



BIBLE STORY

Based on the book of Esther

A long time ago, there was a mighty **king** (*bow*) in a faraway land. He lived in a big palace and liked to throw fancy parties. But during one of those parties, the queen made him mad. She refused to let him boss her around. The angry **king** (*bow*) decided she could no longer be queen.

The **king's** (*bow*) officials searched the entire kingdom for a new queen. The **king** (*bow*) chose a young woman named **Esther** (*cheer*). Everyone agreed **Queen Esther** (*cheer*) was beautiful, but no one knew her hidden identity. **Esther** (*cheer*) was Jewish. Her **Uncle Mordecai** (*pray*), who was like a dad to her after her parents died, warned her to hide her family's Jewish heritage. The Jewish people were not from this land. Because of a big battle many years before, they were forced to leave their homeland and now lived in this kingdom.

Unfortunately, there was a powerful aide to the **king** (*bow*) who wanted to destroy all the Jewish people living in the kingdom. His name was **Haman** (*boo*). **Haman** (*boo*) was an important person in the **king's** (*bow*) palace, but **Mordecai** (*pray*) refused to let **Haman** (*boo*) be the boss of him. This made **Haman** (*boo*) very mad. When he found out **Mordecai** (*pray*) was Jewish, **Haman** (*boo*) decided to punish all the Jewish people by convincing the **king** (*bow*) to get rid of them.

When the Jewish people found out that **Haman** (*boo*) wanted to destroy them, they were scared and sad. **Mordecai** (*pray*) begged **Esther** (*cheer*) to ask the **king** (*bow*) for help. **Mordecai** (*pray*) said to **Esther** (*cheer*), "Maybe you became queen just so you could be in this position to save us all!" **Esther** (*cheer*) knew she had to be brave. She also knew she wasn't alone. **Esther** (*cheer*) responded to **Mordecai** (*pray*), saying, "Ask all the Jews to fast with me for three days. After that, I will go to the **king** (*bow*)."

The Jewish community fasted together and prayed to God. **Queen Esther** (*cheer*) prepared a special banquet for the **king** (*bow*) and **Haman** (*boo*). The **king** (*bow*) enjoyed the meal and was in a good mood. He asked **Queen Esther** (*cheer*) if there was anything he could do for her. "Oh yes!" **Esther** (*cheer*) pleaded, "Please help me and my people. We are Jews and **Haman** (*boo*) wants to destroy us!" **Haman** (*boo*) hadn't known **Queen Esther** (*cheer*) was Jewish. He became frightened. The **king** (*bow*) became angry. He turned to **Haman** (*boo*), "I like **Queen Esther** (*cheer*), and you wanted to get rid of her! Well, now I want to get rid of you!" The **king's** (*bow*) guards dragged **Haman** (*boo*) out of the palace, and the **king** (*bow*) invited **Mordecai** (*pray*) to help advise him instead. Together **Queen Esther** (*cheer*) and **Mordecai** (*pray*) were able to save their community.

