

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 12, 2006

Passage: Esther 7-8

Memory Passage: Proverbs 11:19

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 7:1-6.** How does Esther begin her request to the king? What is the wisdom of such an approach in dealing with matters that are sensitive or matters of conflict?
- (b) Compare her words with those of the actual decree in Esther 3:13. How did Esther know these details (Esther 4:6-8)?
- (c) What does she say she would have done if her people had just been sold as slaves? How does this affect the king?
- (d) How does Esther's revelation affect Haman? Read 1 Samuel 12:1-13. How is this similar? How is it different?
- (e) Why is what happens to David different than what happens to Haman?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 7:1-6 and 1 Samuel 12:1-13. Discuss how God often brings His judgment suddenly. What should this tell us about the importance of repenting now? Why did God deal differently with King David? Talk some about Esther's approach to the king. How does her patience and her careful wording make a difference? Spend time thanking God for His amazing forgiveness.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 7:7-10.** How does the king respond to Esther's revelation of who this man is? Read Proverbs 20:2.
- (b) What did Haman attempt to do? What was wrong about his approach? What ironic event takes place in verse 8? How does this affect the anger of the king?
- (c) Compare what happens at the end of verse 8 with Esther 6:12. Also compare verse 9 with Esther 5:14. What do Psalm 7:15-16; Proverbs 26:27; Proverbs 11:19; and Ecclesiastes 10:8-9 warn us?
- (d) Read Psalm 32. What did David say was the effect of his sin on his own life? What did David encourage everyone to do? What does he conclude in Psalm 32:10?
- (e) What does Matthew 5:23-26 tell us about God's judgment and our need to deal with sin right away?
- (f) *Family:* Esther 7:7-10 and Proverbs 26:27 and 11:19. Talk about how evil often seems to "backfire" in our lives. Have you ever done something that came back to hurt you? How should this be a warning to us when we are considering doing something that will not please God? Is there anything that you need to make right *before* God's judgment happens. Take some time to confess your sins and ask for God's forgiveness.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 8:1-2.** How did the king bless Esther and Mordecai? Read Proverbs 10:22 and Psalm 113. How does the Lord bless His people? How did He bless Esther and Mordecai?
- (b) Read Psalm 37:32-40. Why should we not worry when evil seems to be winning? What should believers do in such times?
- (c) **Read Esther 8:3-8.** What additional concern did Esther have? Read Esther 1:19 and Daniel 6:8, 12, 15. Why would there still be concern among the Jews? How is this problem solved?
- (d) Read Romans 9:1-3 and Romans 10:1. What was Paul's concern for his people? What did that motivate him to do?
- (e) What is God's promise in Isaiah 55:6-7 (also Psalm 86:5)? How should these promises affect us?
- (f) *Family:* Esther 8:1-8 and Romans 10:1. Talk about the blessing of the Lord. What are some of the ways that God blesses His people? Is it always with material blessings or with better positions? Look at Esther's concern for her people? Do you have a burden for family members who are apart from Christ? Take time to pray for a friend or family member who needs the Lord.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 8:9-14.** How did Mordecai protect the Jews from the law that could not be altered?
- (b) What unalterable law stands against all people (Exodus 34:7; Ezekiel 18:4)? Does God remove this law? How does He redeem His people without changing the law (Romans 3:23-26)?
- (c) Did this law allow them to kill all their enemies? What restrictions did it place on them?
- (d) What did they actually do on that day (Esther 9:15-16)? How does this show some restraint on the part of the Jews?
- (e) Read through Psalm 40:11-17 and think how these verses applied to the situation faced by the Jews of Persia. What should be our response in difficult situations?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 8:9-14 and Romans 3:23-26. Discuss the law of sin and death that is against every one of us. How did God save us from this unalterable law? How is this similar to the situation faced by the Persian Jews? How was our situation worse? Think about the salvation that God has given you and spend a few moments praising Him for sending His son.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Esther 8:15-17.** How did the people of the capital react? Compare this with Esther 3:15. What does Proverbs 11:10 tell us?
- (b) What effect did this new decree have on the Jews themselves (verse 16)? Read Psalm 70. How would this apply to the Jews of Persia? Why did they rejoice?
- (c) What impact did this have on many of the people of Persia (verse 17)? Read Psalm 40:1-5 and apply these verses to your own life and salvation. How does our attitude affect our witness?
- (d) Read Acts 6:1-7. What problem did the early church face? How did they resolve it? What was the result (verse 7)?
- (e) Read Psalm 122. What are we told to do regarding Jerusalem? Does God still have a plan for the people of Israel (Romans 11:7-14 and 11:25-26)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 8:15-17 and Psalm 122. Talk about God's plan for Israel. How has He protected Israel through the centuries? Why did He protect Israel before the birth of Christ? Why has He done so since? If God does not keep His promises to Israel, how would that affect us? Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of many Jews. Thank God for His faithfulness to His people and His promises.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* **Read Esther 7-8.** What can we learn about how God brings about His justice? Does God always bring justice in this life? What is His promise to us? Pray for worship services tomorrow, and that those without the Lord might see His justice and flee to Him from the judgment of their sin.

**DATE:** November 12, 2006

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***God's Perfect Justice***

*"As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death."*