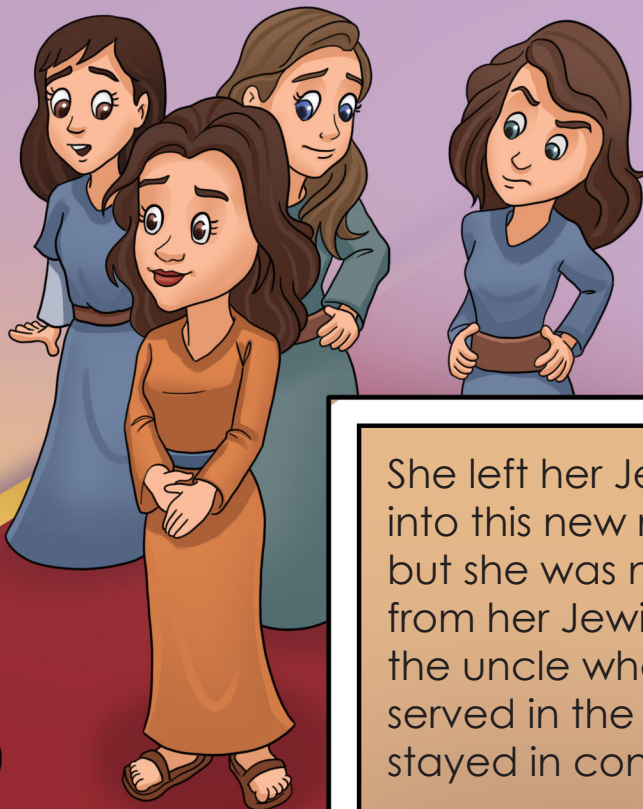


Esther<sup>1</sup> was a young, courageous Jewish woman, who had been chosen to become the new queen of the Persian king Ahasuerus.



<sup>1</sup> The book of Esther is part of the Old Testament. You can also read this story in a children's Bible.



She left her Jewish home to enter into this new role as the queen, but she was not completely cut off from her Jewish roots. Mordecai, the uncle who had raised her, served in the king's court, and he stayed in contact with Esther.



While Esther was the queen, a top official in the government who hated the Jewish people persuaded the king to make a decree that all Jewish people in the kingdom were to be killed. Neither the king nor this official knew that Esther was Jewish. What was Esther to do? Expose herself as being Jewish and chance being killed for doing so? Or stay quiet and live while her people were being so horribly attacked?

*Faith-filled Models from  
the Old Testament:*

**Esther**

Mordecai encouraged Esther to talk to the king and tell him of her Jewish heritage. But there was a grave obstacle to overcome: no one, not even the queen, was allowed to approach the king without being summoned by the king first. To do so risked death. If Esther was to seek help for her people, she would need to approach the king, even though she had not been summoned.



Esther asked the Jewish people throughout the city to pray and fast for three days, and then she would approach the king.



After the three days had passed, she courageously approached the king. The king was pleased to see Esther and held out his scepter, symbolizing his pardon. Esther prepared a special dinner and invited the king to dine with her, where she was then able to explain the plight of her people. With the king's help they were able to find a solution to save the lives of many of her people.



Be encouraged by this story, knowing that in a time when you need to be brave, Jesus can give you the courage you need at that moment.