

Esther is Chosen Queen

by Deaconess Kimberly Trombley

The king liked Esther more than he liked any of the other women. She pleased him more than any of the other virgins. So he put a royal crown on her head. He made her queen in Vashti's place.

—Esther 2:17 NIV

After Queen Vashti was sent away, King Xerxes needed to find a new queen. Once he was finished being angry, he had all the young and beautiful women of the kingdom brought to him. From this group, he could choose the next queen of Persia. The young women chosen had no choice and had to go to the palace.

- Do you think it's fair the women had no choice about leaving their homes?
- How do you think it felt to leave home?
- Have you ever had to leave your home?
- If so, were you happy to leave or sad?

The king told a man named Hegai to be in charge of all the women. Hegai would make sure each of the women had beauty care and were treated well until they met the king. So, all of the beautiful, young women of the kingdom were gathered together to work and live. Many of them were afraid because they were taken from their families to a strange place with strange rules.

- Have you ever been afraid of new rules?
- If so, what were the new rules you were afraid of?

Esther was one of the beautiful, young women who were gathered for the king. She was of the Jewish faith, but her uncle Mordecai told her to not tell anyone about her family. Some people in Persia during this time hated Jewish people.

- Have you ever felt as if someone hated you?
- How did it make you feel?
- Did you keep quiet about how you felt or did you talk to someone about it?

The king met with each woman who had come to the palace. He didn't like any of them as much as he liked Esther. Esther pleased him the most. King Xerxes made her queen of Persia and gave a feast to honor her.

- Esther learned how to live in a new place and follow new rules. Do you think she felt relieved to be chosen queen? Why or why not?
- God had a plan for Esther's life and God has a plan for your life. How does it feel to know God knows what is best for your life?
- When you pray to God, do you ask Him to be in charge of your life?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for choosing each of us to be Your children and for having a plan in our lives.

Be with us throughout the day.

Help us tell others about Your great love for us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

