

# Our **Virtual** PowerGroup

## Esther Week 2 Study

### Icebreaker

Think of a couple you know well who have been married for many years. What do you most admire about their marriage? What has kept their relationship strong through thick and thin? (Ask them!)

### Passage 1

#### Esther 1:9-12

#### Reflection

What was the king's condition when he called for Vashti? Why did he want her to come?

Describe Xerxes' mood after Vashti refused him.

What do these verses reveal about the relationship between Xerxes and Vashti?

### Passage 2

#### Esther 1:13-18

#### Reflection

What did Xerxes do in response to Vashti's refusal? What does this tell us about him?

What do you think of Memucan's thoughts about the situation? What did he wish to prevent?

What do these verses tell us about the place of women in Persian society of that day?

### Passage 3

#### Esther 1:19-22

**Reflection** How did Memucan propose to solve the problem?

What was the intent of the king's decree? What did he hope to accomplish?

### Passage 4

#### Ephesians 5:21-33

**Reflection** How does the Christian view of marriage differ from the relationship between Xerxes and Vashti? Why do you think it's so different?

What is respect? What's the difference between respect and sub-mission?

What causes two people to respect each other? Can true respect be demanded, or is it a gift that must be earned and given?

d. What happens when one person tries to force another to submit?

### Journal