

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 29, 2006

Passage: Esther 6

Memory Passage: Acts 1:7-8

**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 6:1-4.** What is the emphasis on “that” night? What else happened that same night (Esther 5:13-14)? What would have happened if it occurred one night later or even a few hours earlier?
- (b) When does it appear that the reader gets to the part about Mordecai (Esther 5:14 and 6:4-5)? Why is this significant in God’s timing? What might have happen if he read it sooner?
- (c) Read John 7:1-8. What did Jesus think about God’s timing for his life and mission (also John 2:4 and 8:20)? How is God’s time related to God’s providence and protection (John 7:30)?
- (d) Read Psalm 139:13-18. What did God ordain before you were born (verse 18, NASB)? What does this tell you about God’s care for you?
- (e) Can *we* know God’s timing (Acts 1:6-8)? What did Jesus tell his disciples was their responsibility?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 6:1-4 and Psalm 139:13-18. Discuss God’s timing. How is God’s timing perfect in Esther? Give some examples. Can we know God’s time? What can we know? Thank God for His perfect timing and pray that He will give you opportunities to share the gospel with someone this week.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 6:3.** What was the king’s concern? What had been forgotten? What is the promise of God to us (Hebrews 6:10)?
- (b) How was Mordecai honored (Esther 6:7-10)? What is God’s promise to all that honor Him (Psalm 91:15; 1 Samuel 2:30)?
- (c) What does Jesus promise in John 12:26? What is the condition for this honor?
- (d) How will believers be honored in heaven (Luke 12:37-40; 1 Corinthians 4:5)?
- (e) Note a few of the promises God makes regarding His honor of them in Revelation 3:5; 3:12; 3:21; 21:7. How are these similar to the honor bestowed on Mordecai? How do they greatly surpass that honor?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 6:3 and 1 Samuel 2:30. What does it mean to be honored? What would it be like to be honored by the king of a country? Have you ever done something that you deserved to be honored for and no one honored you? What is God’s promise to all who honor Him? Talk about some of the ways believers will be honored in heaven. Give thanks to God for His faithfulness to reward His children for all they do for His name’s sake.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 6:4-11.** Who entered the outer court *at just the time* the king asked, “Who is in the court?” *Why* had he come? How is this God’s perfect timing?
- (b) Read Genesis 37:20-28. What had Joseph’s brother’s planned to do (verse 20)? What happened at just the right time (Genesis 37:25)?
- (c) Why does Haman think the king desires to honor him (Esther 6:6)?
- (d) How are we told to think about ourselves (Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 4:7)?
- (e) What did Jesus teach his disciples about the need to think humbly about themselves (Matthew 18:1-4; Luke 14:7-11)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 6:4-11 and Luke 14:7-11. Discuss humility and pride. How does pride blind us to the truth about ourselves? How can humility protect us from making a fool of ourselves publicly? Ask God to forgive you for those times when you have acted in pride and promoted yourself instead of humbly waiting on His time.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Esther 6:12.** Where did Mordecai return to? What does this tell you about his attitude about all that had happened to him? Compare his response with Haman’s.
- (b) Why do you think he returned home *with his head* covered? How did Haman’s pride increase his humiliation?
- (c) What happens when we act hastily or out of anger (Proverbs 25:8)? How is this apparent in Haman’s situation?
- (d) How are we to deal with those that we have conflict with (Matthew 5:25; Matthew 18:15-17)?
- (e) Read Matthew 18:5-6. What warning does Jesus give to any who would harm a child of God? What assurance does he give to his children in Matthew 18:10?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 6:12 and talk about how Haman and Mordecai must have felt after this day. How should we respond when we are angry with someone? Read Matthew 5:25. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? Why is it important to resolve such matters as soon as possible? How did Haman attempt to resolve his anger with Mordecai? Is there anyone that you have offended that you need to go to? Pray for a heart of forgiveness (Matthew 6:12 and Luke 11:4).

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

- (a) **Read Esther 6:13-14.** What word of “comfort” do Haman’s wife and advisors have for him? On what basis do they make this conclusion? How is this promise that God gave to Abraham (Genesis 12:3) fulfilled in Esther 6?
- (b) Read Matthew 16:18. What promise has God given regarding His church? Why does He protect it?
- (c) How should we as believers respond to those who attempt to hurt us (Romans 12:17-21)? What are some reasons we should leave these matters in the Lord’s hands?
- (d) What actions are we told to take (Romans 12:20-21)? What did Jesus teach his disciples in Luke 6:27-29? What impact might this have on some non-believers?
- (e) What was David’s attitude toward Saul in 1 Samuel 24:12? What had God promised to David (1 Samuel 12:4-5)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Esther 6:13-14 and 1 Samuel 12:4-5. Talk about God’s special protection for Israel. Review the times in Israel’s history that He has protected them. Why did God protect this nation? Why can we rest in God’s time even when evil people try to harm us? What should we do in such situations? Spend some time together thanking God for His protection of His people. Pray for those who are suffering for the name of Christ in other countries.

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

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* **Read Esther 6.** What does Esther 6 teach you about God’s perfect time? Is this true for every situation or just some? What have you learned about the danger of pride and how God opposes the proud? Pray for worship services tomorrow, that believers might rest in the Lord’s care especially when facing evil situations.

**DATE:** October 29, 2006

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***God’s Perfect Time***

*“It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in His authority.”*