

Ruth and Esther Lesson 6—Esther 5-7

Pride and Prejudice



Memorize the TRUTH!

*“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”
Galatians 6:7*

DAY 1: ESTHER 5:1-8—Esther Seeks an Audience with the King

1. Why was approaching the king as Esther did risky?
2. How did the king show Esther favor?
3. Why do you suppose the king received Esther with such favor?
4. What are possible reasons Esther may have chosen to delay revealing her request by another day?

DAY 2: ESTHER 5:9-14—Haman Plots Mordecai’s Death

5. What was Haman’s mood when he left Esther’s feast?
6. What caused his attitude to change?
7. Why do you think Haman boasted to his friends and wife later that day? What spoiled his enjoyment?
8. What did Haman’s wife suggest he do about “his wrath against Mordecai”?



Learn the TRUTH!

We first learn of Haman’s “fury” against Mordecai in 3:5. Instead of working through his anger with Mordecai, Haman allowed his anger to build. In chapters 3-7 we read how Haman’s anger progressed to bitterness and resentment, and then arrogance and prejudice. Because one man refused to bow to him, Haman was ready to annihilate an entire people group (3:6). Consider times when you feel angry. Ephesians 4:26 says, “Be angry and do not sin.” Anger is a powerful emotion. It is too much for us to handle. But God can help us. Anger does not have to lead to sin and destruction like it did for Haman. Take your anger to God. Ask Him to give you His perspective on your situation. Ask Him to restore peace to your heart. Share your thoughts with your small group.

DAY 3: ESTHER 6:1-11—Ahasuerus Honors Mordecai

9. What problem did the king experience the night following Esther's first banquet?
10. What did the king do about his problem, and what surprising turn of events resulted?
11. How do you see God acting behind the scenes in these events?

DAY 4: ESTHER 6:12–7:6—Esther Reveals Haman's Plot

12. What did the wise men and Zeresh say to Haman?
13. How do you think Haman responded to their warning?
14. Esther finally told the king her request. What was it, and what reasoning did she use?

DAY 5: ESTHER 7:7-10—Ahasuerus Executes Haman

15. How did Haman make his situation worse? How did the king respond?
16. Haman did not have the benefit of Scripture. But if he had, how could the following verses have protected him from making such fatal mistakes? Which Scripture do you find most meaningful?
 - a. Psalm 7:14-16
 - b. Proverbs 16:18
 - c. Galatians 6:7

***Apply the TRUTH!***

Haman's prejudice was blatant: he hated Jews. But there are more subtle forms of prejudice. Do you avoid people who are in a higher or lower social class than you? Are you as welcoming to disabled people as you are to those who do not have limitations? Are you uncomfortable around people who practice a different religion? A "yes" to one of these questions may indicate a seed of prejudice. Ask God to help you love people who are different from you. Then, intentionally reach out to somebody who is not like you. Even a simple greeting and smile can be a good start. Plan to talk about this in your small group.

DAY 6: Participate in Class