



December 9, 2018

Esther 4:1-17

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

God, you can bring blessing even from disaster. Train us to see where you are at work in the world, and where our presence can further your will in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

“For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

(Esther 4:14)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Queen Esther is in a powerful position within the royal palace, and her uncle Mordecai is counting on her influence. But revealing her own secret could put her at risk of losing everything.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household or community.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How is beauty celebrated in your culture or community? How is beauty advantageous? How is it detrimental?

How can you connect with God this week? Where will you look for evidence of God's presence in your life?

For the littles: What is the difference between keeping a secret and keeping a surprise? Is it good to keep a secret? Why or why not?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

God who sets things in motion before we are ever aware, teach us to trust in your plan as we hear your word. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

View the following video on beauty in popular culture. Discuss it with someone. <http://www.upworthy.com/see-why-we-have-an-absolutely-ridiculous-standard-of-beauty-in-just-37-seconds>



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Monday, Esther 1:1-22, *King Ahasuerus Deposes Queen Vashti*

Tuesday, Esther 2:1-23, *Esther Becomes Queen*

Wednesday, Esther 3:1-15, *Haman Undertakes to Destroy the Jews*

Thursday, Esther 5:1-14, *Esther's Banquet, Haman's Plans*

Friday, Esther 6:1-14, *The King Honors Mordecai*

Saturday, Esther 7:1—8:17, *Esther Saves the Jews*

Next Week, Isaiah 42:1-9, *The Savior is Coming*