

It comes back to story

Esther

Week 1

FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Esther in History

INTRODUCTION

Esther is an amazing book of scripture (like all books of the Bible) that relates brilliantly to our lives today. The book never actually uses the name of God from front to back but the God's providence and sovereign hand is seen throughout (if you have ears to hear and eyes to see).

DISCUSSION

How do you think God would be made known if people couldn't use words?

EXPLANATION

How often do you forget God in your daily life?

What amount of your prayer life do you devote to thanking God?

Is there anything that you are afraid to talk to God about because of what you know His answer would be?

APPLICATION

How do you think prayer could change your attitude?

Why do so many people think that if they are in God's will that everything goes smoothly?

What things in your life do think have nothing to with God but are actually ALL ABOUT GOD?

How, in your life, could the gospel be better understood and shared by you being more trusting of God and more thankful in your attitude?

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Esther



Esther in History

Esther 4:14
1 Peter 1:1
James 1:1
Acts 11:26
Esther 9:22

Esther 4:16; 4:3; 9:1
Esther 4:14
Deuteronomy 8:10-14
Psalm 103:1
Matthew 14:19

Matthew 9:8
Luke 17:12-19
Ephesians 5:20
Colossians 3:17
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Week 1 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



Esther Overview

Esther is an amazing book of scripture (like all books of the Bible) that relates brilliantly to our lives today. The book never actually uses the name of God from front to back but the God's providence and sovereign hand is seen throughout, if you are looking. Esther starts out at a party and ends with a new Jewish festival...in the end we will see why God should be praised. As people we do crazy things, but God is always to be trusted because His vision is sure and secure. Knowing God has all things in His hands should allow us to practically live our lives in his name every day.

The book of Ephesians is about

- alcohol
- women
- suspense
- sex
- evil guys
- more evil guys
- the good guys (who even look a bit like evil guys)
- death
- destruction
- mayhem
- intrigue
- revenge
- holidays
- **The Providence of God**

Esther in History

Esther 4:14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther has been a controversial book since it was first written. There are those who love it because it shows the victory of the Jews over their enemies; but those who hate it do so because of what appears to be indefensible moral conduct by those who are supposed to be God's people. Many do not like it because there is an absence of any reference to God.

The events of the book are set in Susa during the reign of Xerxes, king of Persia (486-465 B.C.). This empire reached from India to Ethiopia. The character of Xerxes (Ahasuerus) is consistent with what is known about him through secular historians such as Herodotus, Aeschylus, and Juvenal (his sumptuous drinking parties, extravagant gifts, and irrational temper).

The Jews at this time are living as what we call the "Diaspora" (dispersion). These are Jews that were scattered to foreign lands when invaders that took them into captivity. They diaspora never returned to Israel even when they were permitted to. Since the first dispersal in 722BC there have always in the Diaspora.

The entire book of Esther is a powerful reminder that God's people sometimes fail to consult him prior to acting. The message of Esther is that God's people are prone to use the same means as "ungodly people" for achieving their goals rather than taking a bold step of faith that God will work out his purposes. The book implies that even when God's people are far from Him and disobedient, they are still the object of his concern and love.

Everything comes back to Jesus. In Esther the evil guys are evil, the good guys are evil, and we are just like them. Jesus is the only good guy and if you think you are living a story where Jesus is absent, think again. He is calling you and inviting you into life with Him.

