

LIVING FAITH: Chapter 20

Living Faith is a family activity that helps drive home the point from this week's chapter from The Story.

Living Faith

Persian kings were famous for the lavish banquets. So when Esther invited King Xerxes to a "big dinner" (Esther 5:8), the pressure was on. Make a big Persian dinner in honor of Queen Esther, although you may not want to break out the solid-gold dinnerware. During the Achaemenid empire, Persian kings could get nearly any food they wanted. Fruit was very common, especially cantaloupe. A spinach salad may be an authentic touch for your meal. Fish was also popular.

Have fun as a family planning out the menu early in the week. Set aside one night where everybody can be together to prepare the big dinner. Try something new. Use an exotic spice. As everybody's working together or when everyone sits down, you can go through some of the "Table Talk" questions. Queen Esther's story is truly remarkable, and Esther is only one of two books in the Bible named for a woman.

For dessert, your family may want to bake *Hamantaschen* (ha-man-tosh-en), a traditional Jewish cookie made for Purim (see Esther 9:18-32), a celebration that honors Esther and Mordecai for saving the Jewish people from extermination. These triangular cookies look a little funny, and the name *Hamantaschen* means "Haman's ears." But they're fun to make and taste delicious. Look in a cookbook or go online and search for *Hamantaschen*.

Extra Mile

One of the most well-known verses from this chapter of *The Story* comes when Mordecai tells Esther that God may have raised her to be queen "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

Go online and search for Wayne Watson's song "For Such a Time As This" and click on <http://video.yahoo.com/watch/966307/3739462>.

Have a piece of paper and pencil ready as you listen to the song and watch the lyrics scroll across the screen. Ask family members write down phrases that have special meaning to them. When the song is over, give family members the chance to explain why they chose their specific line from the song. Also ask:

- How does this song relate to Queen Esther's story?
- How is this song meaningful in your life and in your relationship with God?
- How can you "live a mirror of His mercy"?
- What will you do to "change what will be"?