

# THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL ... AND THE BULLY

Bring it on.

**MONDAY**

Be ...

**TUESDAY**

## COURAGEOUS

### So, here's the story ...

King Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes) was having a huge party and he wanted to show off his gorgeous Queen Vashti, but she wouldn't have it. That embarrassed him in front of everyone, so he dumped her. A Jewish man, Mordecai, was taking care of his orphan cousin Esther when she and some other young ladies were taken to the palace so the king could choose a new wife. She was very beautiful and everyone liked her — especially the king — so he made her his new queen. Mordecai didn't get along with the king's right-hand man, Haman. Haman was full of himself. He hated Mordecai and all the Jews because they put God's rules over the king's. So Haman arranged it so anyone could attack the Jews, take their stuff and even kill them without getting in trouble. Mordecai asked Esther to go to the king and plead for their lives. In that day and culture, going to see the king uninvited was punishable by death. She was really scared, but she knew it had to be done. As it turned out, the king was really happy to see her. So she organized a special dinner for the king and Haman that night. Maybe she got a little nervous because she didn't reveal Haman's plot. Instead, she invited them again the next night. But after dinner that second night, Esther bravely told the king that Haman plotted to kill her and her people. The king was furious when he found out and he had Haman hanged. The lives of the Jews were spared because one young woman stood up to a bully.

**Read the story for yourself in the book of Esther.**

#### Take it to God

Every day this week, pay attention to what the people around you are going through, and pray for someone who may be struggling — whether it's someone needing to face their own bad behavior or you and/or others dealing with an unpleasant situation.

Halfway there

**WEDNESDAY**

A.M.

*You wanna be ...*

**Bold?**

Daring; fearless; noticable; clear; conspicuous; not ashamed.

or

**Timid?**

Lacking poise or self-confidence; shy; fearful; hesitant.

'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.'

**Prov. 28:1**

Throw your hands up

**THURSDAY**

A.M.

*Make a difference ...*

**Step up:**

If someone is trying to harm you or others around you, tell the appropriate people, so it can be stopped. What's important to remember though, is if your first attempt doesn't help, keep trying until the matter is fixed. Sometimes the people you turn to may not be able to help, or maybe they aren't brave enough to do something about it. Keep on telling the truth and get it out there until someone listens and addresses the issue. Make your voice heard.

**Take it up a notch:**

Become a volunteer in your school or community with an organization that takes a stand against abuse.

Noon

Noon

P.M.

P.M.

*Poll your friends ...*

Would you tell a teacher if someone was bullying another classmate?

**Yes**

**No**

**Jesus did lots of miracles while He was on the earth. Read about one of them here:**

Matthew 9:32-35

Eve

Eve

**FRIDAY**

*Finale*

**Don't allow yourself to be a victim**



**WEEKEND**

*WoodHoo!*

**A.M.**

**Sat.**

**Noon**

In life there are always going to be times when someone chooses to take advantage of a situation. People can be selfish, people can be rude and they can be down right mean. If you end up facing a person like this, it can be really scary. They obviously aren't choosing to be decent or kind (like people are expected to be) so you can't be sure of what they might do. Don't allow yourself to be a victim. There are certain things in your control. First, if you already know of someone that always picks on you or your friends, one thing you can do is avoid them whenever possible. Always pay attention to your surroundings and steer clear of trouble. When you can't avoid that person, stay in a group. You and others

can rally together to take care of each other. A bully is less likely to take on a whole crowd. But what if you're already stuck in a moment like that? It's going to take courage to get through it. Send up a quick prayer to God in your head and — if necessary — do whatever you have to do to make a scene big enough to get help. Kicking, screaming and throwing an all-out fit will often get the attention of someone who could help you. Ask yourself why a bully wants you quiet? So they won't get caught. Why do they try to make you afraid? So you'll let them do what they want. You often have the power to change a situation — be loud, be bold. It's always okay to defend yourself when in danger.

**Sun.**

**P.M.**

**Eve**

*Did you know?*

**Did you know that lots of times bullies are just people who are deeply hurting on the inside? They may feel trapped by their circumstances for any number of reasons, but they don't know how to make it change. Don't hate them for their behavior. They need prayer. Be nice when you can and avoid them if you must (to stay safe), but remember, Jesus loves them, too, and they might just need a friend.**

# So, let's wrap it up



Vicky's  
view

The king's go-to guy, Haman, thought he had the right to treat a certain group of people badly. Because of his high position with the king, he even went to the extent of trying to have them all killed. He didn't like the Jewish people because they didn't do things exactly the way he did — or the way he wanted them done. His first mistake was thinking he was the boss of everyone, instead of God, our Creator. His second mistake was not realizing that Esther was Jewish, and that God — knowing what scheme was brewing — had already placed her in a position to defeat Haman's whole plot. In the Bible, cousin Mordecai must have figured that

out when he said to Esther, "... who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" It was no coincidence that Esther was now the queen. Old Mordecai knew that God would somehow rescue the Jews in some way, but he also knew that if Esther wasted her opportunity to speak up, and instead chose to stay silent, Haman would succeed in killing many right then — including Esther and her family. Thankfully, even though she must have been terrified, she chose to do the right thing, even though it was very difficult and scary. One of the important things to remember is that when something bad is going on, if you know about it and don't do something to stop

it, you're guilty, just like the ones actually doing the bad stuff.

Yes, they are making the choice on purpose to do bad things, and they will just keep doing those awful things.

