

Our **Virtual**

# PowerGroup

**Esther**  
**Week 4 Study**

## Icebreaker

In a crisis situation, how do you typically respond? Do you a) become hysterical; b) become immobilized by fear; c) pray; d) swing into action; e) try to escape; f) react in some other way? Why do you think you respond this way?

## Passage 1 **Esther 3:1-6**

**Reflection** Who was Haman? What was Xerxes' attitude toward him?

Why might Mordecai have refused to honor Haman? What does this tell us about Mordecai?

What was Haman's response to Mordecai? What does this tell us about Haman?

How did Haman discover Mordecai's disregard for the king's order?

Why might Mordecai have revealed his nationality to them?

Why was it natural for Haman to think in terms of the entire Jewish nation, rather than one single Jew? How was he carrying on the ancient enmity between nations?

Read Genesis 39:2-10 and compare with Esther 3:3-4. How are these two stories similar?

Read Daniel 3:8-18. How are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego similar to Mordecai in their resolve and conviction? How are Haman and Nebuchadnezzar similar in their reactions and emotions? Have you ever taken a stand on something you believed was right that caused the other party to be offended or enraged? How did God get glory in your situation?

## Passage 2 Esther 3:7-11

**Reflection** How did Haman select a time for the massacre? Why do you think he used this method?

How did Haman present his argument to the king?

What can we learn about Haman from these verses? About Xerxes?

## Passage 3 Esther 3:1-6

**Reflection** How did Haman carry out his plan?

How did the people react to the king's edict? Why?

What can we learn about Haman and Xerxes from verse v. 15?

What contrast is strong in verse 15?

How had the people of Susa reacted to the edict? What did Haman and the king do?

Re-read Esther 3:13 and compare Haman's plot to Satan's plot for humans in John 10:10. How do you see spiritual warfare playing out in Esther Chapter Three?

## Application

Read the following verses on anger Ephesians 4:26-27, 31, Proverbs 19:11, and Philippians 4:5, how do these scriptures give us perspective on anger?

## Journal