

Ruth and Esther Lesson 5—Esther 3-4

For Such a Time as This



Memorize the TRUTH!

“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14

DAY 1: ESTHER 3:1-4—Mordecai Refuses to Bow

1. How is Haman identified in 3:1, 10; 8:3, 5; 9:24?
2. What did Mordecai do that angered Haman?
3. Why do you think Mordecai did this?



Learn the TRUTH!

This week we will see Mordecai and Esther take huge risks of faith. Mordecai, a Jew, refused to bow to Haman, perhaps out of reverence for God. He probably knew his refusal would invite persecution. Esther risked her life by going to the king uninvited to plead the case for herself and God’s people. They were more concerned for God’s purposes than for their own security. Sometimes our faith in God will also put us in risky situations. Be thinking throughout this week of the risks you take because of your faith in God. Share those experiences with your small group.

DAY 2: ESTHER 3:5-11—Haman Plots against the Jews

4. What does this passage reveal about Haman’s personality and character?
5. After Mordecai offended him, what was Haman’s scheme?
6. In making his appeal to the king, what approach did Haman take?

DAY 3: ESTHER 3:12-15—Decree Issued throughout the Land

7. Why do you think Haman was able to convince Ahasuerus to make the decree?
8. How many months after the edict was given was it to be carried out?

9. According to verses 12-14, how many Jews would remain in the kingdom if Haman's order were carried out?
10. How did the king and Haman respond to the decree? How did the city of Susa respond?

DAY 4: ESTHER 4:1-11—Esther's Challenge

11. How did Mordecai respond to Haman's edict?
12. When Esther sent Hathach to Mordecai, what did Mordecai tell him?
13. Why do you think Esther reacted to Mordecai's command the way she did?

DAY 5: ESTHER 4:12-17—Esther Makes Her Decision

14. What part of Mordecai's message written in verses 13-14 do you think is the most persuasive?
15. What do you think Mordecai meant when he said, "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
16. How did Esther enlist Mordecai's help? Why do you think she wanted this?
17. What did Esther's decision say about her faith?



Apply the TRUTH!

What character qualities do you admire in Esther? Is there one of these that you would like for God to help you develop in your life? Talk to Him about it. Ask Him to give you one step you can take to help you grow in this area—then trust Him to help you and do whatever he shows you.

DAY 6: Participate in Class