

Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants

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When is it okay to disobey?



HANDS ON!

Dress Up as Vashti

Celebrating Purim is all about dressing up in costume. But in this story, Vashti wants to dress down. Take a cue from Vashti and dress up in comfy clothes:

Wear a cozy sweater. Nothing itchy.

Only comfy pants, obviously. Sweatpants, leggings, or even pajama bottoms work well.

Slippers are a nice touch.

Don't forget a funny hat!

A Woman Before Her Time

Esther is celebrated for being brave enough to speak truth to power and save the Jewish community of Persia. Maybe Vashti deserves a little respect for being willing to advocate for herself! In this story, she refuses unequal treatment by her husband, even though her husband is the king. Vashti is a modern woman stuck in an ancient time. Today we are all encouraged to stand up for ourselves as well as others. Who knows what Vashti would be able to do if she were alive today!

Sisters Unite!

You've heard about Esther and Vashti. But did you know there's another woman in the Megillah? It's Zeresh, wife of Haman, the villain of the Purim story. And just like Esther and Vashti, Zeresh doesn't sugarcoat the truth. When Zeresh learns that Haman has been ordered to lead Esther's uncle Mordecai around the public square on a royal horse, she says, "It's over -- you will lose to Mordecai." (Spoiler alert: She's right!) Maybe Zeresh will star in her own modern midrash someday.

Strong Female Roles

Esther and Vashti aren't the only strong female characters in Jewish history. There are the traditional matriarchs, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah. Ruth loyally stood by her mother-in-law, Naomi, and became the first convert to Judaism. Miriam helped saved her baby brother Moses from a terrible fate, and according to tradition, later helped save her entire community by finding water in the desert. Deborah the Judge was a compassionate leader in a time when leaders weren't known for compassion. The complex, multidimensional female Bible characters have left an indelible mark on Jewish culture and history.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHY did Vashti refuse the king's request that she come entertain his friends?

HAVE you ever been asked to do something you thought was unfair? How did you handle it?

VASHTI and her friends like hanging out with each other (in comfy clothes). What do you like to do with your friends?