



February 16, 2020

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Story – Chapter 20

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged in Spirit-filled Service.

Pastor:..... Steven Hayden
Instrumentalist:.....Lev Ryabinin
Church Secretary:..... Deb Krahling
Church Office:..... 706-485-4600
Pastor's Cell:..... 515-360-5081
Pastor's email:.....revshayden@gmail.com
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lolcsec@plantationcable.net.....www.lakeoconeelutheran.org.

Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are available from the ushers



WE OFFER NURSERY & CHILDCARE

*If you need childcare, please see one of the ushers
and we will happily accommodate you.*

In Preparation of Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

For further study, see **Matthew 5:23f, 10:32f, 18:15-35, 26:26-29, 1 Cor. 11:17-34**

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all Christians who are baptized, who have communed in a Christian church, and who share our understanding that, along with the bread and wine, we receive the very body and blood of our living Lord Jesus—for the strengthening of our faith and witness.

The glasses in the very center of each tray contain non-alcoholic wine for the use of those receiving communion who are unable to drink alcohol. Communicants may choose to receive the wine in an individual cup, from the Chalice (the Common Cup) or by immersing the wafer in the Chalice (also called intinction). It is very helpful to keep your empty glass visible so Pastor can see if you desire the Common Cup.

Children who do not commune are invited to come to the rail for a blessing.
If you need communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

Elder of the Month: Kathie Kueven

Ushers: Janis Lipacis & Steve Wiker

Greeters: Barbara Hardesty & Ed Fritch

Altar Care: Donna Crouch & Donna Hansen

Communion Assistants: Bob Elkins & Kathie Kueven

*Marcia Elkins & Rosalyn Carson wish to invite you for refreshments after the
worship service*

Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.

Instrumental Prelude

Lev Ryabinin

Welcome

Please Stand

(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace. Please remain standing for the invocation.)

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Esther 9:26-28**Reader: Robin Larson**

R: ²⁶ Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them, ²⁷ the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year, ²⁸ that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Epistle Lesson: Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27**Reader: Robin Larson**

R: ⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass. ²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please Stand

Common Alleluia and Verse

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: John 16:23-33

Reader: Robin Larson

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

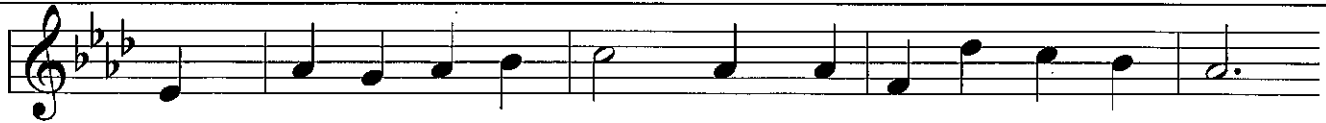
²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Come unto Me, Ye Weary



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.

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The Message

Pastor Steven Hayden

Please Stand

Nicene Creed

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified

also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

Offering

To Our Guests: We do not charge for any of our services. All our services, programs, and expenses are freely supported by the gifts and offerings of our members. As our guests, you have not been invited for what you can give, but for what God can give you.

Instrumental Anthem:

Lev Ryabinin

Please stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

Our Offertory Response

C: We pause in our worship, to rededicate ourselves, our time, talents, and treasure, to the service of Christ our Savior. We remember also our responsibility of friendliness to and concern for our fellow-worshippers, for those who are absent, and for our unchurched friends and neighbors. May the Holy Spirit help us to witness for Christ, in whatever way He directs us during the coming days.

Prayer of the Church

* Prayer Of The Church

(After the pastor ends each petition with, "Lord in Your Mercy, the congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer.")

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Preface

LSB 177

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

C: Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

LSB 179

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

LSB 180

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.


C: Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



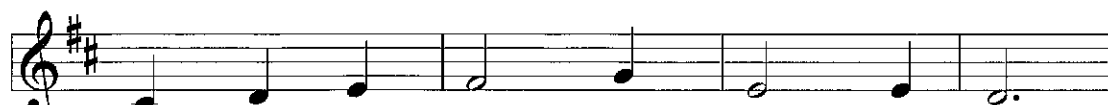
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated

Distribution

Communion Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 469 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on earth and an - gels say;
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
Lo! Our Sun's e - clipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids His rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.

