Esther 4:12-17 ; Esther 9:20-25**

### MEET ESTHER

Would you risk your life to do what's right? Esther did. God used her courageous faith to save His people. The Jews had been exiled from their home for many years, and they were servants of the Persian empire. God raised up Esther from a humble orphan to be the new queen of Persia!



### CHOICE

The Jews had a terrible enemy named Haman who also served the Persian king, and he convinced the king to create a law that all Jews should be killed. Esther had a choice. She could use her position to help her people or hide under her crown.



# COURAGE

She realized God made her queen “for such a time as this” (**Esther 4:14**) and risked her life to expose Haman’s plan. It worked! Haman lost his life and God’s people were protected. God puts each one of us where we need to be for His plan. Our job is to be courageous, have faith, and follow God’s lead.



## DID YOU KNOW?



Esther is still celebrated today as a hero of the Jewish people. Every year in late winter (late February or early March), Jewish children dress up as queens and kings and families celebrate the feast of Purim, just as described in **Esther 9:20-28**. When you live a life of courage and faithful obedience to the Lord, your life impacts others even after you’re gone.

## DISCUSSION TIME

1. Why did Haman want to destroy all the Jews in Persia?
2. Does having courage mean you never feel afraid? Why or why not?
3. Name one thing you need God’s courage to face today.

# GAME TIME

## Haman Says

The same as “Simon says” but with these special rules:

- If “Mordecai says...”, players follow the command.
- If “Haman says...” players do the opposite of the command.

i.e If Haman says “Jump up and down”, participants can sit down, roll etc. Let players get creative.

- As usual, players stand still for a command with no name.

## COURAGE BALL

Tie string or yarn around a tennis ball and attach the other end to a ceiling fan, ceiling tile, or high point. It should create a pendulum with the ball as the weight. One volunteer stands about two feet (.6 m) away from the hanging ball. A parent brings the ball to the volunteer’s chin, touching it. Ask, “If I release this ball, what will happen?” Most will say it will swing back and hit their chin. Tell the volunteer, “I’m going to release the ball. Whatever you do...keep your eyes open, don’t move, and don’t flinch.” Don’t let them know the ball will come close but will not hit them. Do they bravely face their fear like Esther?

## PRAYER

Thank God for all the encouragement He gives us in His promises. Ask for His help to be brave like Queen Esther, and ask Him to forgive all the times you’ve acted in fear rather than faith. Thank Him for the greatest encouragement of eternal life in Jesus Christ for all who believe.



Let's draw Esther:



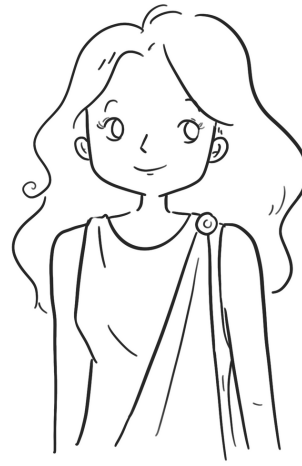
STEP 1

Draw a simple shape for the face.



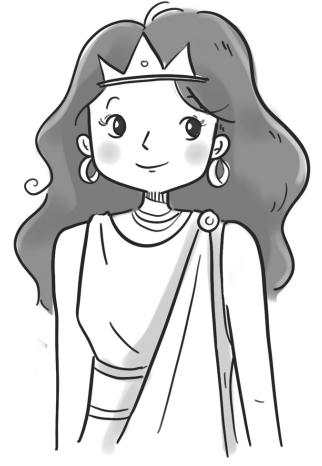
STEP 2

Draw the ears and the neck



STEP 3

Add the facial details, hair and dress



STEP 4

Color your masterpiece.

Please unscramble the words below:

