



Sin always brings consequences that never end with just you.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Esther 2:21-23. How did King Xerxes reward Mordecai for uncovering the plot to assassinate the King? What is the significance of Mordecai's good deed being recorded? (see Esther 5:14-6:13)
3. Go back to Esther 2:21-23 and trace the journey the news took from Bigthana and Teresh to King Xerxes.
4. Read 3:1. In light of Mordecai's service to the King, how would you feel if you were Mordecai? Have you ever felt like you have been overlooked for a promotion? How does that feel? How would you feel towards the person promoted over you?
5. Read 3:2. What drew attention to Mordecai? *Mordecai did not slander Haman, but he also did not kneel.* How do we know Mordecai continued his stand? (Esther 3:4)
6. What history did Mordecai and Haman's families have together? (For Mordecai, read Esther 2:5 and 1 Samuel 9:1-2. For Haman, read Esther 3:1 and 1 Samuel 15:20)
7. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-23. Because King Saul didn't obey God's command in 1029BC, how is that now affecting the Jewish people in 483 BC?

*Many times when we choose again to do that bad habit; when we choose again to sin; when we choose again to run to your addiction—we believe that, "I am not hurting anyone else but myself. My bad choices—my bad habits—my sin isn't affecting anyone but me." How does this story of Haman prove that is a lie?*

8. The word *Agag* means *angry*. The name *Haman* sounds like the Hebrew word for *wrath*. Go back and read Esther 3:5. What emotion did Haman experience when Mordecai refused to bow? How did Haman live up to his name?

*500 years later, do you know what anger has reproduced? Wrath. What you have generations later when you start with anger is wrath! If you don't deal with your Agag, you're going to produce a Haman. So what's your Haman?*

9. What are you doing now that you want your children to be doing in twenty years? What are you doing now that you DON'T want your children to be doing in twenty years?

#### GOING DEEPER

1. Read Esther 3:7. How did Haman choose a day to kill the Jews? How many months fell between Haman casting lots (dice) and the time chosen to kill the Jews?
2. Read Proverbs 16:33. How was God working behind the scenes and in control even with a roll of the dice?
3. What three words are used in Esther 3:13 to describe what Haman wanted done with the Jews? In John 10:10, how are those words similar to what Satan wants to do to us?
4. On what day were the royal secretaries summoned to draft the edict and dispatch the news? (Esther 3:12)
5. Read Leviticus 23:4-5. What connection do you see between the two dates? What did the celebration of Passover cause the Jews to remember? (Exodus 12:1-30) What is significant about the date when Jesus died? (John 19:14 & 31) All three of these events describes a time when God stepped in and delivered his people (Exodus, He delivered them from bondage. In Esther, we're going to see God deliver them from destruction, and Jesus delivered us from sin)

#### THINK ABOUT IT

If you want to influence the people around you and your children under you, then start changing you! The Bible says that if you want to influence your children and their children and even your children's children—start with you. All of us are going to influence your children. It's just determining, "Are you going to be a positive influence or a negative influence?"

#### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*"...the sins of the parents is upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations." Exodus 34:7*