

Esther 3:8-11 & Esther 4:13-17 Script

Read aloud only what is **bold**

Teacher: **Then Haman approached King Xerxes and said,**

Haman: [Haman walks up to King Xerxes and says] **There is a certain race of people scattered through all the provinces of your empire who keep themselves separate from everyone else. Their laws are different from those of any other people, and they refuse to obey the laws of the king. So it is not in the king's interest to let them live. If it pleases the king, issue a decree that they be destroyed, and I will give 10,000 large sacks of silver to the government administrators to be deposited in the royal treasury.**

Teacher: **The king agreed, confirming his decision by removing his signet ring from his finger and giving it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.**

King Xerxes: [Remove ring from finger and give it to Haman.] **The money and the people are both yours to do with as you see fit.**

Teacher: **So on April 17 the king's secretaries were summoned, and a decree was written exactly as Haman dictated.**

Two secretaries: [Pretend to write the decree on a piece of paper. Fold the paper and put the piece of play-doh on it. Then take the king's ring and smoosh it into the play-doh to create the "seal."]

Teacher: **As the news of this decree spread over the provinces, Mordecai and all of the Jews began to weep.**

Mordecai: [Begin to weep.]

Teacher: **Mordecai sent a message to Esther telling her of what Haman had done with the king's permission and urged her to go to the king to beg for mercy for her people. At first Esther is afraid because anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is killed, unless the king holds out his gold scepter. Let's continue the story to see what happens.**

Mordecai: [Pretending to write, but reading out loud.] **Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this.**

Esther: [Pretending to write, but reading out loud.] **"... though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die."**

Teacher: **Esther decided to risk her life by going before the king to plead for the lives of the Jews. Esther trusted God and listened to Mordecai when he said, "Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" (vs. 14) She knew that she could trust God and that He had a purpose for her, even if that meant losing her life.**