

## 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)*

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### Lesson 13 • Esther 8 • January 12, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther 7** has helped you?

#### SECTION I: READ ESTHER 8:1-6

2. a) What happened to Haman's great wealth in **V1**?  
  
b) What happened to Haman's exalted position in **V2**?
3. Despite all the honors and reward, what problem still remained? What did Esther do about it in **V3**?
4. Note that Haman's evil decree outlived him. There is a lasting effect to sin. Give examples in life where sin may continue having an effect after there has been repentance or even death.
5. In **V5**, what suggestion did Esther make to solve the quandary of the Jewish people?
6. a) In **V3-6**, how does Esther's plea for her people reflect her heart?  
  
b) For what person or group of people would you like to have that same kind of concern and compassion?

7. a) Identify phrases in **V3-6** that reflect Esther's humility

b) For what current situation do you need that same type of humility?

**SECTION II: READ ESTHER 8:7-14**

8. a) Why was Haman's decree not simply reversed?

b) What did the king authorize Esther and Mordecai to do in **V7-8**?

9. In **V9-10**, compare putting together of this new document, with Haman's edict found in Esther 3:10-15.

	<b>Haman's edict</b>	<b>Mordecai's edict</b>
Who were summoned?		
When was it written?		
To whom was the decree addressed?		
Written in what form/languages?		
How was it dispatched?		
Whose signature and seal?		

10. a) Explain how God provided for the Jews in Mordecai's edict without breaking Haman's edict (**V11-13**).

b) Why do you think the Jews were not able to defend themselves before this second edict?

**SECTION III: READ ESTHER 8:15-17**

11. Describe the honors given to Mordecai in **V15**.
12. a) How did the Jews receive this new edict in **V16-17**?
- b) How were other people affected and why? (see Zechariah 8:23 and think beyond the reason given in Esther 8:17)
13. In this chapter, one thing is certain: God is faithful to His people. The Jews responded with rejoicing and celebration. Our response to God should be no different.
- a) Recall a recent time when God has proven Himself faithful to you in a difficult situation.
- b) Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness to you.

**DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Esther 8:14-17 describes the great haste and urgency of proclaiming the good news of Mordecai's new edict. Using this as an illustration of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, tie together the principles found in this passage with the following verses:
- Matthew 28:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 15:4-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- John 9:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_
2. As believers we know we will face overwhelming hardships and persecution, yet God is famous for being a Mighty Deliverer. What comfort do you find from Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 for your particular challenge?

