

Haman's Anger At Mordecai

Esther 5:1-14

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 11:29

“He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will be the servant to the wise of heart.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

One “Have a Feast” template for each child in your class, gray cardstock, glue, scissors, construction paper, glitter, sequins or small paper shapes and assorted magazines to cut out food items.

A chalkboard and chalk (or dry erase board and dry erase markers).

ATTENTION GETTER!

Lookout!

Choose two children. One will be the “inside” and the other will be the “outside.” Have the remainder of the children form a circle and lock arms. The “inside” child will stand in the middle of the circle. The “outside” child will be outside of the circle. The object is for the outside child to try to tag the inside child. The job for the children in the circle is to protect the inside child. You can say go and give a limited amount of time. Give other children the opportunity to be the inside and the outside child.

Today we are going to learn about a very evil man named Haman. He hated Mordecai and wanted him killed along with all of the Israelites. But God had a plan to protect His people. The Bible says that our enemy is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). But with God’s help and the help of our brothers and sisters we can be protected from the attack of the enemy. Compare the game just played to this truth. The lion is the one on the

outside trying to attack the one on the inside. By staying together, praying for one another and putting on the full armor of God we can be protected from the attacks of the enemy.

LESSON TIME!

Today we are going to continue our story of Esther. You may remember from previous lessons how that Haman became very angry at Mordecai for not bowing down to him. Mordecai would only bow before the Lord. This made Haman very angry and he convinced the king to write a decree that on a certain date all of the Jews should be killed. What Haman didn't realize is that the new queen, Esther was a Jew.

Haman's hatred and anger was so powerful and consuming in his life that it ended up destroying him. We are going to see that played out in our lesson today. At the same time we will continue to see God's protection of His people and how He uses a simple girl named Esther to deliver His people from the evil plans of Haman. **Anger and hatred can destroy us.**

ESTHER 5:1-8

Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.

So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you; up to half the kingdom!"

So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and request is this:

"If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

Esther has been praying, fasting, and seeking God for three full days. She had asked her uncle, Mordecai, and other friends and family to pray for her as well. She is ready to do God's will, no matter what may happen. The time has come for her to be used by God in a mighty way. She feels strength knowing that others are aware of her situation and are praying for her. How important it is for us to have others praying for us when we are doing what God has asked us to do.

In the previous lesson, Esther and Mordecai learned of Haman's evil plan to destroy the Jews. Mordecai asked Esther to talk to the king. But Esther was frightened because it was unlawful for her to go to the king unless he asked for her to come. But Mordecai encouraged her and even reminded her that perhaps God had placed her in the position she was in, as queen, so that He could use her at this critical time. So Esther decided that she would go to the king, even if it meant that she would get into a lot of trouble.

After the three days of prayer the time came for her to go to the king. She goes before him and he holds out his scepter. This was the sign that he was pleased to see her and was allowing her to come into his presence. What a relief she must have felt! She had to take that first step and then found that the Lord held her up. Sometimes it can be scary to take the step that God wants us to in our walk with Him. But when we are obedient and do what He wants us to we will find that He is with us all the way.

The King tells Esther that she can ask for anything she wanted; even up to half of his kingdom. God had given Esther a great amount of favor with the king. Esther probably realizes she could ask the king for her petition right then and there, but she wants him to understand the whole situation. She asked the king and his "right hand man", Haman to come to a nice dinner in his honor. She tells him that she will then tell him her request.

King Xerxes had a very nice time at the banquet. He asked her again what she requests. He has already said he would be glad to give her whatever her request may be. But she asks that he and Haman come back the next day for another banquet. We aren't told why she does it this way. Maybe she is nervous and wants another night of prayer. Maybe that is how they did it in their culture back then. Or perhaps she wanted Haman to squirm a little. Then again, maybe it was exactly God's timing working in everyone's life.

Have a Feast

For this craft you will need one “Have a Feast” template for each child in your class, gray cardstock, glue, scissors, construction paper, glitter, sequins or small paper shapes and assorted magazines to cut out food items.

Copy the platter template onto gray cardstock to resemble a silver platter. Have the children cut out the platter and use glue and construction paper, glitter, sequins or small paper shapes to decorate the platter. Allow enough space for the children to write, “God used Esther to save His people.” Next, using magazine cutouts allow the children to find food items to cut out and glue onto their platter. Have them take their platters home to remind them how that God used Esther to stop Haman’s wicked plan.

