

# Ruth and Esther Lesson 7—Esther 8–10

## A Happy Ending



Memorize the TRUTH!

“Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!” Psalm 37:7

### DAY 1: ESTHER 8:1-8—Esther Intercedes for the Jews

1. Haman was dead, but the Jew’s troubles were not over. Why not? (Review 3:12-14.)
2. Esther came before the king once again. How was her manner different from when she approached him the first time?
3. In what way was this request a problem for the king? (See 1:19.) How was the problem resolved?

### DAY 2: ESTHER 8:9-17—Mordecai Issues Another Edict

4. What was involved in making sure everyone knew about the edict?
5. What rights did Mordecai’s edict provide the Jews (verse 11-12)?
6. How did the Jews “in every province and in every city” respond when they heard about the second decree?
7. Why do you think so many people wanted to become Jews?



Learn the TRUTH!

Esther fervently interceded before the king for her people. How does her example inspire you? Who among “your people”—your relatives, church, city, organization—needs your intercession? Ask God how He would like you to pray for these people, and ask for His creative ideas about how you could pray more intentionally. Plan to share your experience with your small group.

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### DAY 3: ESTHER 9:1-19—The Jews Defend Themselves

8. What happened on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Adar?

9. Considering what the Jews were allowed to do (8:11), how did they show restraint?
10. What did the king offer Queen Esther? What did she ask for?
11. How had Esther changed from when Mordecai first asked her to intervene for the Jews? What do you think accounts for Esther's change?

#### **DAY 4: ESTHER 9:20-32—The Feast of Purim**

12. What did Mordecai announce in the letters he sent to Jews in all the provinces? How would the tradition be observed?
13. What victories has God won for you or your family or your community? How could you remember and celebrate these acts of deliverance?

#### **DAY 5: ESTHER 10:1-3— Mordecai Is Promoted**

14. What position was Mordecai given in the Persian Empire?
15. What can you learn from
  - a. Haman?
  - b. Mordecai?
  - c. Esther?



#### **Apply the TRUTH!**

We can gain much wisdom from reflecting on others' lives. Consider the attitudes and choices that shaped the characters of Haman, Mordecai, and Esther. What motivated them? How did they treat people? How did they respond to their circumstances? As you think about these questions and your answers to question 15, is there one thing you learned from their lives that you would like to apply to your life? Plan to share with your small group.

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#### **DAY 6: Participate in Class**