

Boaz Magazine

Esther

Boaz Magazine

The Boaz Magazine is published by an independent committee. Our mission is to help parents engage their children in ways of the Lord. To help them to understand the Word of God and develop a faith that produces fruits and good work and will hopefully one day lead to a deep and committed relationship with our Lord.

Boaz Magazine
PO Box 162
Boaz, AL 35957

BOAZMAG

Email: Info@BoazMag.com
Website: BoazMag.com
Visit us on Facebook and Instagram

Writers: Matthew Kerry, Kathryn Freer, Rosalie Satheesan, Carlos Vargas, Merrylene Zivanomoyo, Karen Getchel

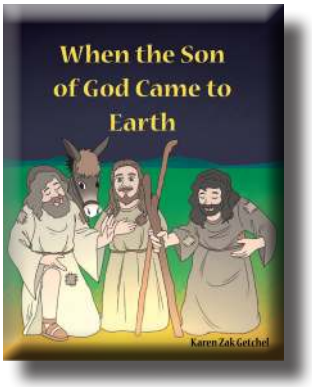
Contributing Artists: Brit Kohls, Rafael Rodriguez, Kathryn Freer, Carlos Vargas, Karen Getchel, Adobe Stock

The Puzzlers: Rosalie Satheesan

Ask Molly: Donna Mitcham

Editors: Rosalie Satheesan, Carole Zak

Spanish Translator: Carlos Vargas



This 30 page book is geared for children 3 to 8 years old. While the nativity account is timeless, this book take the approach to help children relate to the Savior of the world in ways we sometimes overlook.

Jesus was raised by a step-father, and though he was the Son of God, no one on earth took notice of him, except a few shepherds.

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Esther

A long time ago in the land of "Medo Persia," now called Iran, there was a king named Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes), who prepared two very fancy banquets. The first one was for those who worked with him and for him – servants, nobles, and governors, etc. Now, this was no ordinary small dinner party. In fact, this lasted for an entire six months. You read that correctly – six months, as in one hundred and eighty days, as in half of a year, of extravagant eating and drinking as a celebration. After that, he hosted a second one that was for all of the people of his city, and this one lasted for seven days. These feasts were decorated with the finest things – the Bible describes this as "… white cotton curtains and violet hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rods and marble pillars, and also couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry (*granite stones used in mosiacs floors*), marble, mother-of-pearl, and precious stones. Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king." *(Esther 1:6-7)* This seemed like a really wonderful occasion for everyone.

However, (isn't there always a "however"?) on the seventh day, the king asked for his queen, Vashti, to be brought to him, wearing her royal crown, "in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at" but she did not come. Why? It is not mentioned. Maybe because it was the seventh day and she was not invited for the first six, and that offended her? Maybe it was because she did not want to be publicly displayed like a possession to be showcased? Perhaps it was because the scriptures state that she was having a feast of her own in verse 9? Perhaps she simply resented the king? Or maybe she was "partied-out" after the first six months, let alone the previous six days, of feasting. Regardless of the reason, the king was pretty angry. In fact, it was not just the king that was upset – all of the men in his council got together and decided that there should be a punishment, and





that it needed to be severe – otherwise, all of their wives might get the impression that her behavior would be tolerated, and they might even start to disobey their own husbands. *(verses 17-18)* In any case, it is pretty normal for a king to want his queen beside him, and so the decision was made to remove her as queen and allow for another queen to be selected – preferably one who would enjoy the company of the king. So a decree went out to all of the lands that he governed over that women shall be respectful to their husbands.

Next, the king and his servants asked for ***all*** beautiful unmarried young women who might be the next queen to be brought to the palace and be placed in the care of the eunuchs. They would be brought to his "harem," or the "house of the women" in other translations, and would be given "things for purification," or "cosmetics," depending on the translation. The word there in the Hebrew is "***tamruq***," meaning to "scour," or "brighten the surface of." The women were to be made as beautiful as possible in order to get the attention of the king.

In the land there was a fellow named "Mordecai" who plays an extremely important role in this story. Mordecai is the relative of Esther – some suggest he was her uncle, but other passages suggest that she was actually his uncle's daughter, meaning that he was the older cousin of Esther. Two things are said of Esther: that her parents had passed away, and that she was very beautiful. After her parents had died, Mordecai took her in as if she was his own daughter.

So, Esther was taken and brought to the head of the eunuchs in charge of the women's house, whose name was Hegai, and he liked Esther very much. In fact, she impressed him so much that he brought her what she needed very quickly and put her in the "best place in the house." Each woman had to spend one year in this purification process. Esther 2:12 - "…to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odors, and with other things for the purifying of the women." That is a lot of baths.

After the twelve months, the maidens were allowed to go and see the king. Also, they were allowed to take with them "whatever (they) desired" to please the King. Esther was wise – instead of deciding what she wanted to bring, she asked Hegai what he thought would please the king. The

impression we get from reading the account is that she might have been the only one to say, "You know the king better than I do – what do you think I should take?" So, she did, and that impressed everyone, as we are told "Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her." *(Esther 2:15)* Not only did she impress Hegai and those in the house of the women, but the king. He immediately thought that she was the best of all the maidens that he had met, as the scriptures say: "The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti." *(Esther 2:17)* So, Esther just went from orphan to Queen. That's quite an experience.

So that is "Part I" of Esther's story. What do you think? What are some things to consider and learn from? It's full of noteworthy details. What should we think of a king who threw a six-month party? Should we think that he was kind because he invited those who worked with him? Should we think he was wise to "win over" those who were to serve him? Or should we consider him wasteful for such an unnecessary event? Should we consider him as an immature, selfish young king, who is simply overindulging in his position?

Next, what do you think of the experience of Vashti? Do you think she had a good reason not to come? If you were her, would you do the simple task of appearing as the queen, dressed in your best clothes and wearing the crown, in order to not only please the king but to play the role of the beautiful queen in the presence of all those in the city? Or would you find this offensive, shallow, immature, unnecessary, and "beneath you?" It is truly difficult to look back on this account and be able to honestly say what we would do, simply because we do not understand what it was like to be there.

Maybe he was a wonderful king who cared for his people and really wanted them to feel like they were a part of something special, but the queen was ungrateful and immature and refused to go for a petty reason. We can see a picture of our Lord here, throwing a banquet for his "Bride," "The Church," because the Bible does tell us that the Church will be rewarded in the most lavish way – eternal life with our Lord and our God. That is far better than any feast on earth could ever provide, regardless of how long it is. But maybe he was the one who was immature, and perhaps she was not going to tolerate his excessive eating and drinking, only to then be paraded around like a show-pony. It is a situation where both sides could be understandable, depending on what the true nature of the event was and who the king and queen really were.

