



*NOTE: Our lesson questions are based on the NIV 2011 edition. Our preference is your first time through the questions, you answer without consulting commentaries - delight in what the Holy Spirit will reveal to you.*

## *Esther*

### **Lesson 23** **Esther 7-8**

1. What truth, verse or insight from our lesson on **Esther 6** has encouraged you this week and when did you find it helpful?
2. Pray that God would open your eyes to see His unseen hand as you read through **Esther 7** and **8**. In these chapters, what are some surprising reversals, circumstances which were intended for evil but were repurposed by God for His redemptive plan?
3. From **Esther 7:1-6**, summarize the setting, Esther's petition in response to the king, and point out the ways she showed humility.

4. Describe the betrayal discovered by the king in **V7-8** and how this might have led to his accusation against Haman.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is Haman's fate according to **V9-10**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. From **Esther 8:1-2**, what happened to Haman's wealth and position?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Despite the reward and honor at Haman's defeat, what crisis still loomed in **V3-6** and how did Esther approach this dire situation? For insight on royal edicts issued under Medo-Persian law, read **Daniel 6:8, 15**.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Read **Esther 8:7-14**.
  - a) What did the king propose in response to Esther's plea and how is his regard for Esther apparent? Refer back to **Esther 7:5** also.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) Who authored the edict, what did it provide, and how did God provide for the Jews without breaking Haman's prior edict (review **Esther 3:10-15**)?

9. How was this edict received by the Jews and by people of other nationalities according to **Esther 8:15-17**?

10. There is a divine reversal of the story's direction in **Esther 7-8**. CHALLENGE: Consider the divine reversal represented by the cross of Jesus, which was intended to end His life. Discuss how this is the greatest divine reversal in history.

11. **GOD IS: DEFENDER**

God is our Defender, our fortress, our rock in whom we can take refuge. David knew this and cried out to Him when being pursued by Saul: "Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me...You are my strength, I watch for you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely." **Psalms 59:1, 9-10.**

From what enemy do you need the Lord to deliver you? Cry out to Jesus and ask Him to be your Defender as you struggle against a foe, trusting He will not abandon you. Ask your group to pray for you.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"Deliver me from my enemies O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me. You are my strength, I watch for you;" **Psalm 59:1, 9a***

**NAME****PRAYER REQUEST**