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augCore \_\_\_\_\_

ueenQ \_\_\_\_\_

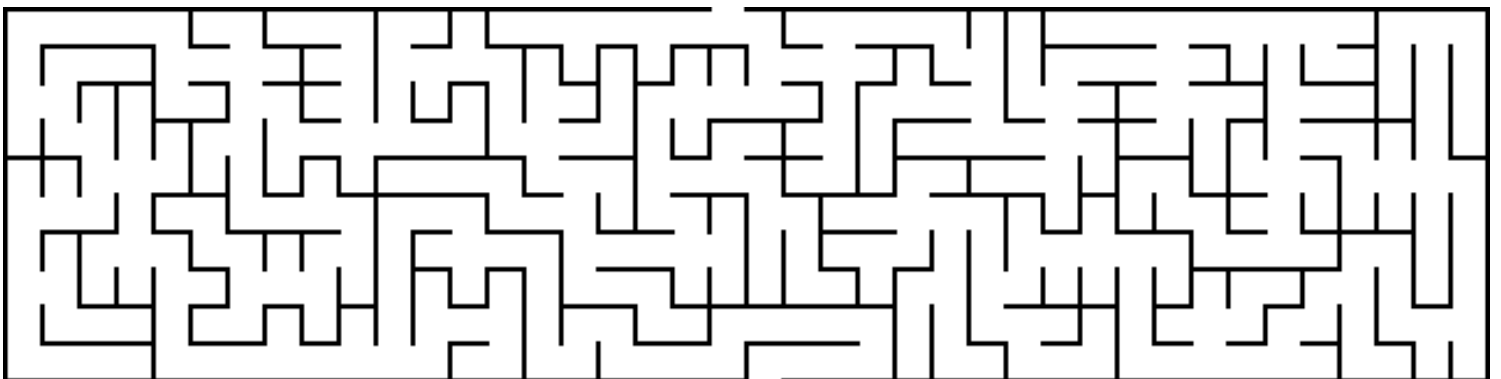
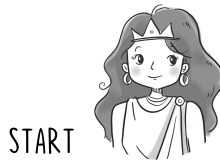
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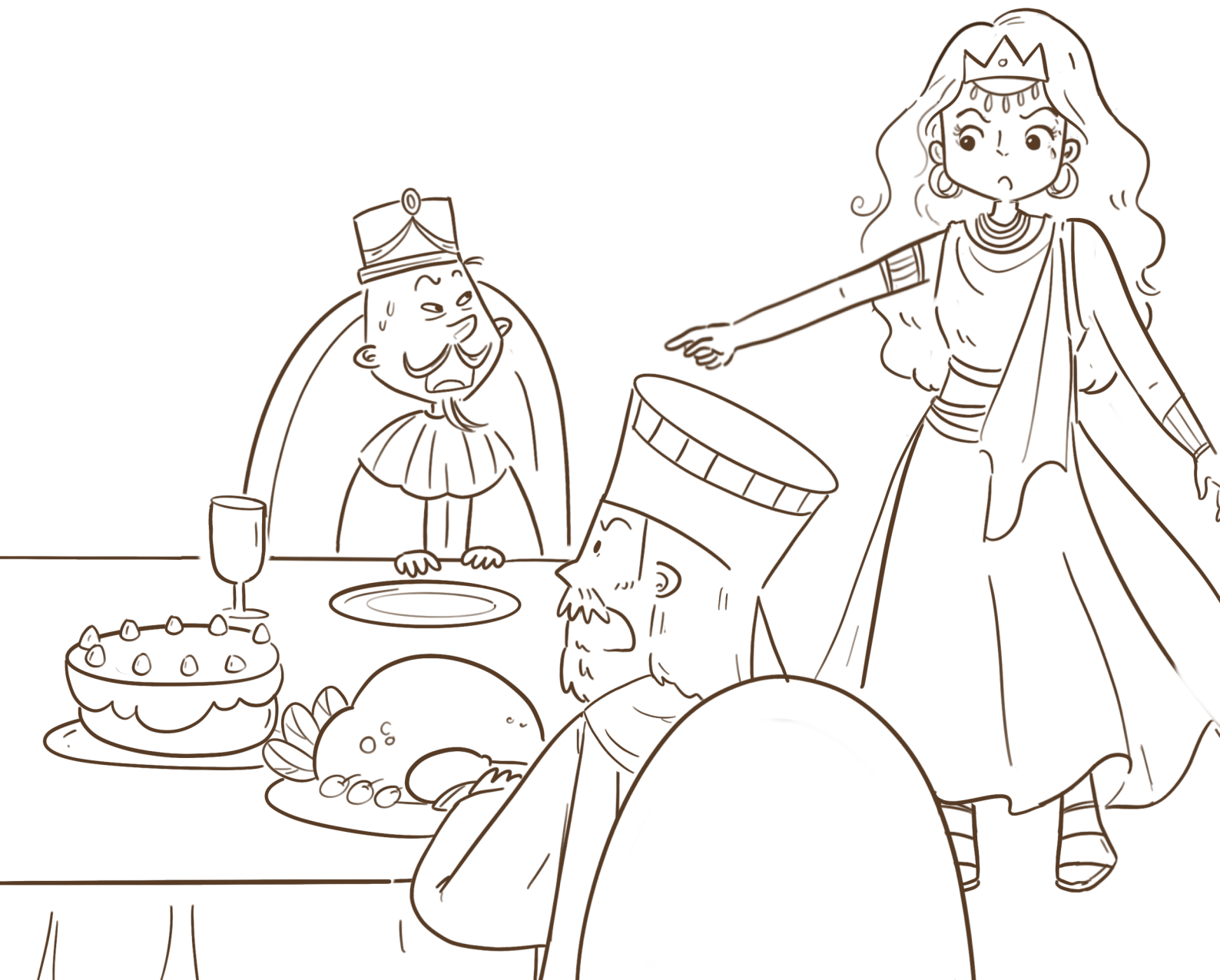
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Help Esther reach the King's scepter.



When I am afraid,  
I put my trust in you.

Psalm 56:3



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