

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Esther 1-2*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

#### BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*People should trust God.*

#### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God had a plan for Esther. (YK)*

*We can trust God even when we do not understand His plan for us. (OK)*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Romans 14:1-12*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Romans 14:19*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Romans 15:30-33*

**MONDAY:** *Romans 16:1-2*

**TUESDAY:** *Romans 16:3-7*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Romans 16:8-11*

**THURSDAY:** *Romans 16:12-16*

**FRIDAY:** *Romans 16:17-18*

**SATURDAY:** *Romans 16:19-24*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Esther* and *Romans* together as a family:



- **Xerxes the king.** Esther was a young Jewish woman who lived in Susa, the royal capital. The Persian king, Ahasuerus, was well known for throwing long and elaborate parties. Ahasuerus commanded his queen, Vashti, to come and present herself at one of the parties, but Vashti refused. In anger, Ahasuerus banished Vashti from the kingdom. The royal officials convinced Ahasuerus to begin a search for a new queen.
- **The search for a new queen.** Having been advised by the officials to look for a new queen, Ahasuerus ordered that preparations be made. Young women were gathered to see if they could be chosen to be the new queen. Esther was one of the women selected to have an audience with the king. For many months, the women were prepared with special beauty treatments that made them ready for their audience with the king.
- **Esther is chosen.** After 18 months or so, Esther was presented to the king and Ahasuerus immediately chose her to be the new queen. Esther was given the royal crown and the royal title, but could only approach the king if he called for her.
- **Mordecai the Jew.** Esther lived with her cousin, Mordecai, since her parents had died. Mordecai kept watch near the king's palace and one day overheard two men plotting to kill the king. Mordecai told Esther what he had heard, and Esther told the king of the plot and its discovery by Mordecai. King Ahasuerus made note of the heroic actions of Mordecai and praised him for the help.
- **Encourage one another.** Just like Mordecai in the story of Esther, Paul encouraged the Romans to watch out for one another and strive toward unity. Mordecai watched his cousin Esther and encouraged her; likewise, believers should encourage others to honor God.