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# Book of Esther Study Guide

Welcome to this study guide of the Book of Esther! May this resource be a blessing to you.

Please feel free to print and use this resource however you like. You can use this as a personal study, a small group discussion, or a combination of both. There is one section of study/discussion questions for each of the 10 chapters of Esther. You can do one chapter per day, one chapter per week, or whatever pace works best for you.

There are many commentaries, interesting background studies, and traditions that add extra meaning and flavor to the Book of Esther. This study focuses on the meaning of the plain text and how you can apply the lessons you learn to your personal life.

## **Personal Study Tips:**

- Read each chapter and take notes on what you find interesting (or puzzling - for further study). Then, read the questions for the chapter and write down your answers.
- It's a fun idea to do this at the same pace with family and friends, keep each other accountable, and share insights and highlights from what you learned.

## **Small Group Discussion Tips:**

Discussions are meant to be interactive conversations, where everyone can contribute and learn from one another.

Some tips for leading Bible study discussions:

- Be prepared
- Be encouraging and pursue peace
- Speak the truth in love
- Be flexible
- Watch the time



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If you have a short “wait time” and talk a lot, sometimes it is good to count to 10 in your head before interrupting the silence. If you sense that someone knows the answer but is too shy to speak, gently ask the person what their thoughts are on the question (but do not push them).

Here are different discussion styles; feel free to choose what works best for you or use a combination of them:

1. “Open Discussion” - the discussion leader reads (or asks someone to read) the question and whoever wants to can answer.
2. “Individual Assignment” - assign each person (or small group of 2-3 people) a question to work on individually. Set a timer. Then, everyone shares what they wrote.
3. “Everyone Answers” - this format works well for application questions. Nominate one person to begin (or start with yourself) and go around in a circle (i.e., clockwise) and have every person share their answer.

### **Family Bible Study Tips:**

It is very meaningful to study and discuss the Bible together as a family. In addition to the tips above, here are some ideas on how to make this fun for the whole family!

- Open and end with prayer (encourage the children to pray, too).
- Through your words and actions, model love and value of the Word of God.
- Be prepared. Remove distractions.
- Come with energy and joy. Try to choose a time when the children are not too tired.
- After reading the chapter, divide the children into small groups to prepare answers to the discussion questions. Prepare the older siblings ahead of time and pair them with the younger children to help them. Younger children can also draw their answers to questions.
- Older children can take the lead and rotate being the “discussion leader.”
- Younger children can participate by answering easier questions, reading questions, or doing simple tasks like handing out paper, pencils, or snacks.
- Some children need more time to think before they will answer.
- Instead of saying “No, that’s wrong,” respond with questions and look up relevant passages of Scripture. Find answers together!
- Serve a rare, tasty treat to make family Bible time special and memorable!

*Note: All Scripture taken from the New King James Version.*





**Application:** The conduct of King Ahasuerus and Queen Vashti was an example to all the people of Persia and Media. Our behavior influences others, too. Titus 2:7 says, “in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility.”

- Who is someone in your life who has been a positive example to you? How have you learned from their example?

- How can you be a good influence on others through your actions?



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# Esther 2

Read Esther 2, then answer the questions below.

1. After calming down, who/what did the king remember?
  
2. What did the king's servants advise (vs. 2-4)?
  
3. According to Esther 2:5-7,15
  - a. Where did Mordecai and Esther live?
  
  - b. What had happened to Mordecai's great-grandfather? Which tribe was he from?
  
  - c. What was Esther's Hebrew name?
  
  - d. How was Esther related to Mordecai? Who was her father?
  
4. How did God grant Esther favor in this chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What did Mordecai command Esther (vs 20)?





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# Esther 3

Read Esther 3, then answer the questions below.

1. What did King Ahasuerus do to Haman?
  
2. Haman was the son of \_\_\_\_\_, a descendant of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Read Deuteronomy 25:17-19. What did Amalek do? What did God command?
  
  - b. Read 1 Samuel 15. What did Saul fail to do? Who was Agag?
  
3. Why was Haman angry?
  
4. What did Haman desire to do (vs. 6, 8-9)? What did he promise to give to the king?
  
5. What was the date for destroying the Jewish people? How did Haman determine this date?











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# Esther 5

Read Esther 5, then answer the questions below.

1. How did the king respond when Esther entered the court (vs. 1-2)?
2. What did the king ask Esther? How did she respond? (vs. 3-4)
3. How did Esther respond when asked the same question at the banquet (vs. 7)?
4. Why do you think Esther did not directly answer the king's question the first time?  
How does this show her wisdom?
5. Why was Haman's happiness turned to anger? What did his wife and friends advise him? (vs. 9-14)





# Esther 6

Read Esther 6, then answer the questions below.

1. Why was the book of the records of the chronicles read before the king?
2. What story was read about Mordecai?
3. Who was in the court at that time? What did he intend to suggest to the king?
4. According to Haman, what should be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?
5. What did Haman's wife and wise men prophecy to him?





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# Esther 7

Read Esther 7, then answer the questions below.

1. How did Esther display wisdom and humility in her petition to the king?
2. What words did Esther use to describe Haman?
3. How did the king respond when he realized what Haman had done?
4. How did Haman react? (vs. 7) How did the king feel about Haman's actions?
5. What did Harbonah suggest to the king?







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# Esther 8

Read Esther 8, then answer the questions below.

1. After Haman's death, who did the king put in his position?
2. Esther risked her life again by entering the king's court a second time and the king held out the golden scepter to her. What was Esther's plea?
3. Read Daniel 6:12-15. What was special about the laws of the Medes and Persians?
4. How many months had passed since Haman first issued his decree (Esther 3:7, 8:9)?
5. What counter decree did Esther and Mordecai issue?
6. How did the Jews and other people of the land respond to the king's decree?



# Esther 9

Read Esther 9, then answer the questions below.

1. What happened on the 13th day of Adar (vs. 1-5)? Who helped the Jews?
  
2. What did the Jews do on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of Adar in Shushan vs. the rest of the provinces?

	<b>Shushan</b>	<b>Other provinces</b>
13th of Adar		
14th of Adar		
15th of Adar		

3. Where does the name Purim come from?
  
4. What is the purpose of celebrating Purim (vs. 27-28)?



# Esther 10

Read Esther 10, then answer the questions below.

1. What position did Mordecai hold?
  
2. What did Mordecai seek and speak?
  
3. How do these verses relate to the events of the Book of Esther? Give examples.

Bible Principle	Book of Esther Example
Proverbs 21:1 “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”	<i>Example: God worked through the king’s anger at Vashti, the sleepless night, and the king’s favor on Esther to set up the events for the deliverance of the Jewish people.</i>
Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”	
Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”	
Psalm 9:15-16 “He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.”	



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Bible Principle (cont...)	Book of Esther Example (cont...)
Psa 33:10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.	
Psalm 33:18-19 “Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy, To deliver their soul from death...”	

**Application:** Write the top 1-3 things you learned from the Book of Esther and how you can apply them to your life.