

The Script for



Queen Vashti Loses Her Crown!

Esther 1

1 King Xerxes ruled over the 127 territories in his kingdom. They reached from India all the way to Cush.... **3** In the third year of his rule King Xerxes gave a feast. It was for all his nobles and officials....

4 Every day for 180 days he showed his guests the great wealth of his kingdom. He also showed them how glorious his kingdom was. **5** When those days were over, the king gave another feast. It lasted for seven days. It was held in the garden of the king's courtyard.... Everyone from the least important person to the most important was invited. **6** The garden was decorated with white and blue linen banners.... There were gold and silver couches in the garden.... The floor had purple crystal, marble, mother-of-pearl and other stones of great value. **7** Royal wine was served in gold cups.... **8** [The king] commanded that they should be allowed to drink as much or as little as they wished....

9 Queen Vashti also gave a feast. Only women were invited....

10 On the seventh day Xerxes was in a good mood because he had drunk a lot of wine....

11 King Xerxes told [his officials] to bring Queen Vashti to him.... He wanted to show off her beauty.... **12** The attendants told Queen Vashti what the king had ordered her to do. But she refused to come. So the king became very angry....

13 It was the king's practice to ask for advice about matters of law and fairness. So he spoke with [the special advisers] ... **15** "You know the law," the king said. "What should I do to Queen Vashti? She hasn't obeyed my command. The officials told her what I ordered her to do, didn't they?"

16 Then [one of the special advisers] ... said, "Queen Vashti has done what is wrong. But she didn't do it only against you, King Xerxes. She did it also against all the nobles. And she did it against the people in all the territories you rule over. **17** All the women will hear about what the queen has done. Then they won't respect their husbands....

19 "So if it pleases you, send out a royal order. Let it be written down in the laws of Persia and Media. Those laws can never be changed. Let the royal order say that Vashti can never see you again. Also let her

The Script for Act I continued...

position as queen be given to someone who is better than she is. **20** And let your order be announced all through your entire kingdom. Then all women will have respect for their husbands...”

21 The king and his nobles were pleased with that advice....

22 The king sent messages out to every territory in the kingdom.... The messages announced that every man should rule over his own family....

Psalm 135:6

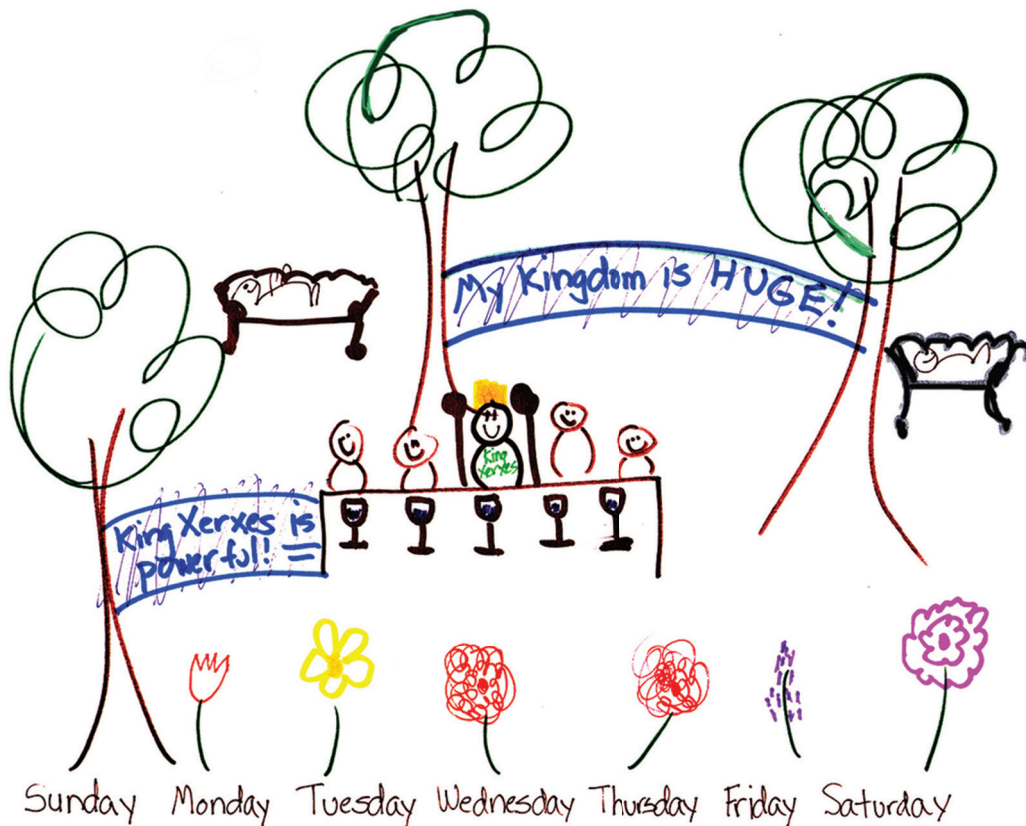
The LORD does anything he wants to do in the heavens and on the earth.

