

# Walking With God

## *Protesters: Esther*



### Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...

Dear Lord, we know that you stood up for what was true and good during your time on earth. Help us, too, always stand up for what is right in your eyes. We know we can do this in small ways even now, with your help and guidance. Amen.

## Hye-O

### Prophets and Leaders

CATHOLICOS

GOD

ISAIAH

MESSENGER

NERSESS

PROPHET

SERAPHIM

THRONE

VISION

C	T	Q	O	H	A	I	A	S	I	G	A	B	M	P
T	A	H	E	R	W	O	L	S	I	O	V	V	I	R
H	N	T	H	T	A	D	C	M	Z	D	I	P	H	O
R	V	O	H	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	P	P
O	I	A	I	O	S	S	E	S	R	E	N	H	A	H
N	R	O	O	S	L	O	T	B	F	Q	X	Z	R	E
E	D	W	L	W	I	I	C	D	J	G	Z	Y	E	T
Y	S	B	K	Q	P	V	C	T	K	T	O	M	S	T
L	N	T	Y	D	W	P	W	O	X	Z	H	A	G	W
A	Q	D	F	H	L	H	J	C	S	I	S	A	T	R



### SCRIPTURE SOURCE

"...And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the King. If I must die, I must die."  
*Esther 4:16*

Esther said this in a message to her step-father, Mordecai. During that time, the King had many laws in his palace. One of them was that nobody could approach the King without being asked to come. So, Esther had many dangers in going to the King to plead for the Jews. Just going into his throne room uninvited was against the law of his kingdom, but she did it anyway to save her people.



# Daily Bread

## Esther: Standing Up for What's Right

King Ahasuerus ruled over the land of Persia which was a very big country with a lot of people. When he needed a wife, he searched for her all over Persia. He chose a woman named Esther. She was good, wise, and very beautiful. She was an Israelite (meaning, she was Jewish) and the King did not know this. A kind relative named Mordecai had adopted Esther as a child, and raised her as his own daughter. He warned her not to tell anyone she was an Israelite, because there were many people in the palace and all over Persia who did not like the Israelites.

A powerful man named, Haman, became angry at Mordecai. Haman knew that Mordecai was an Israelite, and he tricked the King into granting him the right to have all Israelites in Persia killed.

Esther and Mordecai were very afraid for their people and for themselves. Esther wanted to ask the King to send a decree to stop this from happening, but she was afraid. In that time, it was against the law to approach the King if he did not invite you. Also, she did not know how he would react to the fact that she was Jewish. She made a plan to serve a dinner for the King and Haman. While they were there together, she said to the King, "Dear King, if you are pleased with me, I beg you to spare my life. And also spare the lives of my people."

At first the King did not understand why she would be killed. He loved her and she was his Queen. That is when she told him that she was Jewish and reminded him that he had signed a decree given to him by one of his subjects to kill all of the Jews.

The King understood that the fact that others did not like the Jews was unfair. He knew that he loved his Queen and accepted that she was a Jew.

"Who dares to do this?" demanded the king.

"It is this cruel Haman," said Esther, pointing to her enemy. The king ordered the decree to be stopped and had Haman put to death for his tricks.

It took bravery for Esther to approach the king. She risked her life. We, too, may have to take a risk when we speak up for what is right. But, like Esther, we can follow our hearts.



## BIBLE BYTES

**Apostle** The term *Apostle* comes from the Greek word, "apostolos." It means one who is sent out into the world as a messenger. An "apostle" is different from a "disciple." A disciple is a follower and learns directly from a teacher. Thaddeus was both a disciple of Jesus and an apostle of Christianity.



Thaddeus was one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus. He, and another disciple, Bartholomew, came to Armenia after their time with Jesus. They taught as many people as they could about the life and message of Jesus Christ. Thaddeus inspired the Armenian princess Santookht and she became a Christian.

Did you know...!?

## In the Armenian Tradition

The Apostle Thaddeus went to Armenia to spread the word of Jesus. At that time, he met King Sanadrook's daughter, Princess Santookht, and told her about Jesus. She came to believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ, so she converted from her pagan religion to become a Christian. When her father heard of her conversion, he was angry with her and tried many ways to get her to return to paganism.

He told her that if she gave up her belief in Jesus, she would have a great life in the palace and wear the most beautiful crown. She believed with all her heart that the way of Jesus was the best and stood up to her father.

The king became very upset, so he finally told her that she had to choose between the crown and a sword. Remaining strong in her faith, she chose the sword and she was put to death.

The Armenian Church remembers her as the first witness for Christianity in Armenia. While she learned from the Apostle Thaddeus, she led many others to convert to Christianity. She became the first Armenian saint to be honored by the Armenian Church.

While she chose the sword of martyrdom, she was given the crown of sainthood by God.

*How is St. Santookht's story like Esther's?*



# CELEBRATE WITH GOD

St. Santookht



## Well Versed

“Keep alert, stand strong in your faith, be courageous, be strong.”

*1 Corinthians 16:13*

## Family Focus

Today, the students learned about two important women of faith: Queen Esther, whose courage saved herself and her people, and Princess Santookht who bravely chose death in order to follow Christ. We learned that sometimes standing up for what we believe can be difficult or even dangerous, but that our faith in God will help us through.

### Living Your Faith

1. Talk together about what a “saint” is. People often say anyone who does something good is a “saint,” but they are much more special than that. Ask your child to talk about the faith and courage of Princess Santookht and why we consider her a saint.
2. Tell your child something you did to help others that took some bravery on your part, such as standing up for a co-worker or sacrificing something to help another person.