

Session One: Esther 1:



1. Place the following Biblical events in order:
 - The Flood
 - Mosaic Covenant
 - Eden
 - Davidic Covenant
 - Divided Kingdom
2. When do the events in Esther take place? What stands out to you about the time period?
3. Discuss some of the reasons Queen Vashti might have refused to appear before the King.
4. Beginning in chapter one we see King Ahasuerus relying heavily on the counsel of others.
 - Have you known people like this in your own life?
 - What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of being easily influenced?
5. Discuss the qualities necessary for someone to be considered wise counsel.
6. How do you decide who speaks into your life and decisions?
7. What do you test the words of wise counsel against (ie: your conscience, your politics, one friend, spiritual leadership, the Bible)

Session Two: Esther 2:1-18:



1. Whose idea was it to gather young virgins from across the kingdom?
2. From what tribe did Mordecai, the Jew, descend? What do we know about the tribe of Benjamin?
 - Who was Benjamin's mother?
 - What land were they given in the promised land? (Joshua 18:21-28) Which cities stand out to you and why?
 - Gen. 49:27 describes the tribe of Benjamin as a "ravenous wolf". What characteristic does that portray?
3. Esther has two names. What are they? Why does she go by two names?
4. Read Daniel 1:1-8. Discuss any similarities you see between Esther 2 and Daniel 1.
5. Make a list of all the ways you have seen God move behind the scenes, so far, in the book of Esther.
 - Share with the group some ways in which God has moved in your life, behind the scenes, this year.

Session Three: Esther 2:19-3:15:



1. Make a list of everything you have observed about King Ahasuerus to this point. What does this tell you about the Kingdom of Persia?
2. As believers, exiled in this world, how is our experience similar to Mordecai and Esther?
3. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-33. What insight does this passage give you into understanding the relationship between Mordecai, the Jew, and Haman, the Agagite?
 - Has God ever asked you to do something that you didn't fully complete?
 - Have you ever had to face the consequence of your disobedience years later?
4. Once again, King Ahasuerus seems easily swayed by his advisor—in this instance, Haman. Have you ever given your word or stamp of approval over something that you did not fully vet? How did that turn out?
5. Where else have you read or studied Scripture in which you've come across the casting of lots? Look up those passages. How would you describe casting the “pur” in this passage?

Session Four: Esther 4:1-5:14:



1. How do Mordecai and the Jews respond to the edict of their impending annihilation?
What is Esther's initial response to the news?
2. Contrast the way in which Esther seems to rely on her attendants, versus the way King Ahasuerus relies on his attendants. What does this say about their personal character?
3. Read Esther 4:14 again. Why do you think Mordecai was so confident the Jews would be spared?
4. Chronicle the actions of Esther in chapter 5. Where does she show wisdom? Courage? Restraint? Many accounts estimate Esther was not yet 20 years old during the events of chapter 5.
 - What type of decisions were you making at age 20? Did you have the wisdom, courage and restraint of Esther?
5. Chronicle how Haman spends the hours after Queen Esther's feast. What stands out to you?
 - Have you ever stirred yourself up, rather than settling yourself down?
 - Do you think Haman would have concocted the plan to build a gallows if he had not consulted his wife and friends? Why or why not?
 - Have your friends ever led you astray? Share that experience and what you learned.

Session Five: Esther 6:1-7:6



1. The chronicled events read to the king at the beginning of chapter 6 likely took place 5 years prior to this reading. What stands out to you about that?
2. God's name is not mentioned, but his hand is all over chapter 6. List and discuss the ways God is at work in this passage and the fruit it yields for Mordecai.
 - Contrast the ways Haman was "at work" in these passages. What fruit did that yield?
3. In Esther 6:14, the eunuchs showed up to escort Haman to a feast, though verses later it we find his evil plot is unveiled before the king. Discuss other places in Scripture where we see evil plots thwarted for the good of God's people.
 - Do you have examples in your own life where bad/evil situations have been turned around for your good?
4. Esther finally revealed the evil plot of Haman in chapter 7 to the king. How did she treat this evil foe before chapter 7?
 - What does Esther teach us about timing?

Session Six: Esther 7:7-8:17



1. Haman ended up begging the queen for his life. Yet, chapters earlier he was flippantly casting the pur to decide when an entire population would die. Discuss this reversal and who has orchestrated these events.
 - Discuss a time God has allowed you to experience a “taste of your own medicine”.
2. Harbona, the eunuch, was clearly aware of Haman’s plot to kill Mordecai. What made him speak up after Esther told the king?
 - Discuss how our bravery in following Jesus can encourage others to speak up.
3. After reading Esther to this point, do you feel like Mordecai sought Haman’s position?
 - Share about a time in your walk with the Lord when you did not seek a position, but found yourself given a position. How did you respond?
4. Esther seems to have found great favor with the king. How does this change her interactions with him?
5. Why was it important for Mordecai to be given authority and position, rather than just a reprieve from Haman’s death sentence?
6. Compare and contrast the experience of Joseph and Mordecai in serving as leaders in a foreign, pagan context.
 - How did their leadership serve and protect God’s people?
 - At what cost did their service come?

Session Seven: Esther 9:1-19



1. Haman was the leader of the plot against the Jews, but we read in chapter 9 that there remained enemies who sought their demise. What happened instead?
 - Discuss all the ways the Jews ended up being poised to gain mastery over their enemies (as chronicled in the book of Esther).
2. The Jews were victorious, but they were called to defend themselves and fight. What does this teach you about how God sometimes gives us victory?
3. Discuss the reasons you can think of to explain why the Jews did not plunder their enemies?
4. How do we see Esther and Mordecai build trust with King Ahasuerus over the course of many years?
5. How is the feast and celebration we see the Jews initiate consistent with their heritage as God's people?
 - Knowing the cost of this celebration, how does this inform how we might observe spiritual feasts and holidays even today?

Session Eight: 9:20-10:3



1. Why was it important to continue to celebrate Pur moving forward?
2. How does a reference to casting lots (pur) point to the faithfulness of God?
 - Share of times you have been moved to remembrance over what God has done.
 - Are there any things God has done in your life that you celebrate every year?
3. Esther 10:3 says that Mordecai sought the welfare of his people and spoke peace. Think back through the entire book of Esther...is this true of Mordecai in chapters 1-9, too?
4. If you were elevated to CEO of your company, mayor of your city, principal of your school or president of your HOA...whatever position of authority would fit best... what type of leader would you be, based on your life and behavior to this point?
 - What types of behaviors do you need to put in place now to allow you to be used as a godly leader moving forward?
5. What is one thing you learned in this study of Esther that you did not know before you embarked on this journey?