



Instructions¹

Each player receives 5 chips (or points) at the beginning of the game. Truth cards are distributed among the players, who can share them with the player whose turn it is if a certain one is requested. As play proceeds around the board, the player takes a card which matches the color he or she landed on and reads the question. If the answer is correct, a chip is received. If the player can incorporate a verse from a Truth card in the answer, an extra point or chip is received. (Ideas are provided regarding which verses could be used.) Green cards are true-false, yellow indicates an action response, and blue cards are for thinking about the truth in the situation. The player with the most points or chips at the end of the game is the winner.

Note: there is a PRIZE card in each color, so be prepared to provide a small prize when that card is turned over.

This game allows a client to process information from the safe perspective of another person's life (in this case a bible character). However, the therapist can also ask questions which will assist the client to apply the principle being addressed in a very personal way. Depending on the level of safety, there is much freedom to use the game as a springboard for therapeutic interventions.

¹ Colleen Stortvedt, *On the Road to Freedom* (Kearney, Nebraska: Morill Publishing, 2010), 172-180.

Esther was a beautiful young lady who experienced great sadness at a very young age when she lost both of her parents. She was completely lost, with no one to tuck her in at night, no one to be proud of her, no one to care whether she succeeded or not, no one to provide for her. But one thing she did have – a heavenly Father who cared very much about her and the huge, empty hole that was left in the place her parents once were.

Esther's loving heavenly Father chose to provide for her an older cousin named Mordecai, who took her in and raised her as his own daughter. As far as we know, Esther still did not have a mother to nurture her and care for her, to answer her "girl questions" and do the things that mothers and daughters do. But she was grateful for this man, who cared very much for her. He too knew sorrow, for his people had been forced to leave their homes and travel to Babylon to live in captivity. He had experienced extreme prejudice and unfair treatment because of his race. When Esther was teased or mistreated, he knew how to help her understand how valuable she was and to keep a respectful attitude. Esther had every reason to be bitter, but instead chose to listen to her new father and to carefully obey everything he asked of her.

In the place of captivity where they lived, Mordecai and Esther were ruled by an evil king named Xerxes. This king was full of pride and very much into himself. He thought nothing of killing someone if they didn't do as he pleased. He decided to throw a huge party that lasted for months, just to show off how rich and great he was. He demanded that his beautiful wife come to the party so he could also show off how gorgeous she was, and she refused to come. This made him so mad that he had her removed and started looking for a new wife. He gathered the prettiest girls from across the land into his palace and had them go through all kinds of beauty treatments so he could pick the most beautiful one to be his new wife.

Esther was one of those lovely girls. Because she had learned growing up to seek her father's advice and follow it, she did the same in this situation. When it was her turn to see the king, she took only the things his servant who was in charge of the women recommended. She also followed her father's advice when he told her not to tell the king what her race was. She found such favor with the king that he decided to make her his queen.

Now you may think that Esther had it made now that she was a queen. But her trials were not over. There was another man named Haman who was very close to the king and was also full of pride and into himself. He was part of a group of people who had always hated the Jews. At Haman's request the king demanded that when his servants saw him they bow down to him as he walked by. Mordecai was determined to only worship God, not another person, so he wouldn't bow down to Haman. This made him so mad that he came up with a plan to get rid of Mordecai and all the Jews. He bribed the king with a large sum of money and made up a story that this people didn't follow the king's laws. He talked him into making a decree which could not be reversed that they be destroyed. Mordecai and Esther had always known discrimination, but now their entire race was to be annihilated in one day!

Mordecai told Esther to talk to the king and ask him to save her people. But there was one problem. Because he was so into himself, if anybody (including his wife) came to see him without him deciding first that he wanted to see them, they could be killed right on the spot. Esther knew she would be taking her life into her hands to even try to talk to him, because he hadn't requested to see her for a long time. She knew she couldn't do it alone, so she asked Mordecai and all her people to fast and pray for her for three days, while she and her servants did the same. God gave her courage and a plan for how to approach the king. When she asked to see him, he extended his golden scepter, indicating she had his favor. She invited him and Haman to a big banquet rather than barging in with her request right away. The king was ready to give her anything she wanted, up to half the kingdom, but she still waited with her request. She invited them to another banquet the next night. By that time a series of events had occurred that made the timing of her request absolutely perfect. (You can read the book of Esther if you want the details!) Because Esther had obeyed Mordecai and had not told him she was a Jew, when she exposed Haman's evil scheme to get rid of the Jews and told him they were her people, he was very angry with Haman. God had prepared the king's heart and he not only granted her request to save her people, but got rid of Haman and all his family and put Mordecai in charge in his place! Though he could not reverse the evil decree to attack the Jews, he allowed Mordecai to make another decree that the Jews could protect themselves and in the end the Jews won the battle hands down! Once again, Esther's respectful, obedient attitude in the midst of great unfairness paid off, not only for her but for her entire people.

