

The Main Story

Before you begin, read Esther 4 (If there are multiple people, read as a conversation).

Background Check:

Esther, a young lady who was raised by her older cousin after both of her parents died, has married the greatest man living during that time—the king of the Persian empire. While life is pretty good, trouble has been brewing behind the scenes. Haaman, whom we could consider the king’s right hand guy, is a man of much arrogance and audacity, going so far as to require that all men bow in his presence. Now, angered by Mordecai’s disregard to this “law”, Haaman has set out to destroy all Jews (as that is the ethnicity of Mordecai, the cousin and caretaker of Esther). It is at this time that Esther is sought to make intercession for her people.

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Esther's Petition

Based on Esther 4

A Study On Prayer



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My Daily Study

Sunday: Double Intercession

Re-read Esther 4:7-8,15-17

It is interesting to note that Esther asks for the prayers of her fellowmen on her behalf before she goes to plead with the king on their behalf.

If you are praying for someone—a friend, a family member, whoever—consider asking someone you trust to pray for you, too. Why? Because praying for someone can be overwhelming and heart-wrenching, having somebody else there to lift you up in prayer can be very helpful, even liberating.

Food for Thought: What does it mean to intercede for others? How do you intercede for others? Name at least two people for whom you will intercede.

- 1.
- 2.

Monday: God's Answer, 1

Read Esther 5:1-8; Psalm 91

The next day, Esther approaches the king. The visit is unexpected by the king, which means that Esther could be killed. But God has answered the prayers sent up for Esther; and she is spared.

Sometimes we feel that to do a certain thing will bring reproach upon ourselves, or will cause others not to like us, or will halt our opportunities. Yet, only God knows the end result of our actions; this is why He is able to guide and direct us. We must choose to trust in Him at all times.

Food for Thought: What is faith? What is faith to you? How do we strengthen our faith? How do we show our faith?

Tuesday: God's Answer, 2

Read Esther 6; Lamentations 3:21-33

In this chapter, we find another example of God's providence. The day before, Haaman had created gallows for Mordecai (see Esther 5:9-14); now, he comes to the king to validate the plan. God, seeing this would happen, made sure that the king had a restless night and prompted him to look over the records of his reign.

We do not always see the big picture; but God does. He makes provision for all of the little things that we humans miss. If it were not for such careful consideration, where do you suppose we would be?

Food for Thought: What does this chapter teach us about the importance of trusting in God? How can we make such trust a daily practice?

Wednesday: God's Answer, 3

Read Esther 7; Re-Read Psalm 91:3-8

At this second feast with Haaman and the king, Esther uncovers the true desire of her heart—to have her people, the Jews, spared from death. We can assume that God told her just the right time for her to reveal: for, that very day, Mordecai was to be hanged, but was not. This meant that the gallows still remained, unused. Divine intervention? No doubt about it.

Food for Thought: What does it mean to “wait on the Lord”? How did Esther do that? How can we do that? What reasons do we have for being so hasty at times? How can we fix this?

Thursday: God's Answer, 4

Read Esther 8

Esther has realized that while Haaman is done away with and can no longer oppress the Jews, the decree remains. The Jews are still subject to be destroyed when the appointed time comes. In addition, Persian law dictates

that no law can be changed (and once you have a law like that, there's nothing to be done about it). Yet God again provides a way of escape for His people.

We often get ahead of God and seek answers for our problems on our own. “...Has the Lord's arm been shortened?” (Numbers 11:23). Of course not! But, at times, this is our mentality; and it must change.

Food for Thought: So often, we lose our faith and trust in God. Why is that? How can we change that? How do you think God feels when we try to find our own way?

Friday: Debrief

- Name some of the ways that God answers our prayers.
- Give an example of God's providence in your life.
- Illustrate through music, writing, or art the message of Psalm 91.
- How does Lamentations 3:21-33 relate to the story of Esther's petition.
- Using a dictionary, look up all of the words in this lesson that you were unsure of.
- Read the words of the hymn “Sweet Hour of Prayer” by William Walford.



**Lessons from Esther:
Pray for faith and for courage to
face the trials ahead.**