

Ebi's

Story time



“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

- Esther 4:14

A long, long time ago, in a beautiful palace in a land called Persia, there was a kind and wise young woman named Esther. Esther wasn’t born a queen, but one day, she was chosen to become the queen of Persia. She was beautiful, kind, and loved by everyone who met her.

But there was one problem. Not everyone in the kingdom was kind. The king’s helper, a man named Haman, was very mean and wanted to kill all the Jewish people in the kingdom, including Esther herself! Haman had a wicked plan to make all the Jews go away, but Esther didn’t know what to do.

You see, Esther was a Jewish girl, but no one knew that. When she became queen, she didn’t tell anyone about her family or her people because she was told it was a secret. But now, she was in a tricky situation. Haman wanted to kill all the Jewish people, and Esther knew she had to do something to stop him.

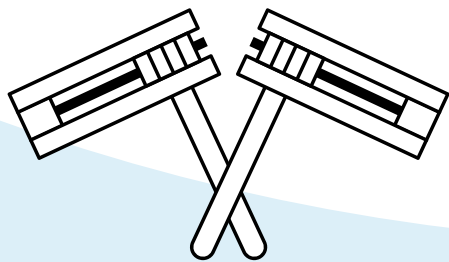
One day, her uncle Mordecai, who loved and cared for her, sent her a message. He told her, “Esther, you are the queen! You have the power to help save our people. You have to go to the king and tell him what Haman is planning.”

But there was a big problem: No one could go to the king without being invited. If someone went to the king without being called, they could be punished, even thrown into jail. Esther was scared. She hadn’t been called to see the king in a long time, and she didn’t know if he would listen to her.

Esther’s bravery had saved the day. Because of her courage, the king stopped Haman, and the Jewish people were safe. The king even made a new law to protect them.

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Esther's story reminds us that sometimes, even when we are scared, we can be brave and do the right thing. She stood up for what was right, even when it was hard, and in doing so, she saved an entire people.

And so, every year, Jewish people celebrate Purim, the day when Esther saved them all. They remember her courage, her kindness, and her love for her people.

Even today, there are still people who want to harm the Jewish people, just like in Esther's time. But God loves all His children, and He calls us to stand up for those who are in danger. Just like Esther used her courage to protect her people, we too can show kindness and bravery by standing with the Jewish people.

One way we can help is by supporting those who want to move to Israel, the land where many Jewish people feel safe and at home. By helping others make their journey, we can make a big difference, just like Esther did. God asks us to be His hands and feet, and when we help others, we show His love and protection.

But Mordecai didn't give up. He sent another message, saying, "Don't think that just because you are the queen, you will be safe. If you keep quiet, someone else will step in to help us, but you might miss your chance. Maybe you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this!"

Esther took a deep breath. She was afraid, but she knew what she had to do. She said, "I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I die, I die!"



So Esther bravely walked up to the king's palace. She wore her most beautiful dress and stood in the doorway, waiting. The king saw her and smiled! He said, "Esther, what is it you want? I will give you anything, even half my kingdom!"

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Esther was brave, but she didn't ask the king for anything just yet. Instead, she invited him and Haman to a special dinner that she would prepare. The king agreed, and they all gathered at the feast.

During the meal, the king asked Esther again, "What is it you want? I will give you whatever you ask!"

Esther's heart was pounding, but she knew the time had come. She said, "Oh, King, there is a terrible plan to hurt me and my people. Haman wants to destroy us. Please, help us!"

The king was shocked! He didn't know what Haman had been planning. He turned to Haman in anger and said, "How dare you! You have tricked me and tried to hurt my queen!"

The king quickly stopped Haman's evil plan and made sure the Jewish people were safe.

