




date

2.11



“ MY SWEET SIX YEAR OLD *HAD TO LEARN* A HARD LESSON ON THIS DAY. ”

**Inspire** (for parents)

This was not a typical day of waiting in a long line of cars to pick up my child from school. On a typical day, I would pull up to collect my son, Kevin, happy and eager to report on his fun day. But on this day my heart was heavy, knowing that my son's best friend Avery was moving, and it would be his last day at school. Kevin had been anxious for weeks, and we knew it would be very difficult for him to say good-bye to his best friend.

I finally reached the front of the line and caught a glimpse of Kevin. His little hand held tightly onto the hand of his teacher, and he was sobbing uncontrollably. I jumped out of the car, ran to him, and wrapped my arms around him. His sobbing subsided as he rested in the comfort of my arms.

My sweet six year old had to learn a hard lesson on this day. Life is full of situations and circumstances that are out of our control. Why did Avery have to move? Parents cannot always provide answers to life's hard questions. But we can point our children to the

One who is in control and sees the whole story of life from the beginning to the end. We are not able to see what lies ahead, but God can ... and we can trust that He is always with us and at work within our lives. God is writing our story into His, and He will use people and situations to accomplish His kingdom purposes.

In the days that followed, Kevin gathered the courage to step out in faith and pursue other friendships. God brought lasting friendships and an assurance that He is in control.

by Sue Funkhouser

**Getting Started** ◀

**Scripture:** Esther 1—10 (Esther)  
**Main Point:** God Is in Control

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

**Equip** (for parents)

God was in control as He guided Esther and rescued His people. For Christians, the book of Esther is an important part of The Big God Story because without God's intervention, the entire Jewish race would have been wiped out—and the line of the Messiah lost with it. But as we read Esther, we see God in control the whole time.

The Feast of Purim is an annual Jewish feast when Jews remember and celebrate how God used Esther to save His people from annihilation at the hands of the Persian Empire. Haman (the one plotting the catastrophe) and his astrologers set the day of slaughter to be the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month of Adar on the Jewish calendar. In the book of Esther, we read that Purim is celebrated “as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor” (Esther 9:21–22). Instead of this date being one of genocide for God's people, it became a day of victory.

Though everything seemed to line up against His people, their doom secured, He would not let harm come to them. He used kings, servants, lost records, eavesdropping, beauty contests, banquets, bad decisions, and more, working together for good, to protect His people and preserve the line of His promised Redeemer. God used Esther to save His people from the hands of the Persians. ☺



**Support**

(for parents & kids)

Parents, we would like to encourage you to read the **book of Esther** before gathering with your children this week, so that you can retell this portion of The Big God Story.

> **JUST FOR FUN**, make the dinner table just like the banquet given by King Xerxes for all his nobles and officials, and retell the story of Esther saving her people. Then together as a family read **Esther 8**. Ask your children if they have ever been treated poorly because they are part of God's family. Have them explain to you a moment when they were thankful that God was in control. Be sure to share your God moments with them as well.

Pray together, thanking God that His people will never be destroyed. Praise Him as a family that He is in control.

Remind your children that the narrative of Esther is just one part of The Big God Story, and they will hear more about it this week at church. ☺

