

ESTHER

By Kathy Applebee

CHARACTERS: 3 F, 1 M, 1 either

SETTING & COSTUMES: Biblical

PROPS: Clothes, paper (copy of edict)

RUN TIME: 4-5 minutes

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Esther & John 15

At rise: Esther is center stage with GIRLS around her. MORDECAI & SERVANT are stage right, head bowed when he is not part of the scene. ESTHER begins, in her own words, describing what it was like to be queen and she explains the rule about the scepter. Once she is finished, MORDECAI and servant raise heads and speak. SERVANT goes back and forth repeating what was said to give emphasis and help children remember the details of the story.

MORDECAI: This is terrible news! Terrible! The king has ordered that all the Jews be killed. Go tell my cousin Esther what has happened. *Servant goes & repeats what was said.*

ESTHER: That is terrible indeed.

GIRL 1: Terrible.

GIRL 2: Really terrible.

GIRL 1: Really, really terrible!

ESTHER: Take Mordecai these clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth. *Servant goes & repeats what was said.*

MORDECAI: No. I am in mourning. Take Esther a copy of the edict for their annihilation. Urge her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. *Servant goes & repeats what was said.*

ESTHER: All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.

GIRL 1: You could die, Esther.

GIRL 2: If the king doesn't hold out the scepter, you could die!

ESTHER: Go tell Mordecai about the law. *Servant goes & repeats what was said.*

MORDECAI: Go tell Esther, do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? *Servant goes & repeats what was said.*

ESTHER: Mordecai is right. Maybe it was God's plan all along to have me chosen as queen so that I could save my people. Tell Mordecai to gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do.

GIRL 2: Yes, we'll fast too!

GIRL 1: We won't eat.

GIRL 2: And we won't drink. We'll pray.

ESTHER: When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish. Tell Mordecai. *Servant goes & repeats what was said.*

MORDECAI: All the Jews and I fasted and prayed. When Esther went before the king, he held out the golden scepter.

GIRL 1: And she didn't die!

GIRL 2: But she could have.

GIRL 1: She risked her life for her people. *(GIRLS open their Bible and get ready to read)*

MORDECAI: This reminds me of something Jesus said. It is written in John 15: 12-15. Jesus said....

GIRL 1: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

GIRL 2: Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

GIRL 1: We are Jesus' friends if you do what He commands.

ESTHER – *asks questions of the audience and sums up.*