I Timothy 6:15

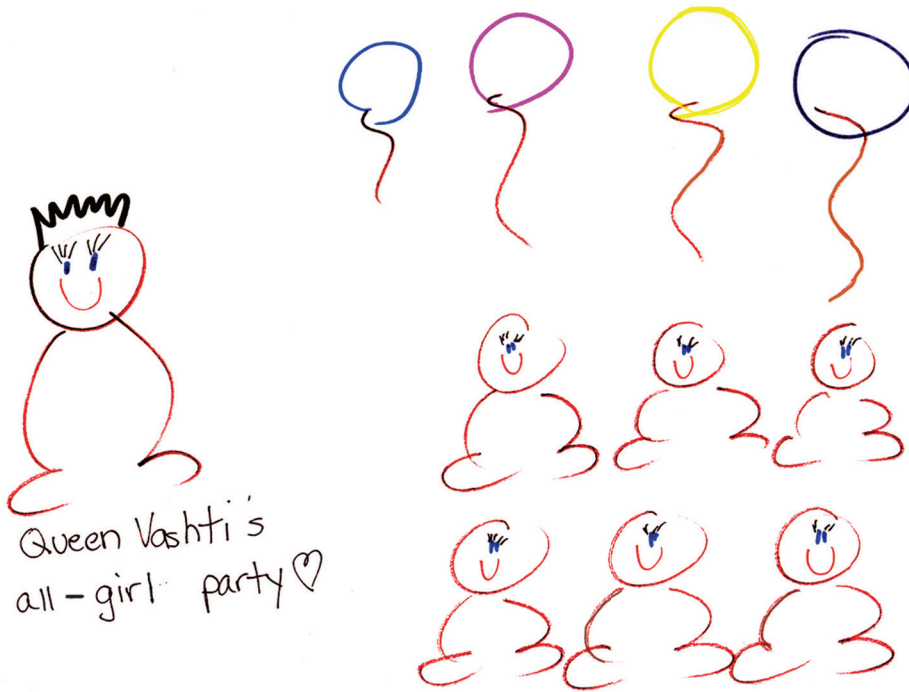
God ... is the blessed controller of all things, the king over all kings and the master of all masters.²

² Translation from J. B. Phillips New Testament.