Now, what do you think of Esther? This was a young lady who loved the Lord. Her attitude was much different than Vashti's, and we will see even more of it as we continue reading. She was an orphan, and yet instead of being bitter or angry, she soothesd everyone around her with her presence. She asked others' opinions, she was kind, she was agreeable – she won over everyone around her, all the way up to the king. Have you ever met someone who just seemed to positively influence anyone around them? It seems like Esther



was that kind of a person. Regardless of how she might have felt about her situation, about being an orphan, about bathing and being kept in the house of the women for an entire year, there were no complaints from Esther. She gracefully and gently brought a peaceful, soothing presence to others around her.

Many would fail here. She chose to make the decision that was best for her current time and place. Many would show the anger of being held captive along with her people, the Jewish nation. Instead, she kept any ill feelings to herself and did not even tell anyone that she was Jewish. Esther showed incredible wisdom, inner strength, and gracefulness. How might anyone feel if their people were being kept in a distant land, far away from the land that God had promised them? Instead of showing any frustration or resentment of any kind towards the people who held her captive, she showed incredible faithfulness, kindness, and self-control. What an incredible example she set for us, to choose our attitude, focus on the opportunities in front of us to be grateful, and to trust our lives to the LORD.

Now, let's discuss Esther's experience as the Queen, Part II.

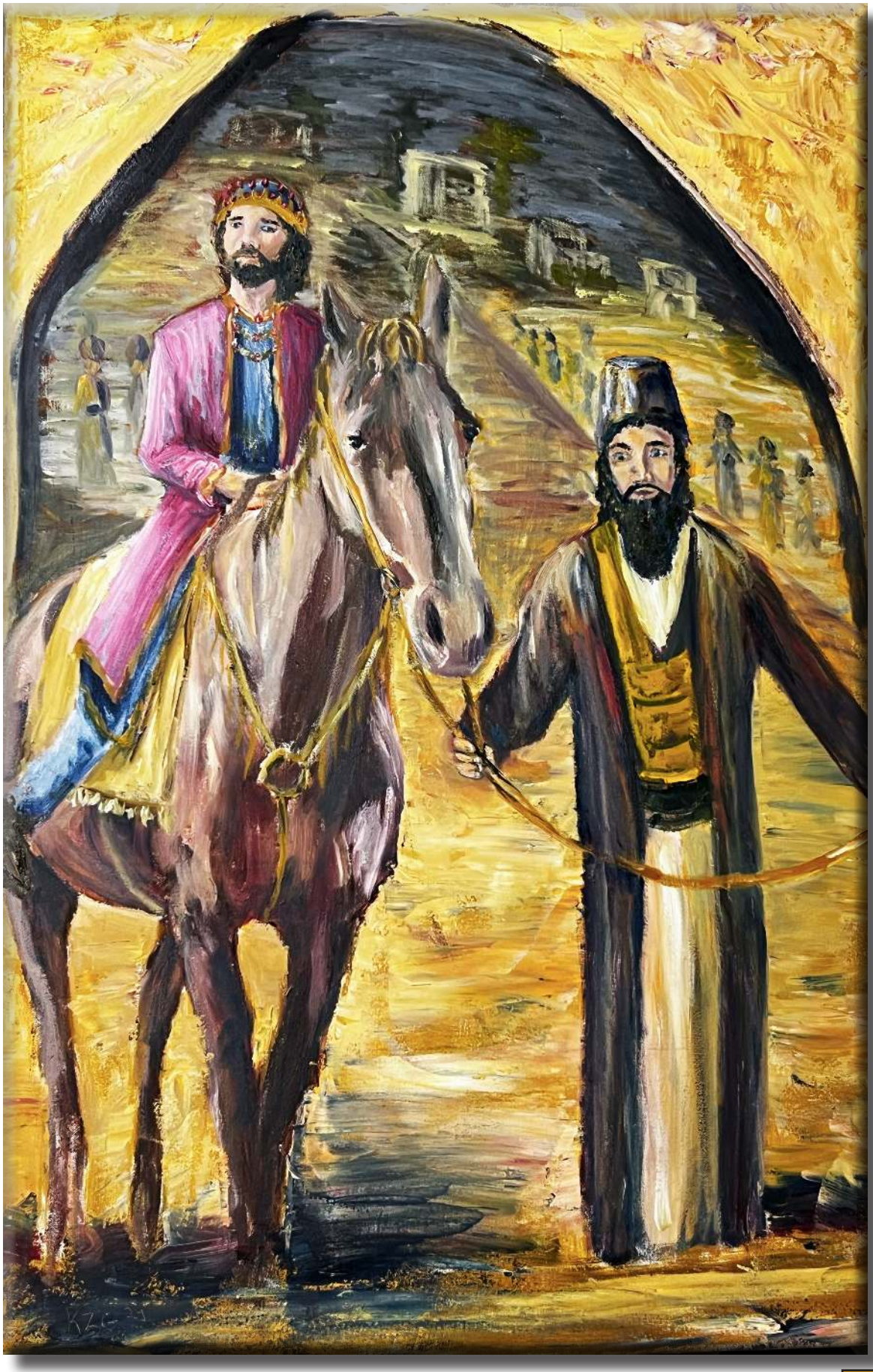
The second part of Esther's account begins with Mordecai. There were men who were plotting against the king to kill him, and Mordecai overheard it. He told Esther, Esther told the king and the two men who were plotting were put to death. After this the king promoted another man in their place, and his name was Haman. When Haman was promoted he wanted to see all the men bow down to him as a sign of respect, but Mordecai would not because of his faith. This made Haman angry, and he wanted to punish Mordecai, but decided not to punish him directly, or immediately, because of his standing with the king. So, instead, he decided that the best way to get his revenge on Mordecai was to kill all of the Jews – that way instead of it appearing that he was taking some kind of revenge on one person, he would present the idea that the Jews and their faith were a threat to the king, and Mordecai could be punished without it looking like a personal revenge. Haman told the king that throughout his land were the Israelites who would not observe the king's laws, and that they should be killed because of it. The king



agreed, and a decree was sent out to all the provinces to put the Jewish people to death on a certain date.

