

**1. Watch chapter 8** from the animated Complete Learning System, *Esther* DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

**2. Read the fifth commandment:**

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (Ex. 20:12.)

**3. What does it mean to honor your father and your mother?**

“Honor is a simple word; it means to give special respect and to pay tribute. It means to respond to teachings that have been patiently and thoughtfully given. Each of our families would be more happy if we as children would honor our fathers and our mothers. *Hugh W. Pinnock, New Era, June 1982 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

**4.** Although Mordecai was not Esther’s natural father, he raised her as his daughter and she honored him as her father. When Mordecai asked Esther to go before the king and plead for the life of her people she answered, “...I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.” (Esther 4:16.)

**Do you think Esther was honoring her father by her actions?**

**5. Why do you think Mordecai asked Esther to risk her life to save her people?**

“...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esth. 4:14).

**Discuss ideas.**

**6. Elder Lino Alvarez** said, “There are two things that [my] parents did with all of their children for which we now honor them. First, they taught us correct principles and helped us walk uprightly before the Lord and live his commandments. Second, they taught us the value of work, personal integrity, and family unity.... we have tried to live according to the principles they taught us.” *Lino Alvarez, Ensign, Nov. 1992 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

**7. Does the Lord require parents to teach their children correct principles?**

“And they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord.” (D&C 68:28).

**8. Do you think that Mordecai taught Esther correct principles when she was a child?**

“Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise...” (Esther 4:16.) The fact that Esther asked her people to fast for her tells us that she was taught correct principles.

**9. Why did Esther ask her people to fast for her?**

Esther knew that the power of fasting and prayer would give her the courage she needed to honor her father’s request to go before the king and plead for the life of her people.

**10. Can fasting and prayer help give you the courage and strength you need to honor your parents?**

**Discuss ideas.**

“...fasting and prayer is a great way to receive the moral strength and spiritual strength to resist the temptations of Satan.” *James E. Faust, Ensign, Sept. 1995 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*