

COURAGEOUS

VBS Skits

OVERVIEW

This year's VBS theme is "Courageous," looking at the life of Esther and how God helped her grow in her courage to do the right thing in the face of challenges. These stories and daily themes will be emphasized throughout the five days of skits. Each day focuses on its corresponding daily theme from which the main characters learn valuable lessons. The purpose of the skits is to get the kids engaged and thinking about how the themes and Biblical lessons can be relatable in their own life situations.

This year, our skits are taken straight from the book of Esther itself and can be used as an alternative to telling the Bible story each day. A few things to note: If you are doing a VBS that is less than five days long and still desire to have a drama element, we suggest altering the scripts as they are written in the context of a full week. Additionally, feel free to adapt the characters to fit the demographics of your team.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Each day of skits includes a "cast list," but the character overviews are below. Depending on the size of your team, you can add more characters or take out some of the supporting roles. We suggest having the same person play each of the main characters for the sake of consistency.

Main Characters

- ◇ **Narrator** - The narrator has the largest scripts spoken all at one time because he/she is providing context and explanation for the stories. Feel free to read from the script if memorization is too difficult for that quantity.
- ◇ **Esther** - Esther is one of the more prominent characters and should be played by a confident female. The neat aspect of Esther's character is the growth (from hesitant to courageous) she shows throughout the whole story!
- ◇ **King A** - King Ahasuerus is otherwise known as King Xerxes. This character should exude power while showing that he always needs advice from others (even if it isn't good advice).
- ◇ **Hegai** - Portrayed in these skits as the personal servant to the King, Hegai is only seen on Day One. He is an energetic and flamboyant character. If your cast is limited, we suggest having the same person play Hegai and Haman (Days 2-4).
- ◇ **Haman** - Haman is the "bad guy" in the story of Esther because of the very apparent sin in his heart. This manifested in his hatred of Mordecai and coercing of the king to sign the decree against the Jews.
- ◇ **Mordecai** - Mordecai's character should show a lot of growth over the course of the week. He begins in fear for what might happen to Esther and the Jews and ends up recognizing God's faithfulness to them. He is a coach-like character for Esther.

Supporting Characters

- ◇ **Crowd Extras**
- ◇ **Bigthan**
- ◇ **Teresh**
- ◇ **Maid**
- ◇ **Hathach**

DAY 1 - BE COACHABLE

OPENING SESSION

(Setting: King A's throne room. The narrator can either be off to the side the whole time or come to the front of the stage for his/her part and then leave.)

Narrator: The story I'm about to share with you is a remarkable true story that happened long ago in the land of Persia. There once was a young woman named Esther who found her courage and strength not within herself but through our almighty and powerful Creator! Who is this Creator, you may ask? He is the one who made the grass we walk on and the light that fills the sky. His name is God! God made people like you and me and longs to have a personal relationship with us. In this story, we will see how God had big plans for Esther and how she will have to learn to have a coachable spirit. Now, in the land of Persia, there was a ruler named King Ahasuerus. You might know him by the name of King Xerxes. He had almost everything he could desire in his big palace and the power to do anything he wanted. The one thing he was missing was a queen to rule by his side. Let's see what King Ahasuerus does to find her.

King A: Hegai, my good servant! Come, I have a request!

Hegai: *(Approaching the throne and bowing.)* Yes, my king, what may I do for you?

King A: I have so many blessings in this palace; however, I lack one thing. I am lonely and wish to have a wonderful queen who will rule by my side. You must go into the city of Susa and bring to me some women suited to take the position of Queen of Persia. I will get to know them and choose who will be my queen.

Hegai: Of course, Your Majesty. I will make a royal announcement in the city of Susa right away!

King A: *(Clapping happily.)* Very good!

(As the narrator speaks, the setting changes to being in the city. Extra actors can pretend to buy and sell things in the marketplace. Mordecai has a pretty scarf to give to Esther.)

Narrator: Hegai hurried into the city to deliver the king's message to the people. In Susa, there was a man by the name of Mordecai. Mordecai was a Jew who followed God. He was taking care of his cousin, Esther, who had been an orphan since her parents had passed away. Mordecai raised Esther as if she were his own daughter.

Mordecai: Esther! While I was at the marketplace today, I stumbled across this beautiful scarf. I thought it would complement you very nicely. I do not have much to give, but I hope you like it.

