

Kings and Queens

**1**

Before you begin, please read the introduction on the right to yourself.

2

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

Then begin with a prayer.

3

Getting started. Discuss together: When we call someone a “great person” we can mean many different things. What do you think makes someone a great person?

The history of the Chosen People is filled with times of great strength and times of trials and tribulations. The nation was loosely unified under King David, but became two kingdoms, Judah and Israel, in later times. Other powerful nations—Babylon, Persia, and Egypt to name a few— would come from the north and the south to conquer Judah and Israel. The Chosen People would often find themselves living under foreign domination and even in foreign lands (as did Queen Esther).

Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.



Over the years, the number of Hebrew people grew and grew. The land of Judah became a great nation called Israel. The people built beautiful cities and towns. They had wonderful farms and orchards.

Jerusalem became the most important city. That is where Israel's greatest king had his court. In our first story, you will read about this great king. His name was David.

Some of the Chosen People moved to different countries and became rich and important. Even though they lived far from Israel, many of them kept the covenant. They did not forget the LORD or the LORD's special promise. They were faithful to God, and God was faithful to them. Our second story is about a Hebrew woman who lived in Persia. Her name is Esther. Esther became the queen of Persia.



2

Now discuss the reading with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. What would make a king or a queen part of God's "royal family?" How would such a person act?
2. God saw the inner goodness of David and Esther before they became a king and queen. Who sees the inner "real you?"

Family Together

1

Ask your child to draw a picture of the family doing something they enjoy together on the next page. While they do that, continue to read below.

2

Just for you: Greatness has to do with who we are and not just what we do. What matters is what is in the heart.

Although this section is about a king and a queen, neither David nor Esther was born into a royal state. Their faith and courage led to their attainment of thrones. Both stories speak of inner strength and inner beauty. As you share these stories with your young people, encourage them to look deeper for their real value. Popular culture tells them that outside appearance matters most. Talk with your children about what is in their hearts.



A Crest: Who Are We?

1

A crest or coat of arms was used to identify an important family by showing their wealth, power, land of origin and so on.

Take a few minutes to think together about what makes your family unique. Include work, hobbies, interests, qualities, and whatever else you want. List these things to the right on this page.

1)

2)

3)

2

On the next page, have your youngster complete the crest with you.

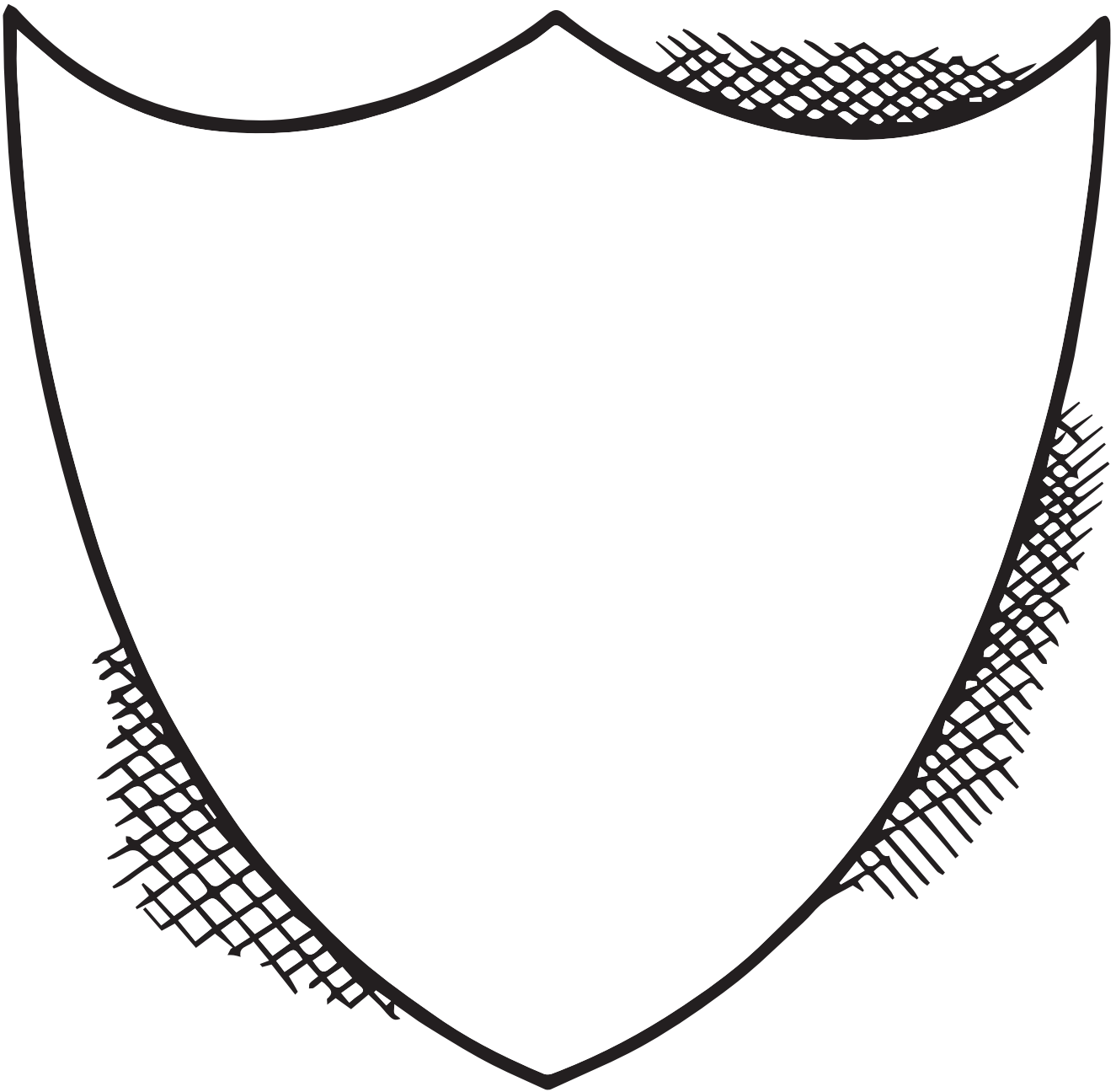
4)

5)

Fill in the crest below with drawings that represent your unique relationship and identity!

Our Crest

This is who we are!



Commercials and Royalty



1

Spend some time together watching television commercials with a critical eye. Will the right toothpaste or the right jeans really make one a better person?

2

Many popular fairy tales have kings and queens in them. What makes a good king or queen? What makes an evil one?

Closing Ritual

3

God sees what humans do not always see: what is in our hearts.
Make the Sign of the Cross. Then place your hand on your heart.
Say the prayer to the right.
Close with the Sign of the Cross.

You know what is in my heart, dear God.
Let your name always be written there.
Amen.

