

1. GOING DEEPER

Esther 1: 1 – 9

1) a) What time period was Ahasuerus the reigning king and which Empire did he reign over?

b) On the map provided, identify where in the Empire did the story of Esther take place.



2) a) Name at least three cities in the empire under Ahasuerus' reign. (1) _____, (2) _____, (3) _____.

b) When, and for who, was the first banquet held? _____

c) How long did the 1st and 2nd banquets lasted and what was the general focus of the feasts? _____

3) a) What was the atmosphere like during the two feasts hosted by the king in Esther 1? _____

b) What does the phrase "And drinking was according to this edict: 'There is no compulsion'" (vs 8) mean? _____

2. ASSESS YOUR LIFE

1) To what extent do you recognize God's presence in your life?

2) What can you do to grow in your awareness of God's presence?



I struggle with the thought that God would be present

I think God is only present when things are going well.

I know and recognize that God is always present

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. APPLICATION

Of the list above, which one(s) will you be intentional about working on this week?

_____. I will ask _____ to hold me accountable in this.

Key Verse

Esther 1: 7 (ESV)

"Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king"

Sermon Main Points

Sermon Highlights

Overview of **God Behind the Scenes** Series

- 🕒 A Deadly Plot (Chapter 2: 19 – 5: 14)
- 🕒 A Divine Plan (Chapters 6 & 7)
- 🕒 A Delivered People (Chapters 8 – 10)

Three ways to view the book of Esther

- 🕒 A book of pairs
- 🕒 A book of banquets
- 🕒 The Mirror View (for the Jews)

5 Day Study Plan (“Study to show yourself Approved unto God...”)

Day 1

Psalm 145: 18

What I learned (observation / interpretation):

How I will Respond (application):

Day 2

Jeremiah 17: 7 – 8

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 3

Deuteronomy 4: 29

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 4

Psalm 34: 18

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 5

Matthew 28: 20

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Inductive Bible Study Method



Observation (*What does the text say?*)

This phase is about observing exactly what the text is saying.

Pretend you're an investigator who's just gathering the facts. Ask yourself the five W's and H: (Who, what, where, when, why, how).



Interpretation (*What does the text mean?*)

Discover what the author is trying to communicate. And to do this, you need to look at the context to determine

- 🕒 What is the **main theme** and what is the **meaning** of key words;
- 🕒 Examine **cross references**
- 🕒 Compare **translations**
- 🕒 **Summarize** the text
- 🕒 **Use** commentaries (last resort)



Application (*How should this affect Me?*)

Don't study the bible just for knowledge – study for application. If you stop at the interpretation stage, you are selling yourself short. Based on what you have learnt, ask yourself “*How should this change the way I think, speak and behave?*”

Seek to identify if there are - **Sins** to confess; **Promises** to claim; **Examples** to follow; **Actions** to obey or **Knowledge** to grow in.

For best results, this content should be read and prepared privately and then discussed in your small group or with family / friends.
We were not created to do life alone - get engaged today.