

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

Esther
Week 5 Study

Icebreaker

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the belief that something is more important than fear." Do you agree with this statement? Has there been a time in your life when you have faced your fear to stand up for a cause you believed in?

Passage 1 **Esther 4:1-9**

Reflection How did Mordecai react to Haman's decree? What caused his grief?

What do we learn here about the relationship between Esther, Mordecai, and Hathach?

What did Mordecai expect from Esther?

Mordecai probably knew that it had been his own actions that had led to this crisis. How might this have made Mordecai feel? What sense of responsibility would he have taken on himself?

What role did Hathach play? What does this tell us about Esther's situation?

Why would Mordecai tell Hathach the exact sum of money Haman had promised to pay the treasury?

Journal

Passage 2 Esther 4:10-17

Reflection What does Esther's first answer (v. 11) reveal about her role as queen and her relationship to the king?

How long had it been since the king had desired her presence? How free was she to come to him? How might this have made her feel toward him?

How might the shadow of Vashti have stood behind Esther's words?

How did Mordecai respond? What were his arguments?

What reality did he want her to face up to? What would be her fate if she refused to speak to the king? Who would see that she and her family were punished?

What do you think made Esther agree to Mordecai's wishes?

What attitudes are evident in Esther here? What does she request? What does she seem to be depending on?

Passage 3 Joel 2:12-17

Reflection Please read Joel 2:12-17. Do you see any similarities between the actions Esther took and the commands set forth in this passage? Are there any issues in our nation (or the world today) that would move you to radical action?

In what ways can you see that the Lord has placed you exactly where He wants you? Check out Romans 11:29. What gifts has God given you that you can use to grow His kingdom? Do you believe He can use you today to accomplish His purposes?

Application

It is always a battle to die to self, but when we discipline ourselves to die to the "little things," we have the "spiritual muscle" built up to die to the big things. Look up Luke 9:23-24. What things is the Lord calling you to die to in your life so that you can be wholly abandoned to loving and serving Him?