

The only way is Keeping up with Esther

1. As the pupils enter

Have the [webpage open](#). Play the chosen music and display any images.

2. Introduction

Close your eyes and try to picture the character I'm going to describe - he's a character we're going to meet shortly in a story. His name is Haman. And Haman is not a good person. He's a brute who always tried to get his own way. He would laugh at people less fortunate than himself. If anyone ever looked like they might outshine him in anything...he would trick them, or the people in charge, to make sure that they lost and he always won. He wanted to hurt anyone that wasn't on his side. He was a bully.

There was a big problem however. Haman worked for the King, and the King trusted him. So now we're going to watch a short video showing a story from the Bible about Haman. It shows how he finally met someone who risked everything to stand up for what was right...a young woman called Esther.

3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 30". Final words: 'But it was enough time for me!'

4. Time to talk

- Ask everyone to think about Esther. Was her position as Queen safe? Think about what had happened to Queen Vashti.
- Explain that Esther was also from a poor background and did not have any powerful family standing up for her. Haman did not like Esther's uncle Mordecai so used the fact he was a Jew to persuade the King to have all Jews killed. This was a really dangerous situation and Esther could easily have been sentenced to death along with her uncle. But what did Esther do? She chose to stand up for what she believed, and told the King that she too was a Jew. That shows courage.
- Often it takes courage to stand up for what is right. We might see people in school being unkind and acting in a way that makes us and others feel small. If we can be brave, like Esther, then these people have the power taken away from them. Without that power, they don't seem so big.
- Ask everyone if they can think of any other occasions in films or stories when a character stands up for what is right? Harry Potter standing up to Lord Voldemort...Simba standing up to Scar in The Lion King. [Take other suggestions.] These characters were not the ones that looked like they had the power, but they knew what was right. Sometimes we need to find our inner strength and be brave, like Esther in the story, and stand up for what is right.

Link to video page



5. Opportunity to reflect

*Can you think of anytime you have seen something happening that you knew was not right...but you chose not to do anything about it..?
How do you think it would feel to be brave and take that stand..?
How would it help other people if you stood up for what was right...and not just what was easy..?*

6. Opportunity to sing

See the webpage for suggestions.

7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Lord', etc) and:

*Thank you that we know what is wrong and what is right.
Help us to be brave and have the courage to stand up for what is right, no matter how difficult it might be.
Amen.*