GO DEEPER

MEMORY VERSE

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

We Can Say Yes To God's Plan

TALK ABOUT IT

Read: Esther 4:10-16

Leading up to this passage, the king's evil right hand man, Haman, had plotted the destruction of the Jews. Queen Esther's uncle, Mordecai, found out about it and was sending messages to ask for her help.

- Why was Esther hesitant to go in to see the king without being invited?
- What is Mordecai's response in verse 14?
- How do we see Esther's courage in verse 16?

WAYS TO WORSHIP

Esther asked the Jewish people to join her in praying and fasting before she went in to see the king. Fasting is giving up something in order to focus on God. It may not be wise for a young person who is still growing physically to give up food, but we can all give up something we do regularly - video games, reading, or other hobbies for example - and spend that time focused on God instead. Pray and ask God what He might want you to give up to spend more time with Him.

THINK ABOUT IT

Read: Matthew 28:19-20

- What does Jesus command all of His followers to do?
- What is His beautiful promise at the end of verse 20?
- Does knowing His promise make doing things we know He wants us to do a little less scary?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Being a Christ follower can be kind of like running a race. In order to run a race, you have to take a lot of steps - but you can only take one step at a time. We learn from Esther's obedience that we can trust God and choose to follow His plan ("run the race") even when we are scared or don't understand what this step might lead to next. Use a paper towel tube, markers, construction paper, glue/tape, scissors, and yarn or other fun craft supplies to create a runner's baton to help you to remember to follow God's plan one step at a time - like a race!

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