

life group study guide

ESTHER

June 14, 2015

What if you are where you are in life on purpose?

What if God was real, active and involved in your life in ways you had never considered before?

What if you actually stopped and looked for your part in God's story?

"God's sovereignty and power are seen throughout this book. Although we may question certain circumstances in our lives, we must have faith that God is in control, working through both the pleasant and difficult times so that we can serve Him effectively."

NLT Chronological Study Bible

Read Esther 2.

What plan did the king's servants suggest for replacing Vashti?

Who was Mordecai? How had his family come to be in Persia?

What was Esther's other name? What was her connection to Mordecai?

According to the Bible, who has the primary responsibility to care for needy people, such as widows and orphans? What can we learn from Mordecai's example?

Describe how Esther came to be chosen as a candidate to replace Vashti. What was done for her then?

Who knew Esther's ancestry? Why?

Describe how each woman would visit the king.

What happened when Esther's turn came? What was the end result?

Compare Old Testament teaching about divorce and re-marriage to New Testament teaching. Why was Esther allowed to marry a divorced man who had other wives? In light of Ezra 9 and 10, why was she allowed to marry one who was not a Jew?

Who were Bigtha and Teresh? What did they try to do?

How was their plot uncovered? What was the result?

Read Esther 3.

Who was Haman? What position was he given?

How was he honored? Who refused to do this?

Describe how firm Mordecai was in his stand. What reason is given for this? (Was bowing to a ruler always wrong? For what reason might Mordecai have refused?)

List some lessons we can learn from Mordecai's conduct.

How did Haman feel regarding Mordecai's conduct? What did he decide to do? (What does this tell you about Haman's character?)

How did Haman decide the time for executing his plot? Define "Pur".

What reason did Haman give the king for wanting to destroy "a certain people".

life group study guide

What did he offer to pay if the king would agree?
How was the decree written and circulated to the people?
What did the decree say?
Explain why such a decree would be important in Bible history.

Read Esther 4.

How did Mordecai act when he learned about the decree? Why would he be especially upset?
How did other Jews react? Explain the significance of sackcloth, ashes and fasting.
What did Esther do when she heard Mordecai was so distressed? How did he respond (verse 4)?
Whom did Esther send to Mordecai, and for what purpose?
What information did Mordecai send to Esther, and what did he ask her to do?
What reason did Esther give for not going before the king? How long had it been since the king had called for her?
What did Mordecai warn Esther about in verse 13? In what sense is this also true of us if we fail to serve God?
What did Mordecai say would happen if Esther did not speak up (verse 14)? On what basis could he know this to be true?
Explain Mordecai's statement: "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Do we know what purpose God may have for putting us in a certain position? Explain.
Define "providence". List and explain several lessons we can learn about providence from verse 14.
What decision did Esther make? What did she want people to do on her behalf?

In closing, consider these two passages from the New Testament:

Romans 5: 2-5

"Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love. When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."

life group study guide



I Peter 1: 5-9

“And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold – though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls.”