ESTHER 5:9-14

So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.

Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.

Moreover Haman said, "Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king.

"Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made.

The Bible says that Haman went out with a joyful and glad heart. He is just on top of the world isn't he? Here he was the second guy in the kingdom, just under the king in power. He was able to do whatever he wanted to do. People respected him and bowed down to him and did what he said to do. He was able to get the king to make a decree to destroy the Jews. He is a pretty important guy.

But is he using his power and influence for the good of the nation? No! He is being selfish and only using it to advance his own wants. When he leaves the banquet and sees Mordecai all of his joy immediately leaves. Mordecai refuses to tremble (or be afraid) before him. He would not even stand up when Haman passed by. Of course, everyone knew they should arise when Haman walked by. We are told that Haman was filled with indignation. He is consumed with anger towards Mordecai. **Anger and hatred can destroy us.**

Well Haman restrains himself and goes home to his wife. He invites over some friends and family to his home. When they arrive Haman begins to brag to everyone about how important he is. He talks about how the king has promoted him and about how important he is. He even shares about his invitation to the banquet that Queen Esther has prepared. He shares that he, alone, has been invited to dine with the king and queen.

Here is Haman at the top of the world, but he is the most miserable man in the kingdom. He says that all of this gives me no joy because I see the Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate. He could have all that the world offers in money, power and fame, yet he was miserable because he was filled with hatred in his heart. His anger and hatred would finally end up destroying him. **Anger and hatred can destroy us.**

Haman was so filled with hate that it would lead him to consider murder. We see in Genesis 4 another story about anger, jealousy and hatred. It is the story of Cain and Abel. Cain became angry because God accepted Abel's sacrifice and not his own. Abel's sacrifice came from his heart and according to God's instructions. But Cain wanted God to accept the sacrifice made from his hands. He wanted God to be impressed with what he had done. In Genesis 4:7 the Lord said to Cain, "If you do what is right, you will be accepted. But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you but you must master it." How Haman needed to heed this same message, because like Cain, this sin would end up destroying his life. **Anger and hatred can destroy us.**

So Haman tells his family and friends all about this anger he has towards Mordecai. They aren't exactly helpful. They were blind to his hateful disposition. They didn't seem to have any compassion toward Mordecai either. They seemed to agree with Haman's anger and even gave him ideas on how to express it in murder. They suggested that Haman build a 75-foot gallows in order to hang Mordecai and kill him. What a completely horrible thing!

They didn't have any regard for human life. It seemed as though they wanted to see Mordecai and his people suffer too. Maybe they wanted to be on Haman's good side so they could share in his power and influence. Haman liked this idea because it would say to the public, "Here's what happens if you get on Haman's bad

side.” Let this be a lesson for us that we need to choose our friends carefully. We need friends that will tell us when we are acting wrongly towards others, not encourage us to sin against God.

Haman really liked the idea! It made him feel good about himself and much better to imagine the world without Mordecai refusing to bow down to him. He lost all perspective. The gallows were built on his property in one night. He couldn't wait to get Mordecai out of his life. **Anger and hatred can destroy us.**

Let's learn from the mistakes and bad choices that Haman made. We need to be careful not to let pride consume us. We should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to. Pride can destroy us. Then we should never allow anger and hatred to get control of us as well. If someone wrongs us we need to give that to the Lord and allow Him to take care of it. If we are feeling anger towards a brother in Christ we need to confess that and forgive our brother. **Anger and hatred can destroy us.**

“Haman” Hangman

Before class pick out some words that are found in Esther 5:9-14. Use words to describe Haman's character. For example: pride, wealth, honor, anger, elevated, etc.

Use these words to allow the children to play a game of Hangman. Split your class into three groups of 5 or 6 children. Decide which child from each group will be the ones giving the words. Tell them three words from your list. The other four or five children will guess. You will have three games going on at the same time. This will allow everyone to get a turn within a short period of time. You can do this on the chalk or dry erase board, or have the children use paper.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in Him with all of our hearts. Encourage them to confess any anger or bitterness that they may have towards anyone else. Also, have them commit to live a life of forgiveness. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

