

GODLY LEADERSHIP ESTHER

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 11 • Esther 6 • December 8, 2010

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther 5** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ ESTHER 6:1-5

2. In **V1**, what was the King's problem during the night between the two banquets, and how did he address it?
3. In **V2-3**, what was uncovered, and what question did this prompt from the King?
4. a) What ironically happened as the King was having this conversation with the servant in **V4-5**?

b) List any other ironies you find in **V1-5**.
5. a) The providential timing of God is unmistakable in this passage. Review the first six chapters of Esther and find more examples of God's interventions and providences.

b) Where do you need to trust God more for His providential timing in your life?

SECTION II: READ ESTHER 6:6-11

6. What further irony unfolds in **V6**?

7. a) List the things Haman suggested should be done to honor this man in **V7-9**.

b) What can you discern about Haman's character by his suggestions?

8. a) What did the King command Haman to do in **V10-11**?

b) Describe how this outcome is different from what Haman intended when he walked into the palace that day.

c) What words would you use to describe Haman's internal state at this point in the narrative?

9. a) Just as God was beginning to change the course of events through the King having a sleepless night, He often works in our lives through events that seem unexpected and insignificant. Consider how God has directed and guided your life through a chain of events, each by itself seemingly unimportant at the time. Share this encouraging story with your group.

b) Write a timeless truth from these first 11 verses in chapter 6.

SECTION III: READ ESTHER 6:12-14

10. In **V12**, what did Mordecai do after being honored?

11. How did Haman return home this time in **V12**?

12. After the humiliating ride through the city with Mordecai, how did Haman's wife and friends interpret the events and respond to him in **V12-14**?

13. How has Haman's ungodly character contributed to his downfall?

14. a) Write out the contrasting traits displayed so far in the 4 main characters in Esther:

POSITIVE (Esther & Mordecai)

NEGATIVE (Xerxes & Haman)

b) Form a prayer request based on how you identify with any of the above positive or negative traits.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. When Mordecai first uncovered the assassination plot and reported it (2:21-23), his only reward was in knowing he did the right thing. He had no idea that down the road God would use his action to ultimately save his own life. Sometimes we wonder if it is worth doing the right thing especially when no one seems to notice. From the following verses write what each teaches about doing the right thing:

Luke 6:35-38 _____

Galatians 6:9 _____

Hebrews 6:10 _____

2. Read Daniel 4:28-37 about King Nebuchadnezzar. Compare Haman's and King Nebuchadnezzar's experiences. How are they similar? How are they different?