Mordecai and Esther were of course greatly distressed and discussed how they should handle this very delicate matter. Esther eventually decided that she would go into the king, which she says, "is not according to the law, and if I perish, I perish" *(Esther 4:16)*. So, Esther decided to risk her own life to address the king on behalf of her people. She put on the "royal robes" and approached the king's throne room, and she was welcomed by the king. She invited the king and Haman to a banquet that she prepared, and the king agreed. At this banquet, he asked her what she would like him to do for her, and she invited him to another banquet the following day, and he agreed. However, Haman, although very happy to be invited to both of these banquets, was again very angry to see Mordecai at the gates not bowing to him. He ordered that a special gallows should be built fifty feet high which he planned to hang Mordecai from.

That night the king could not sleep for some reason. So he asked that the book of records be brought to him and read. While it was read, he heard that Mordecai had saved his life earlier by reporting the two men who plotted against him to kill him and that nothing special had been done for him. When Haman came to the king that morning, the king asked him what should be done for someone who the king wanted to honor, and Haman answered (thinking that the king wanted to honor him) "For





the man whom the king desires to honor, let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and the horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown has been placed," *(Esther 6:7-8)* and let him be taken through the city as a display to the people. After Haman finishes discussing these elaborate ways to honor someone, which he thought was for himself, the king instructs him to do all of this for "Mordecai, the Jew." Haman returned home crying after this.

It was later that day that he came to the second banquet that Queen Esther prepared. Here King Ahasuerus asked again what she wanted from the king, and she asked that her life be spared, along with all of her people, the Israelites, stating that they had been condemned to death at the hand of Haman. The king was very angry and went for a walk in his garden. When he returned he saw that Haman was lying down beside Esther while pleading for his life, and the king was even more upset to see that Haman had apparently followed the queen to a bed chamber to plead. For these reasons, the king decided that Haman should be hanged on the gallows that he had built to hang Mordecai.

A young Israelite woman, being captive in a strange land with both of her parents dead was exalted to the office of the queen.

A Jewish man, her cousin, exalted to the right hand of the king. These events were overseen by God, and both Mordecai and Esther were faithful in their experiences. They showed patience, wisdom, and trust. Patience in not reacting quickly out of worry, but instead pleading with the king at the right time out of humility and showing their total faithfulness to that king, honoring God at the same time. One way that we honor God is by honoring our earthly superiors. This shows humility, the ability to be compliant instead of willful, and the ability to show wisdom ahead of immediate personal preference.





Young Chefs



Potato Greens Soup and Rice

4 cups of sliced or cut potato greens*

5 Okra pods, sliced

0.5 liters of cooking oil (such as vegetable oil or sunflower oil)

1/2 lb Beef (any red meat is fine)

Half or whole chicken (fried or boiled)

2 Small onions, peeled

3 Cloves of garlic, peeled

1 Mackerel fish (1 or 2 pieces)

Seasoning spice and black pepper.

10 Small peppers (red and green) pounded or ground up

1 1/2 Seasoning cubes (bullion)

Rice--cook 2-4 cups of rice according to package directions. (Generally 1 cup dry rice to 2 cups water, bring to boil and cover, turn on low for 40 minutes, then shut off and leave covered for another 10 minutes)

- Potato Greens: Wash thoroughly about three times and drain using colander or your hands (just be careful not to wash away all the sand which settles down at the bottom bowl. Put the washed leafy greens in a large bowl.
- Slice 1 or 2 onions, garlic (2-3 cloves), and okra pods, and add them to the bowl of greens.
- Next put in 3-4 pinches of seasoning materials like salt, black pepper and sweet spice or 1 1/2 of seasoning cubes. Another measurement you can use is a teaspoon, add half a teaspoon of everything from black pepper to seasoning cubes. This depends on the number of cups of cut greens. 4 cups will fit that measurement of seasoning; above that you will need to add a full teaspoon.
- Then put the oil (0.5 liters or less depending on the cups of cut greens) in a pot and allow it to get hot or heated enough to fry the greens mixed with the seasonings. Let it fry for about 10 minutes covered.



Our Young Chefs are: Phelesta (12) and Rebecca-lyn (9). They live in Liberia and want to share one of their favorite meals.

- Next, open and add some water (1 cup 0.5 liters) and allow to boil for another ten minutes. When water is reduced, put in the already prepared chicken, meat or beef and the fish as well as the pounded or smashed colorful pepper (this kind may be different from region to region but it's not just 1 -2 pods of pepper. At least 5 green pods mixed with another 5 red pods. (Clean the pepper pods, add some sliced onion and another seasoning cube. Put this mixture in the grinder or pound it until totally smashed).
- To cook the meat (fish, chicken, beef), season and steam aobut 10 minutes (do beef separately).
- When all mixed together, boil for another 5 minutes with the cover on, stirring often. Do not overcook.
- Spoon the soup over the rice and enjoy with friends and family.









***Potato Greens** (the leaves from the Sweet Potato): In Liberia, this plant grows the potatoes underneath the ground but the leaves are spread above the top. They are cut and bundled together like a broom. We buy them and slice them with the long watery yellow stem attached.

BORN FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS!

-> SOLVE THE PUZZLE TO LEARN WHAT QUEEN ESTHER DID FOR HER PEOPLE! LOOK AT THE LETTERS ON THE CLOCK, MATCH THEM TO THE NUMBERS UNDER THE BLANKS, AND THEN WRITE THE LETTERS IN THE BLANKS.



AND HER MAIDENS DID NOT

9 6 7 8 9 2 9 5 7

OR DRINK FOR 7 8 2 9 9 DAYS, NIGHT OR 3 5 1.

ALL OF THE JEWS IN 6 4 6 5

FASTED AS WELL TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT

FOR HER.

SHOWED GREAT

9 6 7 8 9 2

AND WAS

11 2 5 12 9 2 1

WILLING TO 3 10 9 TO SAVE HER PEOPLE.



Esther's Royal Request

J Q H P J K L T F C X E X V K
V B B A F I N I H Y N R Q B D
I A U L T N E A H B W O S R J
N T A A H G P G U S E Y J Q F
X Q T C R X U E H A M A N U M
E M S E O E Z V F V Z L U E H
A P L Y N R E X B Y L R P S V
X H B K E X L M O N X O C T F
F Q A X J E Q Z L H D B O I A
Z G N U J S A K G W Y E T O V
D W Q E K I N G D O M S T N O
F I U G O L D S C E P T E R R
C N E G N Q T K P W N E O J D
C E T X I N V I T A T I O N V
X T V V F E E S T H E R N K E

gold scepter
invitation
banquet
Haman
King Xerxes
question
Esther
throne
royal robes
kingdom
palace
favor
wine



Queen Esther



"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14, NIV

The Bible tells the story of a very brave Jewish woman named Esther. She was a young woman, just like some of you, who lived many years ago in a Persian city called Susa, and God did something incredible in her life: she became a queen! It wasn't just luck that Esther became queen—God had a perfect plan for her. Her mission was to save her people when they were in serious trouble.

