

## WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT **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 the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.*

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### **Lesson 24 • April 24, 2013**

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Huldah** has been helpful to you?

#### **SECTION I: Read Esther 1-3**

2. a) Summarize the events of **Chapter 1** prior to Esther coming on the scene.

b) What key fact about royal decrees comes out in **V19**?

3. What is the main event in **2:1-4**?

4. List the things you discover about Esther:

**V5-7** \_\_\_\_\_

**V8-9** \_\_\_\_\_

**V10-11** \_\_\_\_\_

**V12-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**V17-18** \_\_\_\_\_

**V19-20** \_\_\_\_\_

5. In **2:21-23**, what conspiracy did Mordecai uncover, and what happened as a result of that?

6. Summarize the crucial chain of events in **3:1-6**?

7. What was Haman's evil plot and the pivotal lie he told to the king in **3:7-15**?

8. As you look back over the first three chapters, what character traits surface about Esther's husband, King Xerxes?

### SECTION II: Read Esther 4-6

9. a) What did Mordecai do in the face of the edict, and what appeals did he make to Esther in **Chapter 4**?
- b) In Esther's back and forth communications with Mordecai, what more do you learn about her?
10. What unique position has God placed you in "for such a time as this," and what action might He be asking you to take requiring His courage and timing?
11. a) How did the king respond to Esther, and what did she request of him in **5:1-8**?
- b) What character traits are exhibited by Haman, and what does he do at the insistence of his wife and friends in **5:9-14**?
12. What reversal of fortune takes place in **Chapter 6**, and how does it come about?

### SECTION III: Read Esther 7-10

13. How did Esther petition the king, and how did Haman end up on the gallows he built for Mordecai in **Chapter 7**?
14. In **8:1-14**, what impresses you the most about how Esther continued to handle the crisis of Haman's evil edict? (See **Question 2b**)

15. What ripple effects did Esther get to see as a result of her courageous actions in **8:15-17**?

16. a) What happened on the day the Jews were supposed to be killed in **9:1-17**?

b) From **9:18-32**, describe the feast that was celebrated then and is still celebrated now.

17. According to **Chapter 10**, what became of Mordecai?

18. God brought about many major reversals through Esther.

a) What hope does this bring you in your seemingly hopeless situation(s)?

b) In her risky appeals to the king, Esther knew what to say, and when and how to say them. Write a specific prayer along those lines for any challenging situation you are facing.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Esther made wise use of her words and waited for the right moment to speak. Review these verses for God's wisdom on the use of words and put the truth you find into your own words.

**Proverbs 10:19** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 12:18-19** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 15:1-2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 21:23** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read **Proverbs 22:11** and comment on how it ties in with Esther's story.

3. Meditate on **Psalms 31:14-15** which relates so closely to Esther's life. How does it relate to yours?

4. Suggested Memory Verse: **Proverbs 20:22**

