

# QUEEN ESTHER MANEUVER

## Preparation

Read the Book of Esther.

## Background

Both husbands and wives need to be submissive to each other and treat each other as equals in many respects. If they love each other, they will have a plan in place on how they are going to handle stressful situations.

Assign a class member to play the parts of Justin and Courtney and a third person to lead a wrap-up discussion at the end of the play. Give the “actors” a few minutes to prepare.

## Scene 1

### *Justin and Courtney in a non-stressful moment*

Justin and Courtney want a close and secure relationship. Justin tells Courtney that he loves her and cares about her thoughts.

**Justin:** (gently placing his hands on both of Courtney’s shoulders and looking into her eyes) “Courtney, I love you and care about you. If I ever become distant and you want to talk, please know that I still care and I want you to remind me of this talk. If necessary, you have permission to get my attention by taking me by the shoulders and asking me to look in your eyes. Good communications between us is very important to me.”

## Scene 2

### *The stressful moment arrives*

Courtney wants to talk, but Justin has been putting her off lately and not really listening to her. When he does listen, he goes through the motions but just grunts or says yes or no but does not really communicate at all. Now he is watching television and Courtney is frustrated and asks if they could talk. Justin ignores her. After about two requests, she takes both his shoulders in her hands and asks Justin to look into her eyes. He continues, distracted in his own thoughts. She does it another time, and he asks, “what are you doing?” She reminds him that she needs to talk and she is only doing what they had agreed to. Justin says, “I’m sorry, honey, I didn’t realize that. Thanks for reminding me. Let’s talk.”