One day, Esther's people were in danger because a wicked man named Haman devised a plan to kill all the Jews. But God had placed Esther in the right place at the right time to help. Her uncle Mordecai told her something very important: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" *(Esther 4:14)*. And Esther saved her people from being exterminated. Can you imagine how important that was?

Children, God knows every detail of your lives—from the moment you were born to what you will do in the future. He has an incredible plan for you, and sometimes that plan is to help someone, just like Esther did, or to be a light *(Matthew 5:14; 6:23)* wherever you are: at school, with your friends, or at home. God has placed you here at this moment because there is something very special He wants you to do.

What can we do today?

1. Trust in God: Just like Esther trusted in God, we can also trust that He is in control of our lives, even when we don't understand everything.
2. Pray: When Esther was afraid, she talked to God. We can talk to Him too. You can pray and ask God to guide you in fulfilling the plan He has for your life.
3. Be courageous: Esther was very brave, and we can be brave too. Sometimes doing the right thing can be difficult, but with God on our side, we can be as courageous as she was.

Mordecai

"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 house will perish. And who knows if perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14 BSB



Mordecai who was like a father to Esther now came to the Queen with a very difficult request. He asked her not to be silent and allow her people to be destroyed.

He had faith that God would answer his earnest prayers of crird for help. He believed it would come through Esther as it was God's grace that placed her in such a position. But if she was unwilling to be the voice for her people, God would find someone else.

There is a saying, "Opportunities are never lost, they are just given to someone else." This is such a true statement.

Sometimes we know we should say something or do something, but we don't because of fear of what others might think or we are afraid something bad might happen to us. Let us not leave the standing up for our friends, our neighbors or even our enemies when they are down, to someone else. Let us be like Queen Esther and pray to God for strength and then do what we have to do no matter how scary it might be. God will give us the courage if we ask for it and believe in His promises.

Let us not wait for someone else to do what is right. Let us be leaders. Let us only follow God.

Let us pray: Dear Heavenly Father, I feel afraid. Doing what is right all the time is tiring, and I get made fun of or sometimes even hurt. Help me to stand up for those who are being made fun of and stand up for Your word and wisdom. Help me to fight with Your Words only. Teach me Your ways. In Jesus' Name Amen.

Wicked Haman



"The man who is against us, our enemy, is this wicked Haman" Esther 7:6.

Kids, today we're going to talk about an exciting part of the story of Esther when she revealed who the enemy of her people was. Queen Esther was a very brave woman, and she knew that God was with her.

At that time, there was a very evil man named Haman, who wanted to harm God's people. He had convinced King Xerxes to sign a law that allowed for the destruction of all the Jews. But God had a plan and used Esther to save His people.

In the verse we read at the beginning, Esther is speaking with King Xerxes. He didn't know what Haman had done, but Esther boldly said, "The man who is against us, our enemy, is this wicked Haman." Imagine the king's surprise upon hearing this! Haman was filled with fear because he knew that his wicked plans had been uncovered. That evil man ultimately faced the consequences of his wrongdoing and was punished for what he had done. God protected His people and saved them from Haman's evil plans.

What can we learn from this story?

Sometimes, wicked people might try to do bad things in secret, but sooner or later, God always brings the truth to light. Haman thought his plan was secure, but God revealed the truth through Esther. The Bible tells us in Luke 8:17, "For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light."

Esther knew that confronting Haman was dangerous, but she trusted that God would protect her. Sometimes we also need to be brave and do what's right, even when we are afraid. When we trust in God, He gives us the strength to do what is right.

Even though the enemy tried to destroy God's people, God had a plan to save them. Esther was an important part of that plan, and thanks to her obedience, the wicked Haman was exposed. Just as God took care of His people back then, He also cares for us today.

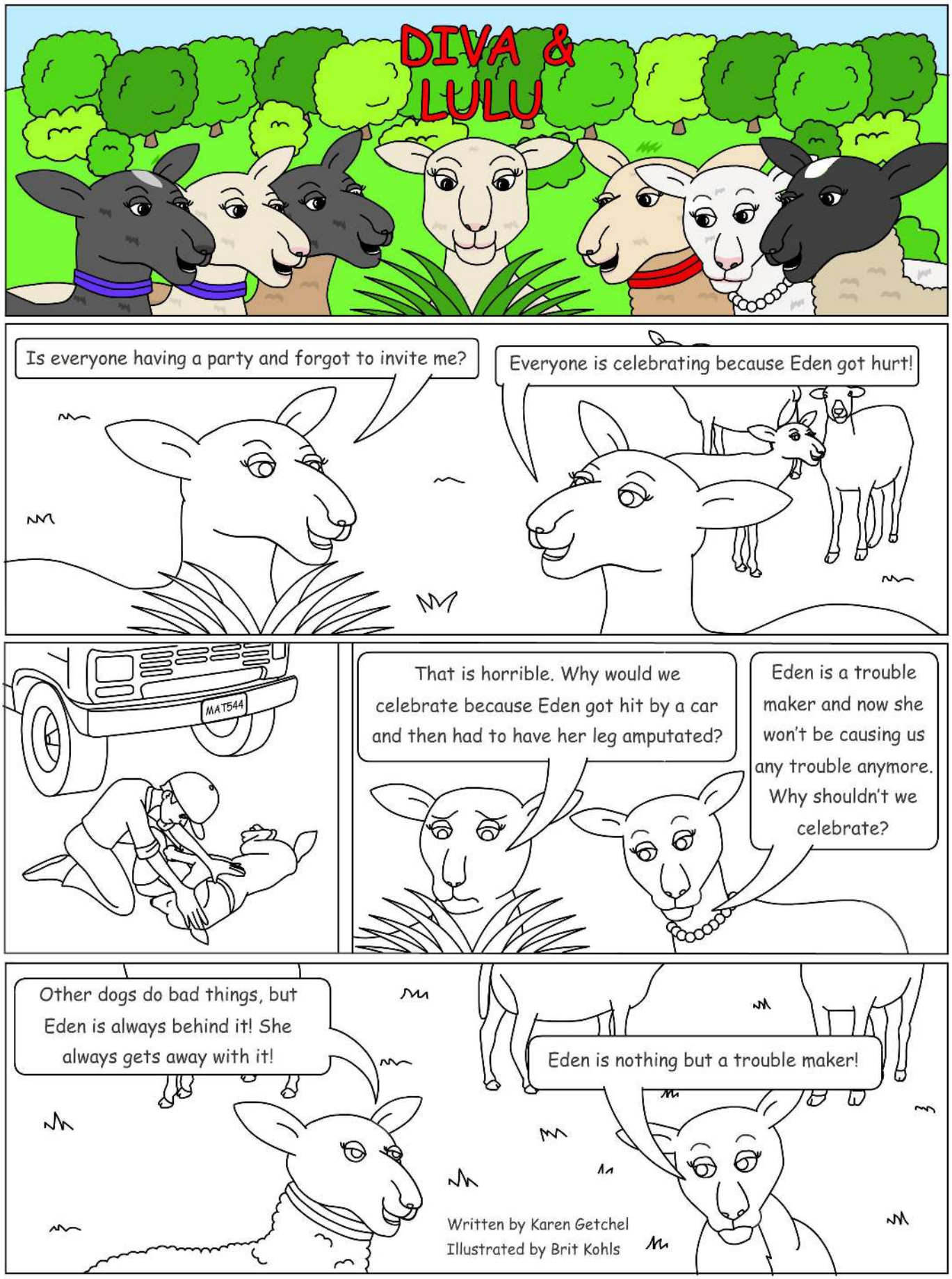
How can we apply what this story teaches us to our lives?