Esther: *(Accepting the scarf with a smile.)* Oh, Mordecai, thank you! It looks lovely. It will go well with my shawl, don't you think?

Mordecai: *(Assessing her new wardrobe.)* I would have to agree! Most lovely.

Esther: I hope one day I can repay you for all you have done for me. I truly am grateful.

Mordecai: There is no need. I am proud to call you my daughter.

(Hegai enters the scene and prepares to make an announcement.)

Hegai: Attention! Attention, people of Susa! The king has sent me to share a special announcement with you all.

(Everyone stops what they are doing to listen to Hegai. Esther and Mordecai look at each other with curiosity.)

Hegai: *(Holding up and reading from a scroll in a loud voice.)* His Royal Highness, King Ahasuerus, has decreed: "In his noble pursuit to find a suitable queen, the king commands that every eligible young maiden come to the palace and be presented in his court. If one such woman pleases the king and finds favor with him, she will be named Queen of Persia and rule by His Majesty's side." *(Rolling up the scroll.)* The king has tasked me, Hegai, his servant, to choose women who would fit the role of queen and escort these women to the palace. So, I must make the difficult decision of who to choose. *(Hegai begins to scan the crowd as many extras wave their hands in the air as if to say, "Pick me!")* Let's see... eenie, meenie, minie... ah, how about you, young lady?

Esther: *(Steps forward, looking surprised.)* M-me?

Hegai: Yes, you! You look very lovely in that new scarf. The king might find potential in you.

Esther: Oh, but I couldn't! I'd be far too nervous. I've never been to the palace before. I am not worthy to go.

Hegai: Well, young lady, might I suggest a bit more courage? I think you could be a great fit. Isn't that right, everyone?

(Some of the crowd cheers while other women say "Aww" in disappointment. Hegai takes Esther by the hand to lead her away, but Esther releases herself and runs back to Mordecai.)

Esther: Mordecai, he has chosen me! Out of all the people here! What am I going to do? I'm nervous and frightened.

Mordecai: I know you're scared, but you must find the courage to go. I will be at the king's gate waiting to hear how things go at the palace. You can do this, Esther. However, I must tell you one more thing. You and I know that we are Jewish, but you must not tell anyone at the palace about who you are. If you expose yourself as a Jew, our lives could be at stake. Will you keep this secret, Esther? Will you obey my instructions?

Esther: I—I suppose so. If you say this is for the best, then I will listen to you.

Mordecai: Good. When you walk through those palace doors, be courageous and kind to all you meet. I will be praying earnestly for God to watch over you.

Esther: *(Solemnly.)* I will. Goodbye, Mordecai.

Hegai: *(Hegai acts excited, guiding Esther by the arm.)* Come now, young lady! There is so much ahead of you. We will get you the best cosmetics, a spa day or two, your own royal clothing, and as much food from our banquet table as you would like. How does that sound, Miss—I'm sorry, what is your name?

Esther: I am Hadassah—uh, I mean, Esther.

Hegai: Esther! That is a fine name. How does all of this sound, Miss Esther?

Esther: I suppose it sounds okay to me. Those things should calm my nerves a bit...

Hegai: *(Waving a hand as if to push aside her nervousness.)* It is only the King of Persia. He is a normal human like you and me... only much, much more powerful, and could choose to love you or kill you if he so desires... but let us not speak of that. Come. You have the chance of a lifetime, my dear. What is the worst that could happen?

(All exit the stage.)

CLOSING SESSION

(Setting: The king's gate. Mordecai is pacing as if anxious to hear news of Esther.)

Narrator: Hegai escorted Esther to live in the big, beautiful palace of Persia as she prepared to meet the king. Imagine meeting a king for the first time! Meeting royalty was not an everyday occurrence for Esther. She was nervous, knowing that she may or may not be chosen to become queen. She did everything that she could to get ready for the day they would meet. She listened to Hegai's words carefully and had a coachable spirit but found it difficult to trust in God's plan. As you can imagine, Esther missed Mordecai and her family dearly. Occasionally, Mordecai would meet Esther by the palace gates to see how she was doing.

Mordecai: *(Looking up from his feet as Esther comes to the entrance.)* Esther! It is good to see you. How are you doing in the palace?