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<p>Esther was such a strong person that she was never afraid. Philippians 4:13</p>	<p>Mordecai was Esther's biological father.</p>	<p>It is a good idea to take a risk to do what is right even if you are afraid of what might happen. Esther 4:14, Isaiah 55:8</p>
<p>When another person rejects you, it is a good chance to remember what God thinks about you. Isaiah 43:4</p>	<p>It is not necessary to do what an adult tells you if he or she is not your real parent. Ephesians 6:1-3</p>	<p>If someone important tells you to do something that is wrong, you should do it. Galatians 1:10</p>
<p>God is always there when we go through hard things, even if we don't know it. Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p>Sometimes the things that are happening in our lives don't make sense, but they are part of a bigger purpose. Esther 4:13,14</p>	<p>Haman was the good guy in this story.</p>
<p>Kids who lose a parent don't have any way of having their needs met. Psalm 68:5</p>	<p>Give a chip to the bank. Take another card and try to earn it back.</p>	<p>Take another card. If you get the answer right, take double the chips.</p>
<p>Give a chip to the person on your right. Take another card and try again.</p>	<p>Take a chip from the person on your left. Take another card and try to get one more.</p>	<p>PRIZE!</p>

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<p>Esther invites a classmate to come over after school, but she refuses to come because she is not allowed to play with a Jew. How should Esther respond to this? 1 Peter 2:9</p>	<p>Esther doesn't like something her father asks her to do. Her friends tell her she shouldn't have to listen to him because he's not really her dad. How should she respond? Ephesians 6:1-3</p>	<p>Esther feels powerless because she knows very bad things are about to happen to her and to her family and she doesn't think there is anything she can do about it. What should she do? Philippians 4:6-7</p>
<p>Even though going to the king seems like the right thing to do, it doesn't make sense to Esther. Should she listen to God or do what she thinks is best? Isaiah 55:8</p>	<p>Once Esther decides to try and talk to the king about saving the Jews, she is so nervous she just wants to blurt it out right away. Do you think she should follow this urge? Why or why not? Isaiah 55:8</p>	<p>Esther hates the way Haman has tried to destroy her people and feels like telling him off at the banquet. What should she do and why? Proverbs 18:7</p>
<p>When Esther is teased for being a Jew, she feels like getting into a fight to make a point that she doesn't deserve to be treated that way. What should she do? Proverbs 16:18</p>	<p>Give a chip to the bank. Take another card and try to earn it back.</p>	<p>Take another card. If you get the answer right, take double the chips.</p>
<p>Give a chip to the person on your right. Take another card and try again.</p>	<p>Take a chip from the person on your left. Take another card and try to get one more.</p>	<p>PRIZE!</p>
<p>When Mordecai won't bow to Haman, people make fun of him and threaten him. What do you think makes him strong enough to be able to handle the taunting? Psalm 119:41-42</p>	<p>When Mordecai is honored and Haman destroyed, he decides not to say "I told you so!" or get back at the people who teased him earlier. Why would he decide this? Proverbs 18:7</p>	<p>Esther wants everyone to approve of her: the king, Mordecai, Haman, and God. She's pretty sure talking to the king could make him and Haman mad. How will she decide what to do? Galatians 1:10</p>

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<p>1 Peter 2:9 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. “Honor your father and mother” is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, “so you will live well and have a long life.” <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Philippians 4:13 Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. <i>The Message</i></p>
<p>Esther 4:14 “Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this.” <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 41:10 'Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you. <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Exodus 20:2,3 “I am the Lord your God... You shall have no other gods before Me.” NASB</p>
<p>Proverbs 31:30 Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades. The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the Fear-of-God. <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 43:4 That's how much You mean to Me! That's how much I love you! I'd sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation just for you. <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 55:8 "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work.” God's Decree <i>The Message</i></p>
<p>Psalm 119:41-42 May Your unfailing love come to me, O Lord, Your salvation according to Your promise; then I will answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in Your Word. (NIV)</p>	<p>Proverbs 18:7 Fools are undone by their big mouths; their souls are crushed by their words. <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. NASB</p>
<p>Psalm 68:5-6 Father of orphans champion of widows, is God in his holy house. God makes homes for the homeless, leads prisoners to freedom, but leaves rebels to rot in hell. <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Philippians 4:6 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. <i>The Message</i></p>	<p>Proverbs 16:18 First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall. <i>The Message</i></p>