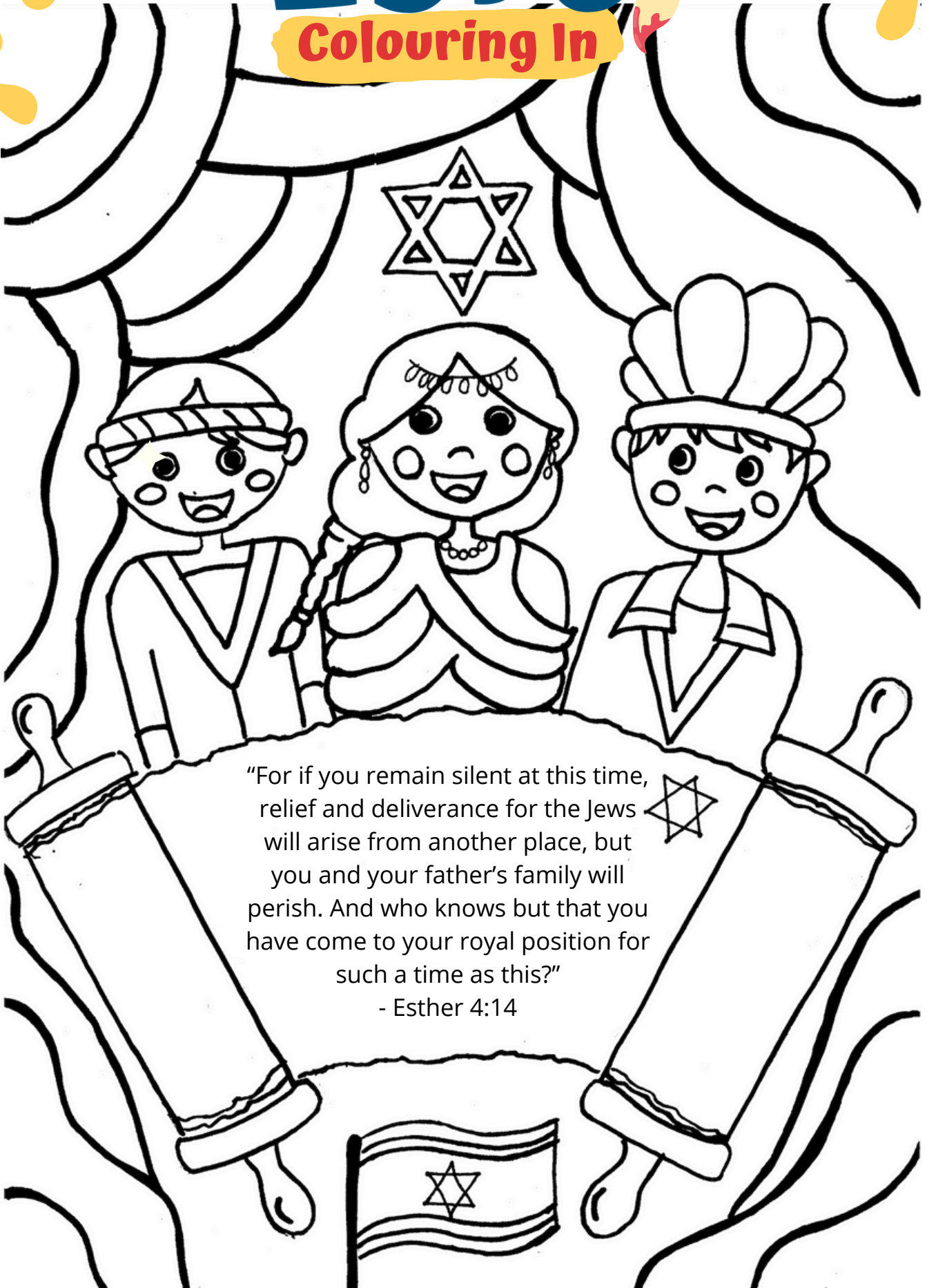
Let's Pray

Thank you God that you helped Esther to tell the king about people who wanted to kill the Jews. Help us that we will also know what the right thing is to do. And that we will love all people and not want to harm them. Amen.



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Colouring In



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Worksheet

Instructions:

- Cut the basic shape: Glue the paper mask template on a piece of card. When the glue is dry, cut carefully all the way around the edge.
- Paint or colour Use paint, markers, or crayons to colour the mask's base and features.
- Create eye holes: Carefully cut out the eye holes. You can do this by either folding the card and making a small cut in the middle or putting blutak under the eye spaces and pushing a sharp pencil down from the top, through and into the blutak. Then you can use your scissors to carefully cut out the eye shapes.
- Add details: You may want to glue on other decorative materials like wool for hair, glitter, coloured paper and gem stickers for the crowns.
- Attach elastic: Cut two pieces of elastic and attach them to the sides of the mask using a hot glue gun or by punching holes and tying them. Make sure the elastic is the right length to fit snugly on the wearer's head.



