

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 12 • Esther 7 • January 5, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther 6** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ ESTHER 7:1-6

2. This chapter opens with the second banquet. What did the King again ask and promise?
3. a) In **V3-4**, how did Queen Esther respond, and what reason did she give for making her requests?

b) What contrast did she use to reveal the severity of Haman's plan in **V4**?
4. In **V6**, how did she describe Haman? Why do you think she chose those words?
5. a) Looking back in the story, what might you conclude about Esther's delay in making her request to the King until then? In your opinion, what did it allow to develop?

- b) When have you seen God's delays work in your favor?

SECTION II: READ ESTHER 7:7-10

6. What did the King do after he heard Haman named as the enemy?
7. a) What is the terrible dilemma now facing the King?
- b) When the King returned from the garden, what did he see and think?
- c) How does Haman's actions in **V6-8** unwittingly resolve part of the King's dilemma?
8. a) Why do you think Esther did not defend Haman when the King accused him of attempting to molest her and then sentenced him to death?
- b) Do you think she was right for remaining silent? (If possible, support your answer with Scripture).
9. In **V9**, what information was then given to the King?
10. a) List some of the amazing reversals found in this chapter.

- b) Share a time when you have experienced a *reversal* in your own life that cannot be explained except for the hidden work of the Lord.

11. Finally, in chapter 7, Esther and Mordecai see justice take place. However, in our lives we do not always see justice winning out.

- a) How should you respond if justice is not served?

- b) Name some ways God has shown He can use you in the pursuit of justice.

12. In the first half of the book of Esther, it looked like Mordecai, Esther and the Jews were doomed to destruction given Haman's plot to destroy the Jews, but God had other plans. Reflect on how the plot to destroy Jesus resulted in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension that led to your own salvation. Write a prayer thanking God for His plan that brought about your deliverance.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We do not always see ultimate justice in this life. Meditate on Psalm 37.

- a) What does it say about the destinies of the wicked and the righteous?

- b) Be encouraged as you list every promise given in this Psalm to the one who is faithful.

