



There is one movie scene that is locked in my brain I use to visualize stepping out in faith. It's from *Indiana Jones: The Last Crusade*. The lead character, Indy, has to complete a series of challenges to ultimately save his father's life. There is one challenge that puts faith on display. Check this out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxPdgbmYi8U> [Leader Note: Start the clip at 2:55 and end it at 4:50.]

The Bible defines faith like this:

*To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.*

— Hebrews 11:1 (GNT)

Indy puts all his body weight and trust on an outcome that he has no proof will end the way he wants. That's the best visual I can think of to highlight the man we are talking about tonight.

We are about to do a flyover on Mordecai's life, so I would encourage you all to read the Old Testament book of Esther this week to get the rest of the story.

Mordecai stepped out in faith to help solve different crises in his family throughout our biblical recordings of his life. His strength is something I want us to attempt to emulate in our own families: stepping.

Stepping is something that many people learn to do as toddlers. We actually put a ton of celebration into a baby's first steps, don't we? In modern times, there are many devices to help people walk and move. We have canes, crutches, wheelchairs, and prosthetic limbs to help all of us step in our own way. [Leader note: make this statement more inclusive or remove it based on the abilities and sensitivities in your group.]

No matter how you may move, stepping involves moving forward. So, we know that Mordecai was good at stepping, he was good at moving forward in a tough situation.

Let's look at some examples of Mordecai stepping out in faith.

[Leader Note: I would actually step when making points in this lesson.]

## 1. Mordecai stepped out to adopt.

Adoption is a really normal thing in our culture, isn't it? I cannot even count the number of people I know that have adopted children somehow.

[Leader Note: Share a personal story of adoption.]

Up to this point in the Bible, we only have one recorded story of adoption — Pharaoh's daughter adopting Baby Moses [See Exodus 2].

Let's see where adoption comes into Mordecai's story:

*At that time there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and was a descendant of Kish and Shimei. His family had been among those who, with King Jehoiachin of Judah, had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.*

— Esther 2:5-7 (NLT)

Here is what we know about Mordecai from this brief introduction. He had a cousin who had lost both of her parents, so he decided to raise her as his own daughter. We don't know Esther's full family tree or what circumstances led to her parents' deaths. We do know that a closer relative than a cousin would usually step in to take care of a child in Esther's situation. So, it's a safe assumption that Mordecai was likely never expecting the responsibility of becoming Esther's adopted dad. He must have chosen to take care of Esther.

Losing family, no matter what the circumstances, is a painful thing to go through. We do not know how old Esther was when Mordecai started raising her. We're not sure how that transition went, but over the course of

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