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Communion Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 610 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!

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Please Stand

Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

Congregational Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 917 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.

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Announcements
Birthdays/Anniversaries

The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

+

Post-service Music

+

FEBRUARY'S COUNCIL MEETING will be held after the worship service today.

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:

- Sunday, February 16th – Connie Saner
- Thursday, February 20th – Margie Heimer

and anniversaries - No anniversaries to report this week

Best wishes!

ALTAR CARE: We are approaching the season of the church year with many important services. Please consider that it is during this time we especially need help. Take a look at the sign-up sheet on the back wall of the church and fill in a blank space to help. Thanks to all of you who have helped in the past year, you have made our worship to God beautiful and meaningful. – *Donna Crouch*



**NATIONAL
LUTHERAN
CHOIR**

The award-winning **National Lutheran Choir**, based in Minneapolis, will be touring the Southeastern U.S. with concerts in North Carolina and Atlanta. The 60-voice choir, led by Artistic Director, **David Cherwien**, will perform a wide-ranging program celebrating the depth and breadth of the Lutheran choral tradition. **National Lutheran Choir on tour in Atlanta Sunday, February 23, 2020 – 4pm. Tickets at NLCA.com/tickets** Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
731 Peachtree St NE Atlanta, GA 30308.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday	Elder's Meeting	9:00 a.m.
	"MIRACLES of Jesus" Bible class	10:30 a.m.
Saturday	ECR Bible Study	3:30 p.m.
	ECR Service	5:00 p.m.

Sunday

Adult Bible Class

9:00 a.m.

Choir Practice

9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.



MIRACLES BIBLE CLASS: "It's a miracle!" Many don't know what miracles really are or question whether they exist. Miracles are an important part of Jesus' ministry, and we can benefit from studying them. But what are they? Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus doing many different miracles. These miracles reveal our Savior to us. We see Him as God in human flesh who cares for His people in all of their needs. His miracles demonstrate His love. Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30am in Bible class as we take a closer look at the Miracles of Jesus.

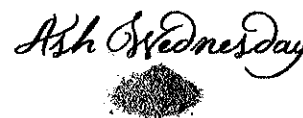
HISTORIC PEWS & PULPITS RAMBLE: Join in a scenic bus tour through rural east Georgia. The tour will visit historic churches tucked away but not forgotten (see their website and/or bulletin board flyer for specific churches/counties). Not only will you get to go inside the



Historic
*Pews
& Pulpits*
Ramble

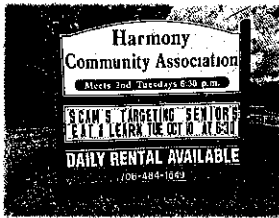
churches and hear about their humble beginnings, you'll be inspired by songs and words from some of the chancels and pulpits. Snacks & lunch are included. Tickets for the March 21, 2020 ARE ON SALE NOW. You can purchase tickets by calling 1-800-838-3006 or online at this link: <https://pewsandpulpits.bpt.me/>.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held on Wednesday February 26th at 7:00 p.m. (no supper).



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & SERVICE will be held each Wednesday starting the week on **March 4th**.

The Soup Supper begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m. Signup sheets are on the sanctuary back wall.



HARMONY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LAND On Sunday, January 26, 2020 Lake Oconee Lutheran Church, during a congregational meeting, voted to purchase the Harmony Community Association land and building that borders GA 44 and our east parking lot for \$349,000. We will be applying for a mortgage for the purchase. Lake Oconee Lutheran is planning on using the facility as a base for community outreach, to further our mission of being a "Family of Spirit filled Servants". We believe that this additional land will not just increase our physical footprint in terms of lot size, but that God will use it to increase His spiritual presence and footprint on our community. If you desire and are able to make an "over and above" contribution toward this purchase and mission, please write out a check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church to the attention of Financial Secretary. On the memo line please write Harmony land purchase. Any special gifts received will go to decreasing our mortgage. May God bless us as we follow Him in serving those around us.

SOUPER BOWL MONTH is celebrated in different way at Putnam Christian Outreach. They already have plenty of soup, but they'd love some hearty sides to go with the soup. Let's team up and keep February going with donations of biscuit mix, cornbread mix and crackers. Please place them in the baskets with all other PCO donations.



LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are Built for a Purpose

Built Through Word and Sacrament –

...believing in and making faithful and frequent use of the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the means by which God gives and sustains faith and empowers and strengthens us for Christian living.

Built Through Ongoing Learning –

...providing quality, Bible based instruction to foster greater understanding of God's Word and to better equip members for their discipleship.

Built For Service –

...reaching out to others by word and deed to join in the sharing of God's blessings and grace, which is free to all believers.

Built For Discipleship –

...utilizing fully our time, talents, and resources to serve and love the Lord, furthering our commission of discipleship.

Built For Fellowship –

...caring for and sharing with our church family; fostering greater love, understanding, and concern for the physical and spiritual well-being of all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

The window behind the altar is our EASTER SUNRISE WINDOW.

The cross hanging in front of the window is an empty cross, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive now to be with us here and always. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. The symbol on the front of the ALTAR is a combination of two Greek letters: the "chi," which looks like our English "x," and the "rho," which looks like our "p." In the Greek, these letters are the first two of "Christ." Combined as they are, they suggest the cross. Superimposed on the cross is a heart, the reminder that God's love for us is the reason Jesus died on the cross. God's love for us empowers us to share his love with others.



Chapter 20

The Queen of Beauty and Courage

Esther

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.

And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? Esther 4:14b

Adult and teen small group discussion points

1. Can you think of someone you know or read about who took risks to stand up for something they believed in?
2. Analyze the positives and negatives of King Xerxes as a leader.
3. The book of Esther is full of irony, such as Queen Vashti who would not come before the king when requested and Queen Esther who came before the king when not requested. What other examples of irony can you find in this chapter?
4. What drives a person like Haman and how have you had to negotiate a relationship with a person with similar motivations? What life lessons does Haman teach us about pride, self-centeredness and hatred? What wisdom would you give a Christian who is forced to work, live, and exist around a Hamanlike personality?
5. What characteristics marked the life and behavior of Mordecai? How can we take steps to grow character like Mordecai as we seek to follow God's upper story in our lower story lives?
6. Review the correspondence between Mordecai and Esther concerning an appeal to the king (p. 281-282). What is the relationship between God's providence and our responsibility?
7. Throughout this entire chapter, what strikes you about Esther's character, how she related to people, and the risks she took? What can we learn and gain from her example?
8. What risk was Queen Esther taking by approaching the king and how did she prepare for it (p. 281-282)? What factors do you suppose could account for Esther finding favor in the eyes of the king?
9. Esther is not the first Hebrew that God positioned in a place of influence to be a source of deliverance for his people. Who are the other deliverers we have studied in "The Story" and what common threads connect Queen Esther's story to theirs?
10. How does the lower story of Esther fit into the covenant that God made with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)? How does it fit with God's upper story of redemption?

Close in prayer.

Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key verse: "Show me your favor ... Please spare my people. That's my appeal to you" —Esther 7:3

1. What do you think Esther made for the big dinner with King Xerxes and Haman? What's your favorite food?
2. Queen Esther was King Xerxes' favorite, but she took a risk by speaking to the king without being invited. Did she just barge in and demand to be heard? Why not?
3. Esther kept it a secret from King Xerxes that she was Jewish. Do you think it was good for her to keep that secret?
4. When is it okay to keep secrets? When is keeping secrets a bad idea?
5. By being respectful and humble, the king granted Esther's wish. Tell of a time where respect and humility helped you.
6. If you were in Esther's place, what would you have asked the king to do?

Living Faith: Persian kings were famous for lavish banquets. So when Esther invited King Xerxes to a "big dinner" (Esther 5:8), the pressure was on. Queen Esther's story is truly remarkable, and Esther is only one of two books in the Bible named for a woman. As a family, 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.

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 to gloriadeionline.wordpress.com for the recipe for Hamantaschen.

Pray together: Lord, we want to be used for your Kingdom, just like Queen Esther was. Fill us with your Spirit, so we are ready for such as time as this. Amen.

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: Malachi 3:10

Day 1 – Chapter 21 of “The Story”

Day 2 – Ezra 7

Day 3 – Nehemiah 1-2, 4

Day 4 – Nehemiah 6-8

Day 5 – Malachi 1-4

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



God Writes His Word on our Lives, Building Us into a Family Engaged in Spirit-filled Service

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

Eatonton, GA