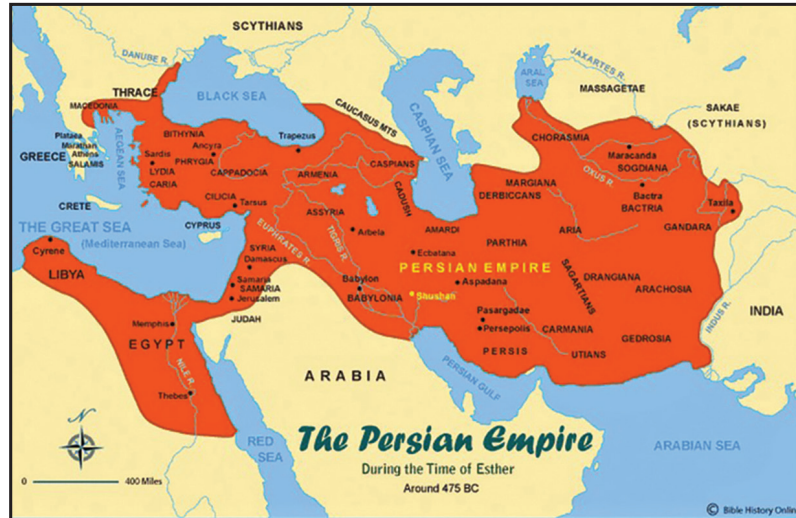
Scenes from Act 1



Scenes from Act 1



Map of the Persian Empire³



God's Fingerprints

God's fingerprints are everywhere, showing us that he is in every detail of our lives. The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

Psalm 37:23 (NLT)

- ❖ God used an arrogant, unreasonable king who loved extravagant parties as the beginning point of this story.
- ❖ Queen Vashti lost her crown.

Chorus

Because he is the blessed controller of all things (1 Timothy 6:15), we can be still, and know that he is God (Psalm 46:10).

³ Image used with permission from Bible History Online.

Offstage

1. This week, in what situations do you need to be still and remember that God is in control?
2. Where do you see God's fingerprints in your life?

The Script for



And the Crown Goes to...

Esther 2:1–18

1 Later, the anger of King Xerxes calmed down. Then he remembered Vashti and what she had done. He also remembered the royal order he had sent out concerning her. **2** At that time the king's personal attendants made a suggestion. They said, "King Xerxes, let a search be made for some beautiful young [women] for you. **3** Appoint some officials in every territory in your kingdom. Have them bring all these beautiful young women into the fort of Susa.... Then put [a man] in charge of them.... Let beauty care be given to the new group of women. **4** Then let the young woman who pleases you the most become queen in Vashti's place." The king liked that advice. So he followed it.

5 There was a Jew living in the fort of Susa.... His name was Mordecai.... **7** Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah. He had raised her because she didn't have a father or mother. Hadassah was also called Esther. She had a lovely figure and was very beautiful. Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter. He had done it when her father and mother died.

8 After the king's order and law were announced, many young women were brought to the fort of Susa. [A man] was put in charge of them. Esther was also taken to the king's palace. She was put under the control of [the man].... **9** Esther pleased him.... Right away he provided her with her beauty care and special food. He appointed seven [women] to help her.... He moved her and her [helpers] into the best part of the [palace].

10 Esther hadn't told anyone [she was Jewish]. She hadn't talked about her family. That's because Mordecai had told her not to. **11** Mordecai tried to find out how Esther was getting along.... So he walked back and forth near the courtyard by the place where the [young women] stayed. He did it every day.

12 Each young woman had to complete 12 months of beauty care. They used oil of myrrh for six months. And they used perfume and makeup for the other six months.... **13** And here is how she would go to the king. She would be given anything she wanted from the place where the [young women] stayed. She could take it with her to the king's palace. **14** In the evening she would go there. In the morning she would leave.... She would never return to the king unless he was pleased with her. He had to send for her by name before she could go to him again.

The Script for Act 2 continued...