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<p>Esther feels unloved because she doesn't have two parents like other children do. What would help her to feel better about herself? Psalm 68:5, Isaiah 43:4, 1 Peter 2:9</p>	<p>Esther feels like she doesn't belong because her dad is really only her cousin. What would help her know that she does belong? 1 Peter 2:9</p>	<p>Even though Esther is extremely beautiful, she still sometimes doesn't like the way she looks. What can she tell herself when she feels this way? Proverbs 31:30</p>
<p>After Esther moves to Mordecai's house, she is afraid and upset because everything is new. She has a hard time going to sleep and often cries at night. What could she tell herself to feel better? Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p>When other kids at school make fun of Esther for being a Jew (and because they are jealous of how pretty she is), she feels rejected and unloved. What could she tell herself? Isaiah 41:10, 1 Peter 2:9, Phil 4:13</p>	<p>When Esther asks the head servant what she should take with her to see the king, his answer is very different from what the other girls have done, and she isn't sure whether it's a good idea. What should she tell herself? Isaiah 55:8</p>
<p>Why do you think Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman? Exodus 20:2,3</p>	<p>Give a chip to the bank. Take another card and try to earn it back.</p>	<p>Take another card. If you get the answer right, take double the chips.</p>
<p>Give a chip to the person on your right. Take another card and try again.</p>	<p>Take a chip from the person on your left. Take another card and try to get one more.</p>	<p>PRIZE!</p>
<p>Esther feels lonely because her husband never wants to spend time with her and she is thinking about having lost her parents. What would make her feel better? Psalm 68:5-6</p>	<p>Mordecai is so afraid he can't sleep at night when he thinks about the decree saying the Jews would all be killed. How could he control his fear? Philippians 4:6-7</p>	<p>Haman wants more control; in fact, he would like to take over for the king. What will be the result of his pride and arrogance? Proverbs 16:18</p>

Tamar Story (2 Samuel 13)

Tamar was a very beautiful young lady who was obedient and had a pure heart. She had a half brother named Amnon who lived in a different house and had a different mother. Amnon noticed how beautiful she was and decided he wanted to have sex with her. He was frustrated that he couldn't figure out a way to make this happen, and actually became depressed and sick. His cousin noticed and asked what was wrong. When he understood, he came up with a plan for Amnon where he could manipulate her into a position where he could take advantage of her. The plan was to pretend that he was sick and ask his father to send Tamar to take care of him. She came to his house and made him some food, but he refused to eat it. He demanded that everyone else leave and that she bring the food to his bedroom. Once she was in his room, he asked her to get in bed with him. She said no, it would be a disgrace for her to violate her that way. She explained that she could never get rid of her shame and he would be acting in a way that was stupid, degrading, and disgustingly bad. She pleaded with him to do it the right way, to ask her dad if he could marry her. But instead of making a responsible choice, he forced himself on her. She couldn't resist because he was stronger. After using her, he decided he didn't really love her; he hated her, and sent her away. When she told him this was even worse, he wouldn't listen to her, had her thrown out, and locked the door behind her. (In those days, this meant she would not have the opportunity to get married, because men wanted only virgins.) She left in tears, and when her brother Absalom realized what had happened to her, he told her to keep quiet about it and not to take it to heart. She continued to live a lonely life in Absalom's house after that. Her dad and brother were very angry about it. Her dad didn't want to do anything because he loved Amnon and he was his oldest son. Absalom refused to speak to Amnon and eventually killed him to get revenge.

