

Queen Esther Play

Based on the Bible book of Esther, this is the story of how Queen Esther saved her people from evil Haman's plans.

Set up a large whiteboard on a stand with the 2 backdrops. You will need a painting of a palace interior courtyard, and a gateway. Hang both paintings and just flip the painting over the top of the whiteboard to reveal the next scene and flip it back to change scenes.

Children sit on low chairs behind a small easel/ blackboard/ couch. Small props (a banquet table with food, golden goblets, candelabra etc.) should balance in front of the stage. We made our food out of baker's clay and painted them when they were hard. The scroll was a small piece of paper fastened on a small kebab stick. We made our gallows with other kebab sticks and some string.

A narrator (mom or older child) reads most of the play, while children move puppets and say their lines (in colour)

Read through the whole play. Discuss the characters and chose or let the children volunteer for different roles. Each child can play 2 roles – one puppet on each hand! Now read the play again and teach the character's lines. Repeat and emphasize the "cues" (the lines that come before each person's lines). Practice with props and puppets. Work in front of a mirror to create "life-like" actions. Encourage children to project their voices and use lots of expression.

Characters:

King Xerxes

Queen Vashti

Servant/ Guards

Esther

Mordecai

Haman

Scene 1: Palace Backdrop & Banquet Table

King Xerxes, Queen Vashti and servants

Props: banquet table with food; Queen Vashti's crown; a law scroll with a seal

Narrator:

Long, long ago in Media and Persia
Ruled King Xerxes in the city of Susa

For 180 days he held a ball
To show his power and wealth to all.

Xerxes called,

King Xerxes: ('speaks' to the servant)

"Tell Queen Vashti to come
And tell her wear her royal gown and crown!"

(Servant goes to Queen Vashti and 'talks'.

Narrator:

She refused and said,

Queen Vashti:

"Oh No!
Tell king Xerxes I will not go!"

Narrator:

This made Xerxes really mad,

Xerxes

"A wife should always make her husband glad!"

(Servant removes Vashti's crown)

So they took Vashti's crown off her head
No longer queen, she ate only bread

(King Xerxes reads the scroll and presents a servant with 'law')

Narrator:

Now a law was made in all the land:

Xerxes:

“Women must respect and obey their husband!”

“A new queen must quickly be found
I can chose from all the girls around,

“She has to be pretty, so send all girls to my spa,
Girls from every nation and lands near and far!”

Scene 2: Palace Backdrop & Banquet table removed

(King Xerxes remains. Esther and servant enter.)

Prop: Crown

Narrator:

Esther, a Jew, and in exile in Babylon
Was sent for a year to the beauty salon

She was gorgeous already and so nice to know
It didn't take long for her true beauty to show.

(Esther bows to the King)

Narrator:

King Xerxes loved her at first sight

Xerxes:

"Let's make her Queen this very night!"

(Servant puts crown on her head)

Scene 3: Gate Background

(Uncle Mordecai sits at gate. Near the gate 2 bad men plot to kill the king. Esther and servant wait nearby the stage.)

Narrator:

Esther's uncle Mordecai, every day would wait

Mordecai:

"She like my daughter, I watch her from the gate"

"I make sure she's safe and secure
To keep her name and honour pure."

But what is this evil plan these men are scheming?
To kill the king? Am I dreaming?"

"Quick! I'll warn the king – I tell Esther what to do
These men must be stopped, their plan can not come through!"

(Servant calls Esther 'talks' to her)

Narrator:

Esther tells the king and the plan is indeed true
Mordecai is a good man – through and through

Scene 4: Gate background

(Haman and Mordechai and a servant with the law scroll)

Narrator:

But now our story becomes quite bad
Here is Haman – he’s evil and quite mad

Every time you hear the name Haman being called,
Shout “BOO!” loud enough for all!

(encourage the audience to “Boo!”)

Haman was the king’s number 1 man,
Everyone would bow to him throughout the land

But Mordecai, a Jew who honored God alone
Would not bow to Haman or the throne,

(Mordecai sees Haman will not bow)

Haman:

“This man makes me so mad and cross
I’ll have him killed – all the Jews too – it’ll be no loss!”

“I’ll get king Xerxes make a law that’ll never change
To kill every Jew – it’ll be easy to arrange!”

(Servant holds ‘law’)

Narrator:

So the law was written and sent far and wide
Every Jew was so afraid, so they suffered and sighed ...

“Who will save us?” Mordecai knew just the one
Esther, the king’s favourite with the crown

(Haman leaves. *Esther* and *Mordecai* talk)

Mordecai:

"You must see the king and beg for our lives
If you don't none of us survives!"

Esther:

"But I can't just go see the King, I must be called!
I'll be put to death too, after all!"

Mordecai:

"You're a Jew and will die by Haman's law
Your crown can't save you from such a fall!"

Narrator:

Esther decides to go a see the king at last,

Esther:

"Tell everyone to join me in a 3 day fast"

Narrator:

So every Jew begins to fast and pray
No food or water everyday

Scene 5: Banquet Table and Background

King Xerxes at the banquet table. Esther comes to kneel before the king)

Props: golden scepter

Narrator:

Until, on the 3rd day in her prettiest gown, all alone
She fearfully approaches King Xerxes' throne

King Xerxes sees his pretty queen
Puts out his scepter – Esther will be seen

Now Esther was both beautiful and very wise
She had prepared a wonderful surprise

No whining, no moaning, no, instead-
A wonderful banquet she had prepared

Esther:

"If it pleases my king, would you come this night?
Dine with me and Haman - my banquet – my delight!"

Narrator:

The king and Haman both eagerly agreed
On all the finest meals they all did feed

Xerxes:

"Now my darling, ask whatever you need
Even half my kingdom will be yours if you agree"

Narrator:

But, Esther kept her mouth shut against Haman's evil plan

Esther:

"Would you both please come and dine with me again?"

Scene 6: Gate background

(Haman walks past the gate. Servants and guards bow, but Mordechai will not bow when Haman walks past)

Narrator:

“As Haman went home he shouted,

Haman:

“Yippee!

(Haman sees Mordechai still standing)

But why doesn't that Mordecai bow to me?

“I'm so important, so very grand
There's none like me in all the land

I'll make a gallows 25m tall
And hang Mordecai before them all!”

Scene 7: Banquet Table and Background

(Xerxes, Haman, Esther sitting at the banquet table)

Prop: Food and candles on banquet table. Gallows placed on the corner of the stage out of the view of the table

Narrator:

At the banquet the very next evening
Xerxes said,

Xerxes:

“Esther, my dear, ask me anything,
“It will be yours - whatever you need
I’ll do anything for you – it will be agreed!”

Narrator:

Now Esther told him of Haman’s plan

Esther:

“He’s planned kill all the Jews in the land
And that includes me for I’m a Jew,
I’ll also be put to death too!”

Xerxes:

“This just will not do!
I will not kill any Jew!”

Narrator:

The king was so angry he went outside
But Haman begged and pleaded at Esther’s side

When the king came in he was so amazed
Haman across Esther’s couch lazed

Xerxes:

“Take this evil man away
and have him hanged this very day!”

There is a gallows 25m high
Hang him there from a rope to fly!”

(Gallows placed on stage)

Narrator:

And so evil Haman's plan misfired
And Mordecai as the king's best man was hired!

And we learn from Esther, who was so noble and true
Godly character is a beauty that always shines through!

THE END