

## The Providence of God

In the book of Esther we find the Jewish people who stayed behind in the Persian Empire rather than return to Israel. They are working and living their lives apart from God. Providence places Esther, a Jew as the new queen and in a position to have the king's ear. This prominent positioning leads to her intervention when the wicked Haman plots to kill off the entire Jewish race.

## And then God...

**Objectives:** Understand how God works through providence to do His will in and through our lives.  
Gain insight into our own faith.  
Have fun with your family.

**Number of Players:** at least 2

**Length:** 15 - 30 minutes

This will be a time of story telling and each family member should be encouraged to tell their own stories of God's providence.

Upfront Prep: Dad and/or Mom should come up with 4 or 5 family experiences where God's providence is evident. (*i.e. When your mom and I moved to California in the early '70's, we did not have a lot of money and we ran out of gas while we were in the middle of no where between Vegas and LA. A nice young man stopped, took us to a gas station and back to our car and lent us the money to fill our gas tank. This lead to a friendship between the our two families. The young man was a believer and invited us to his church where we gave our life to the Lord....*)

Explain what the providence of God is. "God moves ordinary events so His will will be done." -- The protective care of God.

**Set up:** Open with prayer asking God to bring to remembrance a story for each family member to share.

Then give a short quiet time (less than 5 mins) for everyone to think about a story that they want to share. Paper and pencils can be used if needed

Dad or Mom should begin with the sharing to set an example of how it's done.

You should consider a timer if you are concerned that some folks would ramble on or others might not have enough to say. Suggested time on each story is 3-5 mins.

Be encouraging and supportive. If anyone has a hard time seeing the providence of God in their life experiences, give suggestions and then let them tell their story.

After each story, give a short time of thanksgiving to God for his care specific to the story. Depending on age and confidence allow each family member to say the thanksgiving prayer after their story.

**Discussion:** Have everyone sit together and ask, "how does looking back at the providence of God help us to be prayerful and thankful every day?" "What can we do as a family to be more aware of God's providence in our lives?"

**Prayer:** Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.