



# ESTHER

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

## STUDY GUIDE

## WEEK 3

Welcome back to Week Three of Esther! I hope you viewed the Teaching Video for Week 2 already, if not go ahead and do that now. In last week's study, we witnessed the promotion of wicked Haman, and a plan so deadly against God's people that it sent Mordecai to the King's gate covered in ashes. Queen Esther, being safely tucked away behind closed doors in the luxury of the palace had no idea that the enemy had crept in and was rubbing elbows with her husband. Once word got back to Esther, and Mordecai's grief came through the words of Hathach, it was on. A new plan was set in motion. A plan for God's people to pray like never before and counter the attack of the enemy. At the end of three days, Esther would go before the King, even though she had not been summoned. She knew what she was risking, but she also knew there was no other way. And if that was her fate, so be it.

### **CHAPTER 5 - ESTHER'S RESOLVE**

Resolve means "a resolution or determination made, as to follow some course of action; firmness of purpose." Queen Esther's mind was made up. This was her calling. Let's see what unfolds next on the pages of Scripture.

#### **Read Esther 5:1-8.**

1. What day was it and what does this imply? (vs. 1)
2. What did Esther put on and why is this significant? (vs. 1)
3. Where did she stand? (vs. 1)
4. How did the King respond when he saw Esther the Queen? (vs. 2)
5. What was the significance of King Ahasuerus holding out the golden scepter? (vs. 2)

6. How did the King voice that he was ready to grant her request? (vs. 3)
  
7. What did Esther request? (vs. 4)
  
8. Who, in addition to the King, was invited to the banquet? (vs. 4)
  
9. The King knew that Esther had a request, so he asked her again at the banquet what her request was. What did Esther ask of the King in verse 8?

**Read Esther 5:9-14.**

10. How did the invitation of the Queen affect Haman's attitude? (vs. 9)
  
11. What changed Haman's gladness into fury? (vs. 9)
  
12. Whom did Haman call to share his frustrations? (vs. 10)
  
13. Haman said that all the success in his life meant nothing, because of what one thing? (vs. 13)
  
14. How did his family and friends suggest that Haman remove Mordecai from the situation? (vs. 14)

**PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

1. Esther put on her royal robes to prepare herself for the King. God gives us robes of righteousness to dress for our King, in our spirit. Righteousness means “being made right with God.” We can only be made right with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. Our King has offered you beautiful robes to dress in for the life He has called you to. Will you put them on? Look up Isaiah 61:10 and write out the verse below. Circle any words or phrases that stand out to you.
  
2. Esther trusted God, but also knew when to take action. In your life, how do you know when to be still and wait on the Lord, and when to act? What Scriptures can guide us in this?
  
3. Esther’s invitation to the King and Haman to one banquet, and then a second banquet seems odd. Why do you think she did this?
  
4. Esther found favor in the sight of the King when she approached his throne. God shows His love and favor to us and encourages us to come boldly before His throne. What are we to ask for in Hebrews 4:16?

5. In verses 9-14, Haman was so angry about one thing, that he couldn't enjoy all the success and positive things in his life. Have you ever been like that? Have you had tunnel vision to the point that one thing robs all the joy out of your life. Instead of enjoying the many blessings of God, you're laser focused on the one that brings pain? Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you get your eyes off that one thing, and get your eyes on Jesus and His blessings?

### **CHAPTER 6 - PLOT TWIST**

Although chapter 5 of Esther has us reeling, we're about to see God turn the tables in chapter 6. And believe me, there's nothing better for a child of God than to see His magnificent providence at work on their behalf! I can hardly wait for you to read this chapter.

#### **Read Esther 6:1-11.**

1. That night the King couldn't sleep. Look back at the end of Chapter 5 and list some of the events that took place that same night.
2. What did the King command his servants to do, possibly to help him sleep? (vs. 1)
3. What specific entry did the servant "happen" to read to the King? (vs. 2)
4. What question did the King ask of his servant regarding Mordecai? (vs. 3)

5. What had been done for Mordecai? (vs. 3)
6. Whom had just entered the outer court of the King's palace and for what purpose did he come? (vs. 4)
7. What question did the King ask Haman? (vs. 6)
8. Whom did Haman assume that the King wanted to honor? (vs. 6)
9. List out the exact advice that Haman suggested for the "man whom the king delights to honor." (vs. 7-9)
10. Haman is about to get the shock of his life. Who did the King want to pay honor to? (vs. 10)

Who had to actually carry out all the details that Haman suggested, but Haman himself! Can you even imagine? Haman had wanted all those things to be done for him. And we know that Haman is so angry and furious that he wanted Mordecai dead. Now he's been instructed by the King to honor Mordecai by parading him through the town square.

**Read Esther 6:12-14.**

11. When this was over, where did Haman go? (vs. 12)
12. What prediction did his wise men make? (vs. 13)
13. Just at that moment, there was a knock at the door! Who should be there but the King's eunuch's to squire Haman to his next appointment. What was Haman about to attend? (vs. 14)



4. How have you seen God move His unseen hand in your life, to get you where you are today?
5. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. What does this teach us about God's way of doing things, versus our ways?
6. God has a vantage point that we don't have. He sees the eternal, we see the temporal. He can view the story of the ages from beginning to end. We can only see our life and the history behind us. I've heard it said that God is painting on a canvas much bigger than us... He's painting an eternal story, and His paintbrush includes dark strokes, and light strokes. All together it makes a beautiful portrait. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What does this passage tell us to fix our eyes on?
7. Haman desired to be honored to the point of worship. A tip of the hat, and respectful bow, was not enough for him. He wanted the worship of a deity. Sadly, this attitude was fueled by pride. Look up Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 11:2, and Proverbs 29:23. What do these verses teach us about pride?

8. James 4:10 tell us "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."  
What are some ways that we can show humility in the sight of God?

**THE BIG STORY** - We're studying Esther, but really we're studying God. Looking at the "Big Story" means we are recognizing that God is the central person in the entire Bible. Everything is about Him. What did you learn about God in this story? What do these Scriptures teach you about the God we serve, His heart for His people, His nature, and His character? Pray and ask God to help you see Him in the storyline, and capture your thoughts below.

**THE BIBLE  
IS THE  
STORY OF  
GOD**

The Bible is a story about God, His love, His redemptive purposes for humankind, and how He reveals Himself to His creation. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is telling us about the reign and rule of God.

**THE LITTLE STORY** - The Story of Esther is a smaller story within the Big Story of God. We can take an imaginary magnifying glass, and peer down throughout history to focus in on her life. As we're studying the Scriptures, what can we learn from Esther's character, faith in God, and examples? Or, what can we learn from other characters in this story?

**LIFE APPLICATION -**

What can you apply to your life from these chapters?

**PROVIDENCE**

[God's Unseen Hand  
directing and guiding  
all human history.]

In what ways do you  
see God's Hand of  
**PROVIDENCE**  
in these chapters?

**PERSONAL PRAYER-**

*Dear God,*

*I thank You that You're a God of Providence in the good times and hard times. I'm trusting You as You paint on the canvas of my life. Let me be a light that radiates Your love in a dark world. I know that You are still seated on the throne in Heaven, and I take comfort in that during the time we're experiencing now. We need Your unseen hand of providence now more than ever. Let the glory of Your face shine upon us and give us peace.*

*In Jesus Name, Amen.*

I PRAYED THIS PRAYER ON \_\_\_\_\_.

**EXTRA NOTES:**