Esther: Oh, Mordecai! Do not worry, they are taking good care of me, almost too good! Each day I get closer to meeting the king, and I get more nervous. All of these women have some special trinket or token to try to win the king's favor, but I have nothing! I don't feel like I'm cut out for this...

Mordecai: Remember, Esther, you have something within you that is different from the others. *(Looking around and speaking quieter to make sure nobody is listening.)* You find your courage and hope in the Lord God of Israel. The king will surely see His light within you and see that you are different than the rest of those women.

Esther: *(Nodding resolutely.)* You're right, Mordecai. I need to start trusting God, not myself. Will you—you think it is safe to pray with me?

Mordecai: *(Suddenly acting afraid and taking Esther by the shoulders.)* You have not revealed your family line, have you, Esther?

Esther: No! I have listened to you. Nobody knows I am Jewish.

Mordecai: *(Looking relieved.)* Good. You must keep it that way.

Esther: I will. But Mordecai, will you pray with me right now?

Mordecai: *(Looking around again.)* Looks safe enough.

Esther: *(Bowing to pray.)* Dear Lord, I am about to meet the king who will judge if I would be a worthy queen or not. I know that You are in control and that You will protect me as You have protected our people through this exile. Please help me have the courage to face the king. Amen.

Mordecai: Amen. Now go on! You will be missed if you are here any longer. May God go with you.

(Esther heads back into the palace as the narrator speaks. The scene changes to the throne room, where Esther and Hegai are waiting just outside the door.)

Narrator: Hegai met with Esther the next day to prepare her to meet King Ahasuerus for the first time. She was so nervous but tried her best to remember that God was the one to give her courage.

Hegai: Ah, there is the potential queen! How are you feeling? I have put bets that you will be the one, so don't let me down!

Esther: I still feel unprepared, but I know that someone greater is on my side.

Hegai: *(Giving her a strange look and batting the air in front of him.)* Whatever makes you feel better. Did you bring that scarf of yours? It will add a nice touch and could be a great token to show the king.

Esther: Yes. *(Puts on the scarf.)*

Hegai: *(Clapping his hands excitedly. Then, he gives his instructions hurriedly and a bit flamboyantly without giving Esther time to talk or ask questions.)* Brilliant! Now, here are the doors to the throne room. On my count, I will open the doors, and you will walk in to meet His Majesty, King Ahasuerus, at the end of the long glorious corridor. Walk right foot over left, chin up, and absolutely no blinking, breathing, or wavering. When you face the king, bow in a low courtesy. Only address him as "Your Majesty", "Your Highness", or "My King". No ifs, ands, or buts. Smile big! Here we go three... two... one...

Esther: *(Whispering.)* Wait! But I'm not ready—

(The doors open. Trumpets flare and Esther walks down the aisle, trying not to trip.)

Hegai: *(Announcing in a loud voice.)* Your Royal Majesty, may I present Esther from the citadel of Susa!

Esther: *(Curtseying when she reaches the king.)* My King, I am only a simple girl who comes from a simple town, but I can say this. If I were chosen to be your queen, I would stay by your side day in and day out. I would be loyal to you and would hopefully make a good impression on your kingdom. The manner of a true queen is to be courageous and kind to her kingdom. And if I were chosen as your queen, that is exactly what I would do.

(Curtseying again, Esther steps back from the throne as Hegai comes forward, clapping vigorously.)

Hegai: Aww, how heartfelt! Poetic. Beautiful, just beautiful!

King A: I must say, Lady Esther, you have made a great impression on me. There is something about you that is different than all the rest. You have a light that shines brighter than anyone else.

(Esther smiles and looks up to God, whispering, "Thank you.")

King A: Esther of Susa, do you accept the position of Queen of Persia?

Esther: *(Looking astounded.)* Y-yes! I accept, of course.

King A: Good! Because you didn't have much of a choice anyhow. *(He chuckles and then begins addressing his servant.)* Hegai! Begin the banquet preparations; let us celebrate my new Queen!

Hegai: Of course, Your Majesty!

(The three exit the stage as the narrator comes to finish out the scene.)

Narrator: Well, it looks like God has some big plans in store for Esther! The king could see that something was different about her and chose her to become his new queen. Esther also showed that she was coachable to Mordecai by obeying his instructions to keep her Jewish lineage a secret. This doesn't seem very courageous, but we will find out if they both will grow in courage later this week. Come back tomorrow to see what happens next in the story!

Sample