Kids, you might see someone doing something wrong and feel tempted to say nothing out of fear. But remember that God is always with us and wants us to be brave, just like Esther. Sometimes, when we face difficult situations, like witnessing someone being unfair or evil, we can pray to God and ask for wisdom on how to act. We can also trust that God always cares for us. He will not allow evil to triumph over His children. Just as He protected Esther and the Jews, He will protect us too.

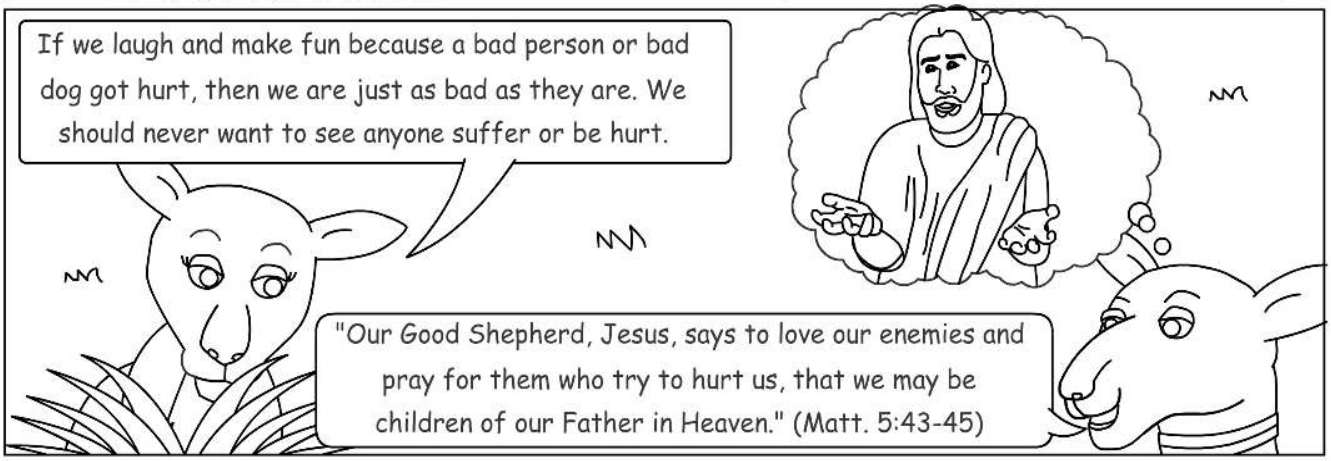
Let's say this prayer together:

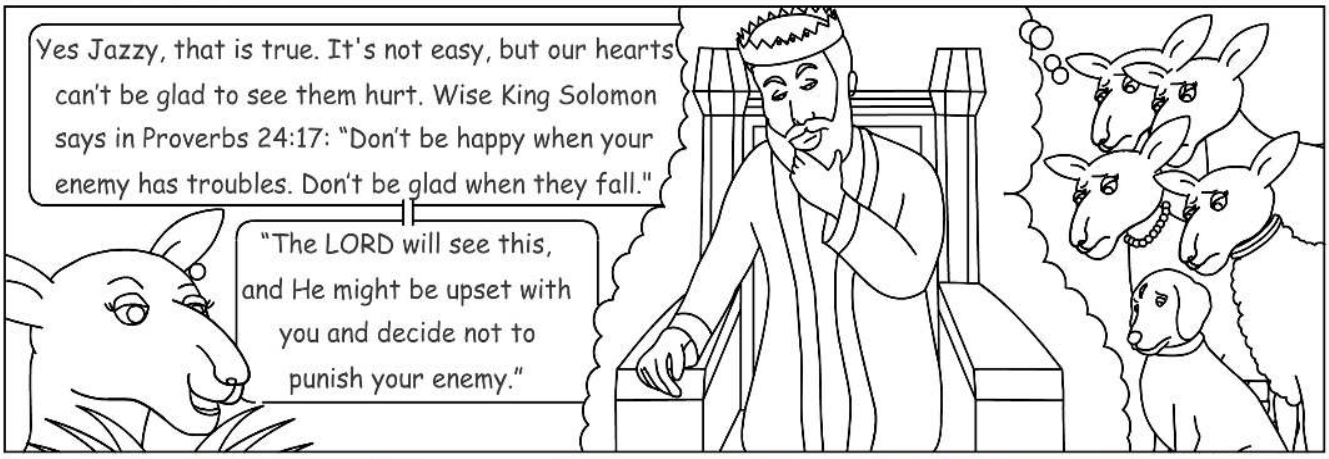
"Lord, we thank You for this story of bravery and justice. We ask that You help us to be brave like Esther, to trust in You at all times, and to remember that You always reveal the truth and protect Your children. Help us to do what is right and to trust that You are always with us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Remember, kids, that no matter how big the enemy seems, God is always on our side, and good will always triumph. God bless you!


DIVA & LULU
Is everyone having a party and forgot to invite me?
Everyone is celebrating because Eden got hurt!
MAT544
That is horrible. Why would we celebrate because Eden got hit by a car and then had to have her leg amputated?
Eden is a trouble maker and now she won't be causing us any trouble anymore. Why shouldn't we celebrate?
Other dogs do bad things, but Eden is always behind it! She always gets away with it!
Eden is nothing but a trouble maker!
Written by Karen Getchel
Illustrated by Brit Kohls


I'm not saying she isn't a trouble maker, but we shouldn't laugh and be glad that she is hurt.
Why not?


