

# 119

## GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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### The Mo'edim – Purim

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#### TEACHING SUMMARY

Purim is a biblical holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from destruction in the Medo-Persian Empire, as recorded in the Book of Esther.

Purim is not one of YHWH's appointed mo'edim found in Leviticus 23. It was instituted later during the events described in Esther. The name "Purim" comes from the word *Pur*, meaning "lot," referring to the lots cast by Haman when he plotted to destroy the Jews.

The story of Purim highlights:

- The sovereignty of YHWH
- Courage and faith under pressure
- The reversal of evil plans
- Deliverance through obedience and fasting

Though YHWH's name is not mentioned in Esther, His providence is clearly seen throughout the events.

Purim is not commanded in Torah. Therefore:

- It should not be forced on anyone.
- No one should be condemned for observing or not observing it.
- It does not make someone more or less set apart.

Purim reminds us that YHWH works behind the scenes to preserve His people.

## SUMMARY POINTS

- Purim commemorates deliverance from Haman's plot.
  - It is recorded in the Book of Esther.
  - It is not one of the commanded mo'edim.
  - "Purim" means "lots."
  - Esther risked her life to save her people.
  - The Jews were allowed to defend themselves.
  - Mordecai instituted Purim as a memorial.
  - YHWH's sovereignty is evident throughout the story.
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## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

### Basic

1. Purim commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. The story of Purim is recorded in the book of \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. The name "Purim" means \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Haman cast \_\_\_\_\_ to determine the day of destruction.
  5. Esther called for a \_\_\_\_\_ before approaching the king.
  6. The Jews were given permission to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
  7. Purim takes place on the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Adar.
  8. Purim is not one of YHWH's appointed \_\_\_\_\_.
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### Challenging

1. The Jews were originally exiled because of their \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Esther was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Anyone who approached the king without being summoned could be put to \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Haman was executed on the \_\_\_\_\_ he built for Mordecai.
  5. Purim was instituted as days of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. YHWH's name is not mentioned in the book of \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. Observing Purim does not make someone more or less \_\_\_\_\_.
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### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think YHWH's name is not mentioned in Esther?
2. How does Esther demonstrate courage and faith?
3. What does Mordecai's statement in Esther 4:14 teach about purpose?
4. Why is it important not to force the celebration of Purim on others?
5. What does Purim teach about YHWH's sovereignty?
6. How should traditions be evaluated to ensure they honor YHWH?
7. What lessons from Purim apply to believers today?

## ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

### Basic

1. Haman's plot to destroy them
2. Esther
3. Lots
4. Lots
5. Three-day fast
6. Defend
7. Fourteenth / Fifteenth
8. Mo'edim

### Challenging

1. Apostasy
2. Benjamin
3. Death
4. Gallows
5. Feasting / Gladness
6. Esther
7. Set apart