

# 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 8 • Esther 3 • November 10, 2010

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther 2** has helped you?

### SECTION 1: READ ESTHER 3:1-7

2. In **V1**, the author notes a twist in events. Who would you expect to be honored after what happened at the end of chapter 2 and why?
3. How did the King honor Haman in **V1**?
4. Why do you think Mordecai refused to bow to Haman?
5. What could be the reason the royal officials told Haman about Mordecai's behavior in **V4**?
6. In **V5**, how did Haman feel about Mordecai's conduct, and what did he decide to do?
7. From **V1** we learn that Haman is an Agagite, which most scholars believe is another name for an Amalekite.
  - a) From the following verses what do you learn about the relationship between the Amalekites and Jews?  
1 Samuel 15:1-9 (focus on 15:8-9) \_\_\_\_\_  
Exodus 17:8-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Deuteronomy 25:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What insight from the above verses do you gain into why Haman decided to take revenge on all the Jews instead of just Mordecai?

c) When have you seen pride spiral into vengeful actions in your own life or in the lives of those you love?

8. In **V7**, how did Haman determine a date to carry out his plan to annihilate the Jews?

**SECTION II: READ ESTHER 3:8-11**

9. List the reasons Haman gave the King to destroy the “certain people” in **V8**.

10. What did Haman offer the King in **V9** to help him along in his decision?

11. a) What was the King’s response to Haman’s request to destroy these people in **V10-11**?

b) What does this tell you about King Xerxes and the way he made decisions?

c) In what ways have you been careless or flippant in decisions which impact others lives dramatically?

**SECTION III: READ ESTHER 3:12-15**

12. Observe the edict carefully in **V12-13** and answer the following:

Who \_\_\_\_\_

What \_\_\_\_\_

When \_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

Why \_\_\_\_\_

How \_\_\_\_\_

13. In **V12-14**, the words *each*, *every*, and *all* are repeated frequently. What might the author have been trying to communicate in this detailed description of the edict? (See also Esther 1:1.)
14. What did the King and Haman do while the command was issued? Contrast that to the response of those in the city in **V15**.
15. As you consider the events of Esther 3, think of a situation in your own life or that of a loved one when hard work or good deeds went unnoticed and maybe some less deserving person seemed to prosper. How did you respond?
16. What does 1 Peter 5:6-7 say we should do? Form a prayer request for this week with these things in mind.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Consider Haman's pride in that he was so highly honored by the King yet that was not enough. His pride spiraled into anger and revenge not only on Mordecai but also on the entire Jewish nation. On the other hand, Mordecai received no honor for his good deed, which saved the King's life. Study these passages and write what they teach about honor and pride;
- Proverbs 16:5,18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 14:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- Romans 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Philippians 2:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- James 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 John 2:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_
2. The book of Daniel was written approximately 50 years prior to these events in Esther. Read Daniel 3:15-19, 29 and 6:7-10, 16, 22-23 and expand on how Mordecai might have been affected by these accounts of Daniel's actions when he refused to bow down in Esther 3:2.

