



FOREFATHERS TEACHING GUIDE

FOREFATHER MORDECAI - PART 1

L/O: For our young sons to learn about our forefather Mordecai and his courageous and faithful acts to inspire them to have the same characteristics as they grow to be prophets of the LORD.

TEACH:

Let's look at who Mordecai was! He was a Benjamite man living during the Babylonian captivity. He raised his uncle's daughter Hadassah (who would become Queen Esther) after the death of his uncle and aunt. He was a courageous man, that stood up for the laws, he also guided and instructed Hadassah to help save the Jews from extermination by Haman the Agagite who was also an Edomite.

Esther 2: 5-6

[5] Now in Shushan the palace, there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Lair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjavite,

[6] Who had been carried away from Jerusalem, with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon had carried away.

Question:

1. Which king was ruling that had been taken into captivity?
2. If you were a king, how would you feel about you and your people being in captivity with the Babylonians?
3. Can you find a scripture in Sirach 2 & 5 that speaks about being a father to the fatherless? (Answer Sirach 4:10)

TEACH:

Mordecai was able to deliver instructions and guidance to Hadassah, one of those instructions was for Hadassah to not reveal her nationality and kept an eye on her to see her progress.

Esther 2:10-11

[10] Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

[11] And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

Question:

1. Which scripture explains the order in the nation? (1 Corinthians 11:3)

TEACH:

Mordecai was a man of integrity; and he was faithful to the laws and commandments. He overheard the king's chamberlains plan to kill King Ahasuerus and revealed the plot to Esther so that she could make the King aware of the treachery.

Esther 2:21-23

[21] In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

[22] And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.

[23] And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore, they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

Question:

1. Can you explain a time when you saw or heard of sin and make it known to the proper channels? Or can you give an example?
2. Which scripture did Mordecai apply in this situation?

(Leviticus 5:1)

TEACH:

Esther 3:1-2

[1] After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

[2] And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

Question:

Mordecai did not bow to Haman nor showed respect to him. Why? (It was a commandment of the King to bow before the princes)

TEACH:

Esther 3: 4-7

[4] Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.

[5] And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

[6] And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

[7] In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

Questions:

1. Why did Haman want to kill Mordecai?
2. If Hadassah/Esther had revealed her tribe in the previous chapter what would've happened to her?
3. Are there any memorial days that remind you of the word 'Pur'? What is it called?

End of Class.

(continue part 2 another session)

FOREFATHER MORDECAI - PART 2

TEACH:

Mordecai experienced great distress when Haman set out a decree to kill all the Jews in the land; because of Mordecai's action of not bowing down to Haman, as decreed.

Esther 4:1

When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

You can imagine what Mordecai may have felt; feelings of tremendous stress knowing he was the root cause of the decree being proclaimed. (You can choose to read the whole chapter in its entirety) Although he and the nation of Israel was in distress, Mordecai was able to successfully plan the next steps that would save the nation.

Esther 4:12-14

[12] And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

[13] Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

[14] For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Question:

How would you feel if you were in Mordecai's?

TEACH:

Mordecai was held at high esteem in regards to the heathen King, for the good deed of revealing the plot to murder King Ahasuerus. Mordecai moved wisely during his captivity in Persia. Being an example to Israel, that we never know what good can come when we hold our integrity high among the heathen. The Most High saw Mordecai's honesty and good heart and blessed him for his faithfulness.

Esther 6:1-3

[1] On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

[2] And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

[3] And the king said, what honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, there is nothing done for him.

When our ways please the LORD, he will make our enemies be at peace with us. Mordecai honored the King but according to the Most High's laws.

Assign your son(s) a task to research the word 'Integrity' and to share their findings.

Assign your son(s) another task to find scriptures pertaining to 1. Being at peace with all men. 2. Being subject to the higher powers.

TEACH:

The Most High made sure that our enemy Haman was able to see how much the King honoured Mordecai for his actions.

Esther 6:7-13

[7] And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

[8] Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

[9] And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

[10] Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

[11] Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

[12] And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

[13] And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

How funny is that! Haman had to array the man he despised and had been plotting to kill. Haman thought that the King was going to honour him but instead the King honoured Mordecai the Jew and he received the honour and glory!

Question:

Do you believe that one day we will receive that honour and glory?

Esther 8:12 - 15

[12] Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

[13] The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

[14] So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

[15] And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

In the end Haman was killed by his own devise; and Mordecai was exalted by the King by the mercy of the LORD's will. As a result of Mordecai's faith in the Most High we (Israel) are still here today as a nation from generation to generation, not destroyed!

Closing and Review:

1. Who was Mordecai? Can you give me a brief summary of who he was.
2. Has the History of Mordecai given you a clearer understanding of how to navigate in school/college/university and/or work? How so? **If not, what do you not understand?**

Resources:

1. **AGAG**: means violent as found in Zondervan Compact Bible Dictionary, page 24.
2. **AMALEK**: ... duke of Edom as found in Zondervan Compact Bible Dictionary, page 34