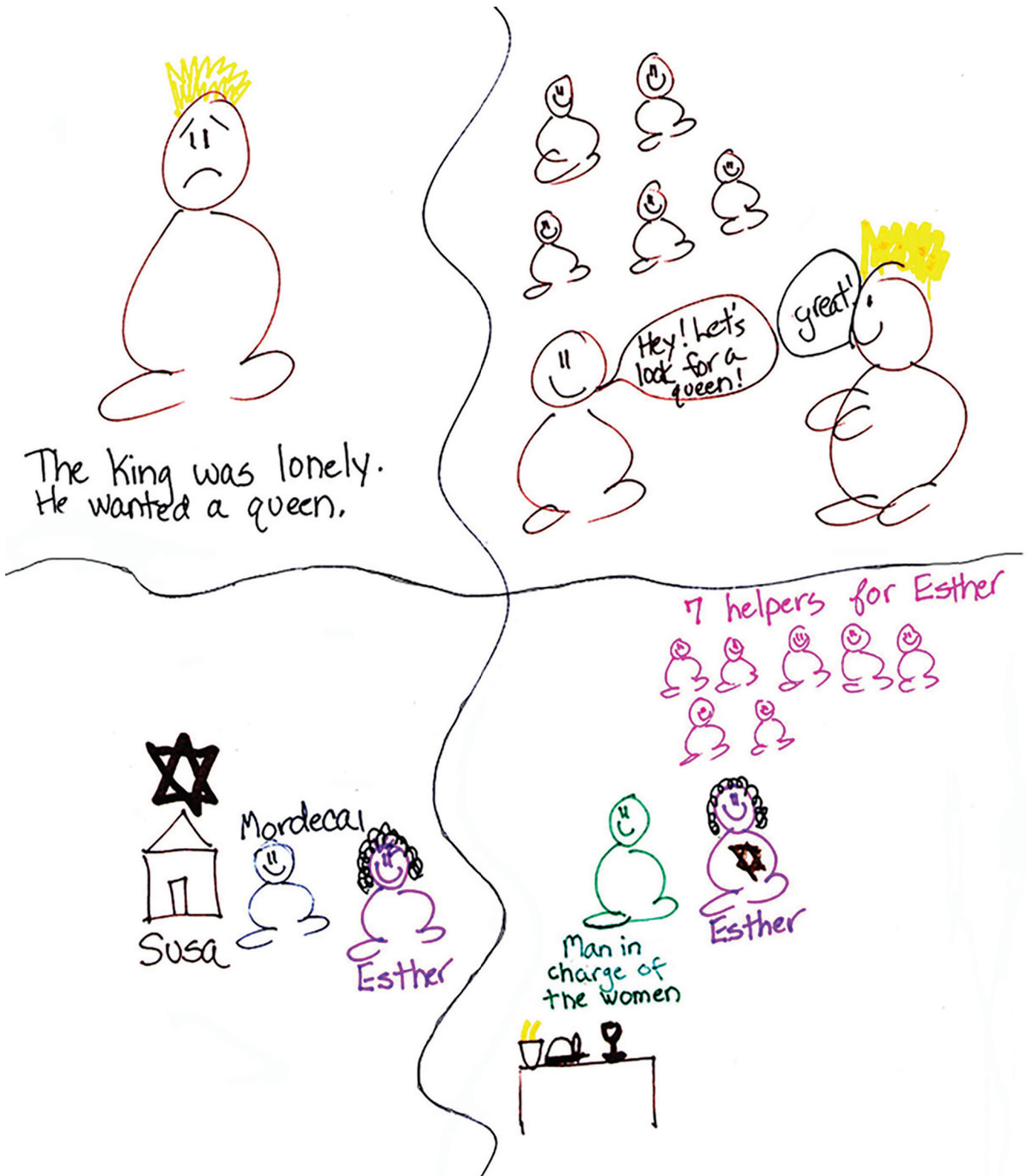
15 ... [Esther's] turn came to go in to the king... Everyone who saw Esther was pleased with her...

17 The king liked Esther more than he liked any of the other women... So he put a royal crown on her head. He made her queen in Vashti's place. **18** Then the king gave a feast to honor Esther. All his nobles and officials were invited. He announced a holiday all through the territories he ruled over. He freely gave many gifts...

1 Peter 3:4

Instead, your beauty comes from inside you. It is the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. Beauty like that doesn't fade away. God places great value on it.

Scenes from Act 2



Scenes from Act 2

Mordecai wanted to know how Esther was. He looked out for her everyday



He told Esther Not to give away the secret...



It was Esthers turn to meet the king!!

Esther, you are the most beautiful!



Introducing ...
Queen Esther!



God's Fingerprints:

*God's fingerprints are everywhere, showing us that he is in every detail of our lives.
The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.*

Psalm 37:23 (NLT)

- ❖ Esther was Jewish, and she kept it a secret.
- ❖ Esther won the contest!

Chorus

*Because he is the blessed controller of all things (1 Timothy 6:15),
we can be still, and know that he is God (Psalm 46:10).*

Offstage

1. This week, in what situations do you need to be still and remember that God is in control?
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