If we laugh and make fun because a bad person or bad dog got hurt, then we are just as bad as they are. We should never want to see anyone suffer or be hurt.
"Our Good Shepherd, Jesus, says to love our enemies and pray for them who try to hurt us, that we may be children of our Father in Heaven." (Matt. 5:43-45)


Yes Jazzy, that is true. It's not easy, but our hearts can't be glad to see them hurt. Wise King Solomon says in Proverbs 24:17: "Don't be happy when your enemy has troubles. Don't be glad when they fall."
"The LORD will see this, and He might be upset with you and decide not to punish your enemy."


LuLu
Jazzy
Pearl
Suzie
Diva
Ginger
Eden



I would like to thank each of you for your questions, wanting to know about GOD, and JESUS.

May God Bless each of you as you grow up, keep asking questions because that's the way we ALL learn.

God Bless you ALL!

Miss Molly

Ask Miss Molly

















Dear Miss Molly,

Why do we always say Brother and Sister?

London
Age 8 Alabama USA

Hi London,

Let's go to the Scriptures and receive an answer to your good question.

Matthew 12:50 "For whoever does the will of my Father (Jehovah or YHWH) in Heaven is my Brother and Sister and Mother".

Believers are Brothers and Sisters because they all have a special relationship with God the Father (Jehovah).

Romans 8:16 "God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children."

Thank you for asking this question London, so many wanted to know.

Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

1) What was the meaning of the light that Moses was seeing on the mountain?

2) Where did the sheep come from when Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac?

David
Age 10, Kenya

Hi David.

Good question, let's go to the Scriptures and find some answers for you.

The Angel of the LORD put the ram in the thicket *(Genesis 22:11-14)*. Abraham called the name of the place The LORD Will Provide. I thank the LORD because He still provides for us ALL that are His children, those who believe in Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Read also: Matthew 6:25:-33; Luke 12:29-31.

Question 2: Let's look at Exodus 3:2-4 "The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush which was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I."

This means the bush was on fire but it wasn't burned up. The LORD used a Angel to talk with Moses through the bush, it was a miracle from Jehovah.

God Bless

Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

Why did Satan turn into a snake?

Georgina
Age 10, Ghana

Hi Georgina,

This is a question many want to know let's go to the Scriptures together.

GENESIS 3:1 "Now the serpent was more cunning (smart, wiser) than any beast of the field which the LORD GOD had made."

The snake had character of the Devil.

Devil was once a angel in heaven named Lucifer. He has the character of the snake in Garden of Eden.

Cunning — craftiness, shewdness, as demonstrated by being skilled in deception (liar).

The snake lied to Eve saying you won't die. *(Genesis 3:4)* This was a lie, GOD said if you eat you will die *(Genesis 2:17)*. The Snake deceived (lied) to Eve *(1 Timothy 2:13,14)*.

Satan is the Father of lies, Jesus said in John 8:44.

According to scripture they have some of the same characteristics.

I hope I answered your question it was a good one.

Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

Where did Samson's power come from?

Ivyne
Age 13 , Kenya

Hi Ivyne,

You have a good question.

Samson was a Nazirite from birth, the angel told his Mother that he should never cut his hair or drink wine *(Judges 13:3-5)*.

Samson's power was from God, and as long as he was **obedient**, God would help him do amazing things.When he wasn't obedient—like letting his hair get cut—he lost his strength.

Judges 16:16-17 GNB She kept on asking him, day after day. He got so sick and tired of her bothering him about it that he finally told her the truth. "My hair has never been cut," he said. "I have been dedicated to God as a nazirite from the time I was born. If my hair were cut, I would lose my strength and be as weak as anybody else."

God Bless
Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

How are we supposed to obey our parents?

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Rebeccalyn
Age 9, Liberia

Hi Rebeccalyn,

This is a very serious question.

This is one of the TEN COMMANDMENTS.

This commandment comes with a promise.

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your Mother, that your days may be long."

Some ways of being obedient to the instructions of your parents are:

- Do your homework on time.
- Keeping our room clean, doing all our chores as we were asked.
- Remember to speak nicely to our Parents.
- Wake up for church and school when asked on time.

If you honor your Parents, GOD, gives a promise to us, that our days will be long.

Remember that GOD is a Promise keeper (He cannot lie).

Psalms 145:1 "God is faithful in all His words and kind in all His actions."

Thank you for your question.

Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,
What were the names of the mother and the father of Moses?

Alvin
Age 7, Kenya

Hi Alvin,

Let's go to the Scriptures to see if we can find your answer.

Exodus 6:20 "Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses."

Here we see that Moses' father's name was Amram and his mother's name was Jochebed.

God Bless

Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

Why did you choose Boaz as the name of the Magazine?

Genevieve
Age 12, Ghana

Hi Genevieve,

So many has asked me this question.

It's a simple answer, the Founder of the magazine lives in a city named Boaz. Since Boaz is a nice Bible name (the name of the husband of Ruth in the Old Testament), it was decided it was as good a name as any to use.

Thank you for your question.

Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

From Genesis 6: Who are the sons of God?

Phelesta
Age 12, Liberia

Hi Phelesta,

Let's go to the Scriptures. According to Genesis 6:2, "The Sons of GOD saw daughters of men."

It says "daughters of men", which lets us know the "sons" were not from mankind so they had to be from Heaven.

Here Sons of GOD would be Angels. Angels are of a different nature than humans, they are also all males. If we look at Genesis 6 in another translation of the scriptures we get a clearer understanding.

Genesis 6:1, 2 (CEV) "More and more people were born, until finally they spread all over the earth. Some of their daughters were so beautiful that supernatural beings came down and married the ones they wanted."

Jud 1:6 "You also know about the angels who didn't do their work and left their proper places."

God Bless,

Miss Molly

Camels





The word “camel” comes from an Arabic word that means “beauty”. You may or may not agree that camels are beautiful, but when we learn more about them, we see how amazing they really are!

Let’s look at some fun facts first:

1. *There are two types of camels: Bactrian and Dromedary.*
2. *Camels spit when threatened. Their spit is saliva mixed with thrown-up stomach contents.*
3. *They can smell water that is up to 1.8 miles (3 km) away.*
4. *They don’t sweat, even when it is 120 degrees (49°C) outside.*
5. *When they exhale, their nostrils trap water vapor which the body reabsorbs.*
6. *They have wide feet which prevent them from sinking into the sand.*
7. *They can close their nostrils to keep sand from blowing in.*
8. *They have long lashes to protect their eyes. If sand does get trapped in their eye, they have a third eyelid they use to get the sand out.*

You are probably most familiar with the dromedary camel. This type of camel only has one hump on its back and lives in Northern Africa, the Middle East, and India. You might see this camel in a zoo as well. None of these camels live in the wild. They may live in big herds but are kept in one way or another by humans.

