

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 19, 2006

Passage: Esther 9-10

Memory Passage: Philippians 4:4-5

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 9:1-4.** What two conflicting laws were on the books in Persia concerning the 13th day of Adar (Esther 12-13; Esther 8:9-11)?
- (b) What did the enemies of the Jews still hope would happen (Esther 9:1)? What actually did happen? Who did the Jews kill on that day (Esther 9:1-2)?
- (c) What were some of the reasons that the Jews were able to prevail (Esther 9:2-4)? Make a list of these. What did God do for the Jews (Esther 9:3; Exodus 23:27; Joshua 2:9; Joshua 5:1; Deuteronomy 11:25)?
- (d) Read Matthew 10:26-40. Make a list of the different aspects of fear in these verses. Who are we to fear? Who are we not to fear? Why? How does having the *right kind of fear* affect our witness (Proverbs 29:25; Psalm 118:6; Galatians 1:10; Psalm 115:13)?
- (e) In Acts 5:1-11, what kind of fear is mentioned? How did it affect the early church?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 9:1-4 and talk about what it would have been like to be a Jew waiting for the 13th of Adar? Why do you think some Persians still attacked? What does this teach us about human nature? What does it mean for believers to “fear God?” Pray together asking God to give you a proper fear that will lead you to love Him and serve Him more.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 9:5-17.** How many were killed in the capital city on that day? Who did they kill and what indicates that they did not kill merely out of vengeance?
- (b) Why does Esther ask for another day? How many more were killed? What does this indicate about the hatred towards the Jews?
- (c) What is done with the sons of Haman? What is the purpose of this act? How many were killed in the rest of the provinces? What does verse 16 tell us about who they killed and why?
- (d) What do Psalm 36:1; Psalm 53:5-6; and Romans 3:18 tell us about the attitude of the wicked? Why do they act this way?
- (e) Contrast this with the way most of the Persians felt on the day of the decree (Esther 9:2). How does a proper fear of God lead to moral actions? What do Proverbs 8:13; 16:6 and 23:17 tell us about the fear of the Lord?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 9:5-15 and Proverbs 8:13. Talk again about the fear of the Lord. How does fearing God promote right behavior? What happens to people when there is no fear of God? How can the fear of the Lord help you? Pray for some today who are not believers in Christ. Pray for their salvation.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 9:17-18.** What did the Jews do the day after the killings? What were they celebrating? Compare this with the celebration in Exodus 15:1-21.
- (b) What does God tell Israel to do in Psalm 78:6-7? What are we told to do in Psalm 103:1-2 and Psalm 107:2?
- (c) Read the rest of Psalm 107. What phrase is repeated four times in this psalm (Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31)? What are some of the reasons that we should give thanks to the Lord always?
- (d) Why is it important to celebrate what God has done? What testimony does celebration provide (Psalm 40:1-5)?
- (e) What does Paul tell believers to do in Philippians 4:4-5? Why should we always rejoice (verse 5)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 9:17-18 and Psalm 107. Talk about the importance of setting aside times for praising God and remembering what He has done for us. How do you do this as a family? How is this done in the church? How did the Jews do this? Spend a few moments together praising God for who He is and for all he has done!

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 9:19-32.** Make a list of the things that the Jews did on this day. Which ones are surprising? Why?
- (b) What should be our attitude toward one another in God’s family (Romans 12:9-15)? What kinds of actions should follow in this attitude? What are some practical ways to accomplish this?
- (c) What should be our attitude toward the poor (Luke 18:22; Galatians 2:9-10; 1 John 3:17-18; Psalm 41:1; Proverbs 14:21; 14:31; 19:17; 21:13; 22:16; 28:27; 29:7)?
- (d) Why is so much emphasis placed on caring for the poor (Psalm 34:6; 40:17; 70:5; 86:1)? What does this tell you about the nature of God? How does caring for the poor display the glory of God (Luke 14:13-14)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Esther 9:19-32 and 1 John 3:17-18. Talk about the poor and God’s care for the poor. Why does God care for the poor? Why should our celebrations of what God has done for us not be selfish? Pray that God will show you something you can do this week for someone that is needy.

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

- (a) **Read Esther 10:1-3.** What in these verses shows the historical accuracy of what is described in the book of Esther?
- (b) How is Mordecai described in verse 3? Make a list of these descriptions. What was Mordecai's impact on his countrymen who were not Jews? What does this tell us about his character?
- (c) What are we told to do in Galatians 6:10? Why are we told to do this *especially to the household of God* (John 13:34-35)?
- (d) How did Mordecai and the Jews show that they were not out for revenge in chapters 9 and 10?
- (e) Read Romans 12:19-21. What should be our attitude toward gaining revenge? Why should we not seek it? What should be our response instead? How will this affect many people?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 10:1-3 and Romans 12:19-21. Discuss revenge. What is it and why do people seek it? What does God tell us about vengeance? Why is it for Him alone? What should we do when someone has wronged us? Pray together that God would show you anyone that you are angry with in your heart. Ask for forgiveness and be willing to make matters right with this person.

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. **Read Esther 9-10.** Why is it important to remember what God has done for us and to rejoice about those things? What happens when we forget the mercies and miracles of God? How is God's deliverance of Israel similar to our deliverance in salvation? Pray for worship services tomorrow, and that God will be honored and praised for all that He has done for us.

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Rejoicing in All Things

"Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say, Rejoice!"