But if someone can stop it and they don't, it will just keep happening to other people, and it usually gets even worse eventually. Wouldn't you rather not ever have to go through an experience like that because someone stepped up the last time and the issue got stopped?

Or maybe you were the one who had to face a bully so the next person — maybe a neighbor friend or your younger brother or sister — didn't have to.

And, because somebody

decided to be courageous enough to call it out, maybe even the bullies could get the help they need so their lives can be better, too. Our lives don't affect just us.

The stuff we go through affects our families and friends, even strangers that might be nearby at the time — or somebody even years later.

You never know.

Jesus said the greatest commandment is that we should love God with all our heart, soul and mind.

The second greatest commandment, he said, is to love others as we love ourselves.

(Read it in Matthew 22:37-39.)

*Ponder this:*

**How often have you or a friend been bullied this week? Could it have been avoided?**

*Time to take charge of your life:*

(Fill in the blank ...)

**\_\_\_\_\_ has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?**

*Something good that happened this week was:*

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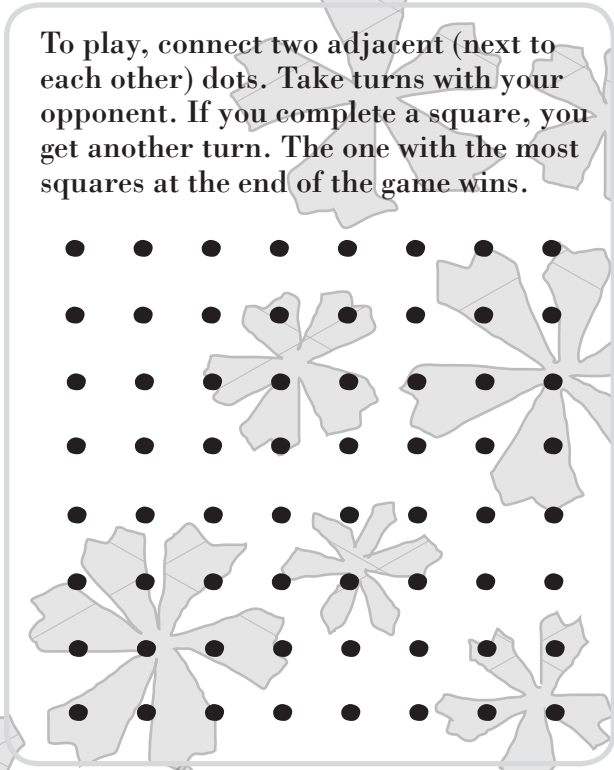
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*Let's read:*

**Esther**

# Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



# Matthew 7:7

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

- |           |           |       |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| ESTHER    | AHASUERUS | PURIM |
| HAMAN     | BABYLON   | ENEMY |
| MORDECAI  | PLOT      | WIFE  |
| QUEEN     | BANQUET   | LAW   |
| BEAUTIFUL | HANGED    | LOVE  |
| VASHTI    | JEWS      | SEAL  |

You are ...

# unstoppable

## Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.

N

W — E

S

G	V	E	S	Y	O
O	O	S	U	J	U
D	L	T	S	O	S
Y	S	A	E	I	M
O	U	A	R	L	E

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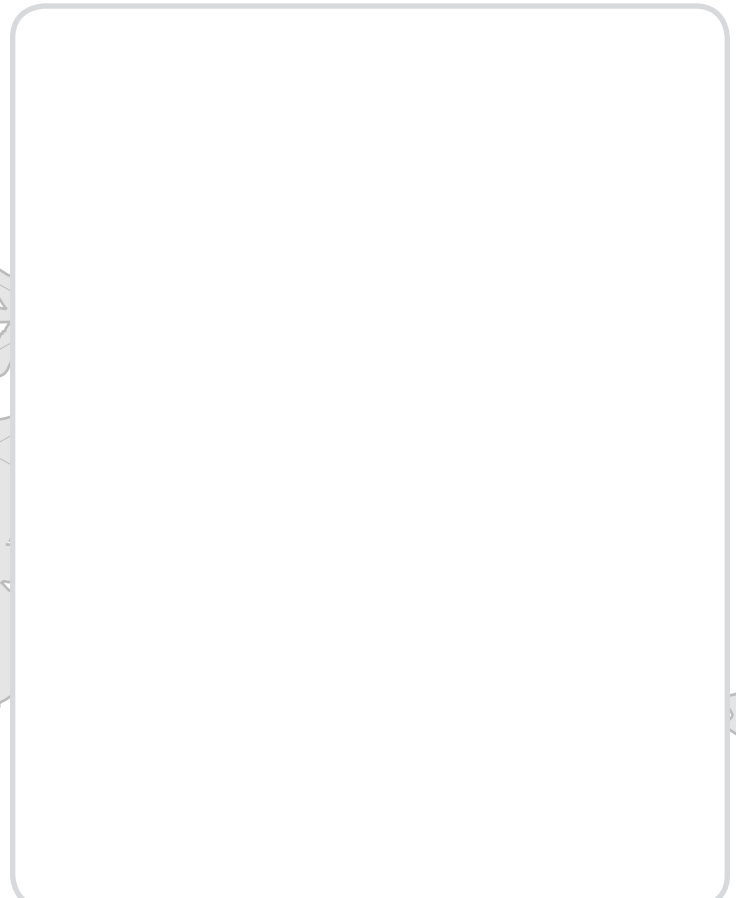
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answer on page 329

## Doodle Box



# Discover

answer on page 322