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<p>Tamar was to blame for what her brother did to her.</p>	<p>God either turned His back or didn't care when this was happening to Tamar. Luke 21:16</p>	<p>Tamar knew that what Amnon was doing to her was wrong.</p>
<p>Tamar tried every way she knew to prevent Amnon from hurting her in this way.</p>	<p>Absalom was right to tell Tamar to "keep quiet and not take it to heart."</p>	<p>After this happened, Tamar's life was ruined; there was no way to regain hope. Jeremiah 29:11</p>
<p>God is always there when we go through hard things, even if we don't know it. Matthew 28:20</p>	<p>Sometimes the things that are happening in our lives don't make sense, but they are part of a bigger purpose. Jeremiah 29:11</p>	<p>It is normal for a parent to choose one child's interests over another's. Ephesians 6:4</p>
<p>PRIZE!</p>	<p>Give a chip to the bank. Take another card and try to earn it back.</p>	<p>Take another card. If you get the answer right take double the chips.</p>
<p>In order to heal, Tamar needed to confront both her brother and her father about what they did wrong.</p>	<p>The best thing for everyone concerned was for Tamar to keep what happened to her a secret and never tell anyone.</p>	<p>If Tamar were spiritual enough, she would be able to trust her father and brother once she forgave them.</p>

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<p>How did what Amnon do to Tamar make her feel?</p>	<p>How did Absalom and Tamar's father respond to her? What was good and bad about their reactions? Psalm 94:16-17, Ephesians 6:4</p>	<p>What did God think of what Amnon did to Tamar? 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5 Matthew 21:12-13</p>
<p>What did Amnon's hatred for Tamar after he forced her show about what kind of love this was? 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5</p>	<p>How did God feel about Tamar? Isaiah 43:4 Ephesians 1:4 Isaiah 41:9</p>	<p>If Tamar felt all alone in this situation, what could she tell herself? Matthew 28:20</p>
<p>Was there anything about Tamar that made her deserving of what Amnon did to her? If so, what? 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5</p>	<p>Give a chip to the bank. Take another card and try to earn it back.</p>	<p>Take another card. If you get the answer right, take double the chips.</p>
<p>Give a chip to the person on your right. Take another card and try again.</p>	<p>Take a chip from the person on your left. Take another card and try to get one more.</p>	<p>PRIZE!</p>
<p>Now whenever Tamar sees someone else who is hurting or mistreated she feels responsible to "fix it." What does God think about this? Galatians 6:4-5</p>	<p>Tamar felt so out of control in this situation with her brother that she now feels the only way to be safe is to always be in control. Is this a good idea? Psalm 62:8, Ps 94:16-17</p>	<p>Tamar has built a wall around her heart so that she won't be hurt again. How might this wall affect her relationships?</p>

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<p>Galatians 6:4,5 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load. NASB</p>	<p>Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, NASB</p>	<p>1Thessalonians 4:4-5 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; NASB</p>
<p>Isaiah 43:4a "Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, NASB</p>	<p>Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. NASB</p>	<p>Lamentations 3:22-23 For if He causes grief, then He will have compassion according to His abundant lovingkindness. For He does not afflict willingly or grieve the sons of men. NASB</p>
<p>Matthew 21:12,13 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN." NASB</p>	<p>Matthew 28:20 ... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." NASB</p>	<p>Psalms 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah. NASB</p>
<p>Ephesians 4:26-27 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. NASB</p>	<p>Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. NASB</p>	<p>Psalms 94:16,17 Who will protect me from the wicked? Who will be my shield? I would have died unless the Lord had helped me. NASB</p>
<p>Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.' NASB</p>	<p>Luke 21:16 "But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, ... Yet not a hair of your head will perish. NASB</p>	<p>Isaiah 41:9 "I have chosen you and not rejected you" NASB</p>

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<p>Whose fault was it that Amnon had sex with Tamar: Amnon, his cousin, Tamar, or some combination? 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5</p>	<p>What was Tamar's reason for coming to Amnon's house? Was this wrong?</p>	<p>What was wrong with Amnon's plan? Colossians 3:9 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5</p>
<p>Did God in any way cause this abuse to happen? Lamentations 3:22-23</p>	<p>What do you think was Jesus' reaction to how Amnon treated Tamar? Matthew 21:12-13</p>	<p>How do you think Tamar felt about how her dad and brother responded to what Amnon did to her?</p>
<p>What are some of the ways in which Amnon showed disrespect toward Tamar?</p>	<p>Give a chip to the bank. Take another card and try to earn it back.</p>	<p>Take another card. If you get the answer right, take double the chips.</p>
<p>Give a chip to the person on your right. Take another card and try again.</p>	<p>Take a chip from the person on your left. Take another card and try to get one more.</p>	<p>PRIZE!</p>
<p>What did God want Tamar to do with all the hurt she experienced in this situation? Psalm 62:8</p>	<p>How did Tamar get through all of this pain? Psalm 94:16-17</p>	<p>How could Tamar's anger toward her dad and her brother affect her if she doesn't deal with it? Ephesians 4:26-27</p>