

## 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 14 • Esther 9 & 10 • January 19, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther 8** study has helped?

#### SECTION I: READ ESTHER 9:1-16

2. Haman's edict was written in the 1<sup>st</sup> month (**Esther 3:7**); Mordecai's edict was written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (**Esther 8:9**), and the D-Day was scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> month (**Esther 8:12**). What do you find interesting about the timeline of those events?
3. In **V1**, what had the enemies of the Jews hoped to accomplish on this day, and what happened instead?
4. How can this victory be explained (**V2-4**)?
5. a) In **V5-10**, what did the Jews do to their enemies?  
  
b) In light of what the Jews legally could have done to their enemies according to **8:11**, how did they show restraint in **V10, 15-16**?
6. In what situations would it be wise to show restraint even though retaliation may be justified? Share personal examples if possible.
7. In **V11-13**, why do you think Esther made these additional requests?

8. How do you view the actions the Jewish people took to gain relief from their enemies in **V14-16**?

### **SECTION II: READ ESTHER 9:17-32**

9. Mordecai sent letters throughout the provinces to have the Jews annually celebrate the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> days of Adar. What did those days commemorate, and how were they to be celebrated?

10. Share about a time when God turned your sorrow into joy.

11. How does the author of Esther summarize the origin of Purim in **V23-28**?

12. a) From **V28**, what was the purpose of annually celebrating the festival of Purim?

b) The celebration of Purim was a great reminder of God's deliverance and care.  
When life is difficult for you, to what can you look back for a reminder of God's love and care?

13. Why do you think Esther's letter confirming Purim included fasting and lamenting in **V31**?  
(See **Esther 4:16**)

14. Purim was a holiday that honored what God had done for the Jews. Share ways you have made our holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter as times to honor God. OR...examine the way you have celebrated these holidays and what you could do differently.

**SECTION III: READ ESTHER 10:1-3**

15. In **V2-3**, what strikes you about what was recorded, including the details about Mordecai?
16. Though the book closes with the praise of Mordecai and God's name is never mentioned, we realize that this book is primarily about God and that He is the power behind people and events. What attributes of God does this story reveal?
17. What lessons or truths from Esther have had the greatest impact on you personally?

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**DIGGING DEEPER**

1. There are many examples in scripture when the Jews responded in celebration after God granted them great victories over their enemies. What are the similarities and differences you see between the Purim Celebration in Esther 9 and the rejoicing that took place after the deliverance Israel experienced in Exodus 15.
2. Though God's name is not mentioned one time in the book of Esther, His providential care is nonetheless obvious in how He worked through people and events to bring about His purpose. Read the following passages and jot down what personally encourages you from these other examples of God's providential care of His own.

Genesis 50:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Job 42:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 121 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 16:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 10:29-30 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:28 \_\_\_\_\_