There is a large herd of feral dromedary camels in the deserts of Australia. Though they live wildly now, British colonists brought them there in 1840. This was before they had cars and trucks to travel with. So, once cars and trucks became popular, the people let their camels free and they were able to survive and thrive in the Australian desert. Almost a thousand camels live in Australia now.

The rest of the camels which have two humps are called Bactrian camels. They live in the Gobi Desert in China and Mongolia, but the desert can get very cold in the winter. It gets so cold (-20°F/-40°C) that the camels can grow a wooly coat about 10 inches thick when they needed. They shed this coat in the summer when the temps reach 122°F (50°C).

The domestic, tamed Bactrian camels can weigh up to 2200 lbs. and are the largest animal in Asia (The wild Bactrian camels which are a different species are a bit smaller). These domestic camels



are much stronger than their dromedary relatives as they can carry about twice the weight. Bactrian camels can carry as much as 440 lbs (200 kg).

Camels can go seven days without eating or drinking if they have enough fat stored in their humps to sustain them. When a camel gets thirsty, they are super thirsty! Camels can drink up to 30 gallons (113.5 liters) in 10 minutes. Since they store fat which converts to water when they are hiking with their loads, there aren't a lot of meal breaks, they can just keep walking.

No camels are native to North or South America, but in South America, there are Llamas and Alpacas, cousins of camels.

Let's consider something that happened long ago in the book of Genesis, chapter 24, when Abraham sent his servant Eliezer to travel to Mesopotamia to look for a wife for his son, Isaac. Eliezer took with him ten camels. These camels were dromedary camels and were loaded with gifts for this potential bride and her family.

At that time there were no paved roads but there were hills and all kinds of rough ground. He traveled at least 300 miles (482 km).

Eliezer came to the city of Nahor and had his camels sit beside a well in the evening. This was the time of day when the women living nearby would come to get water.

Back then people didn't have city water or wells connected to their houses. There was a common well in town where everyone would go get water for their houses and their animals. By each well were water troughs which were needed so the animals drink by themselves. Animals drink a lot of water and if you had a lot of animals, you wouldn't be able to carry enough water for them, so you would bring them to the well and they would drink out of the trough.

So, Eliezer prayed to God beside the well asking God to show him who would be the wife for Isaac, and Rebekah came with a pitcher on her shoulder, so she could bring some water back home.

Verse 16 of Genesis chapter 24 tells us a little about the well. It had steps going down into it. When Rebekah came up with water, Eliezer asked her for a drink. She gave him a drink and then offered something amazing. "I will draw water for your camels also until they have done drinking."

She had to run up and down the steps of the well carrying a jug of water to feed 10 thirsty camels. As fast as she could dump the water in the trough, they would suck it up. She would also know that each camel could drink as much as 30 gallons. She was willing to do that incredible service for a complete stranger. What lessons can we get from her example?



Elephants

The biggest animals that roam the land are elephants. There may be hundreds of kinds of dogs in the world, but there are only three different kinds of elephants that exist today: the Asian Elephant, the African Bush Elephant, and the smaller African Forest Elephant. At one time ancient elephants wandered the entire world, but now that is no longer the case. The African Elephants live in Africa of course and the Asian elephants which used to travel from Syria to northern China, today only exist in isolated areas in India and Indonesia (which is South Asia).

Here are some fun facts:

1. Elephants in the wild often walk up to 30 to 40 miles (48 to 64 km) each day.
2. The largest recorded elephant was 13 feet tall (4 meters) and weighed 24,000 lbs. (10,866 kg).
3. An adult elephant needs to drink 50 gallons of water (189 L) daily.
4. They spend 19 hours a day looking for food and can eat as much as 600 lbs. (272 kg) of plants in 24 hours.
5. Elephants are not fully grown until they are 35 to 40-years old and can live up to 65 to 70 years. In other words, elephants can live as long as people do.
6. They usually sleep two hours at a time. Adults rarely sleep lying down.





7. It takes almost two years for an elephant baby to be born. They weigh about 209 lbs. at birth (95 kg)

Trunks and Teeth

Elephants have funny noses and teeth. What we call tusks are actually giant incisor teeth that stick out of their mouths. They use their tusks for scraping bark off trees, digging, and even fighting. Babies have tusks that fall out after a year and then their permanent tusks come in. These permanent tusks can grow up to 6 feet long (1.8 meters) and weigh 50 lbs each (22.7 kg)

It is the male elephants that have tusks, but some female Asian elephants have shorter tusks that are called tushes.

Elephants also have huge molar teeth in the back of their mouths about the size of a brick. These wear down because of the hard things that they eat. Elephants will have six sets of molars in their lifetime. When the molars get old and worn, new ones come in from behind and push the old ones out. They break off a piece at a time until only new ones are left. These relatively flat teeth are great for grinding tough branches and plants. As we read earlier, they can eat up to 600 pounds (272 kg) of plants per day, so they need super powerful grinders to process all that food.

The most useful tools that an elephant has are their long trunks. Trunks are a combination of a nose and an upper lip. It contains 150,000 muscle units and can weigh nearly 300 pounds (136 kg). Elephants use their trunks to suck up water to drink (it can hold up to 8 liters of water) and also

use it as a snorkel when swimming. The trunk can lift or move objects nearly twice its size and can also pick up small objects like bananas, berries, or leaves. They can lift nearly 700 lbs with their trunks. Another way they use their trunks is to show love to one another by gentle touching. Elephants are the only animals that have a trunk.

Keeping Cool

The elephant's skin is wrinkly and there are wrinkles on the wrinkles. Their skin doesn't flake off like ours does, so it grows to almost an inch thick (2.5 cm). It then acts like a sponge. Their wrinkly skin holds up to 10 times more water than flat skin does. Having skin that can hold onto water is very important in the climate they live in because it helps them keep them cool. The only sweat glands they have are between their toes.

Elephants also use their huge ears to cool off. They wave their ears around like a giant fan and as they do this the blood in the large vessels that run on the back of their massive ears cools off and helps to stop them from overheating inside as well.

Elephants love to cool off in the water and are excellent swimmers. Elephants also like to cover themselves with mud which blocks the sun, so they don't get a sunburn.

Communication

Elephants communicate by stomping their feet or making low rumbles making seismic waves that can travel for miles through the ground. Elephants stand tippee-toed because they have a high heel made of fat. Their toes and heels are very sensitive to touch so they can feel vibrations in the ground. When the vibrations reach another elephant, the waves travel up the fat in their feet, through their bones and up to the ears. They can not only hear elephants that are miles away but can figure out the direction of the sound as well.

Elephants can make many different sounds

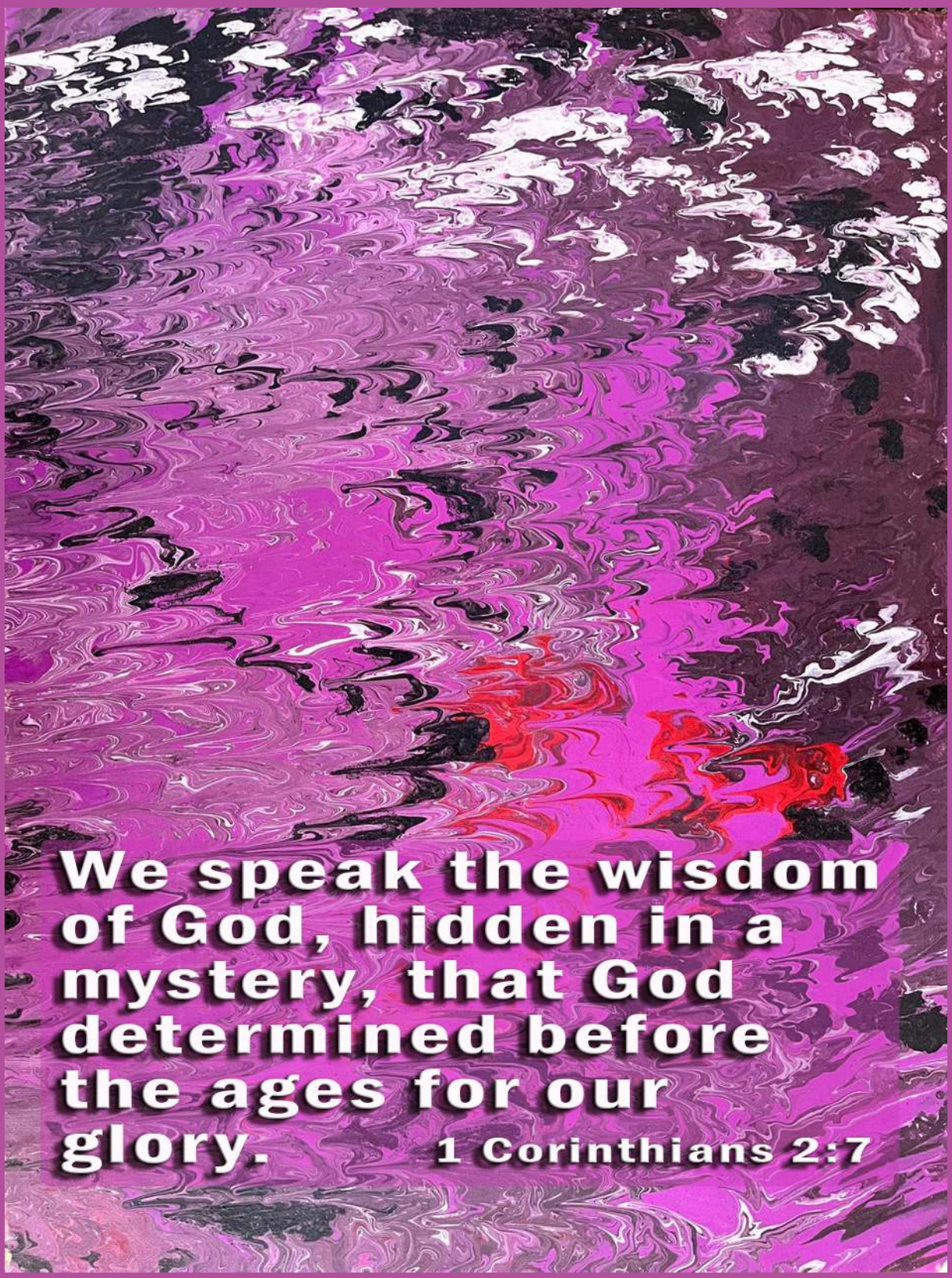
- A trumpet sound.
- A lower-pitched sound that sounds like a horse.



- A screeching sound similar to what humans make when we purse our lips and blow air out. They do the same thing.
- A gurgling noise is made when they fill their trunk with air near their face.
- A throbbing sound that is made by filling their sinus tunnels (or holes) in the front of their head with air.

When God designed the elephant, He made an amazing creature. There is so much more to the elephant than is even described in these pages. Elephants are known for their excellent memories and they can't jump. In Isaiah 66:2 (ERV), God says, "I am the one who made all things. They are all here because I made them." God makes things in this world to inspire us with beauty and love. He made these things for us—because we are the only beings on the planet who can appreciate them. In God's Kingdom that we pray for, all the animals will be our friends because we won't be afraid of them and they won't be afraid of us.





Artwork Submitted by Sam F. from Illinois, USA


You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13 BSB


Esther's Royal Request
J Q H P J K L T F C X E X V K
V B B A F I N I H Y N R Q B D
I A U L T N E A H B W O S R J
N T A A H G P G U S E Y J Q F
X Q T C R X U E H A M A N U M
E M S E O E Z V F V Z L U E H
A P L Y N R E X B Y L R P S V
X H B K E X L M O N X O C T F
F Q A X J E Q Z L H D B O I A
Z G N U J S A K G W Y E T O V
D W Q E K I N G D O M S T N O
F I U G O L D S C E P T E R R
C N E G N Q T K P W N E O J D
C E T X I N V I T A T I O N V
X T V V F E E S T H E R N K E
gold scepter
invitation
banquet
Haman
King Xerxes
question
Esther
throne
royal robes
kingdom
palace
favor
wine


BORN FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS!
-> SOLVE THE PUZZLE TO LEARN WHAT QUEEN ESTHER DID FOR HER PEOPLE! LOOK AT THE LETTERS ON THE CLOCK, MATCH THEM TO THE NUMBERS UNDER THE BLANKS, AND THEN WRITE THE LETTERS IN THE BLANKS.
E S T H E R AND HER MAIDENS DID NOT E A T
OR DRINK FOR T H R E E DAYS, NIGHT OR D A Y
ALL OF THE JEWS IN S U S A
FASTED AS WELL TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT
FOR HER.
E S T H E R SHOWED GREAT
B R A V E R Y AND WAS
WILLING TO D I E TO SAVE HER PEOPLE.

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