

# *Bible Women Still Speak*

## *Lesson 1 – Esther*

1. In chapter 2:8, Esther was taken to the king's palace. She did not volunteer for this but had a submissive attitude. What are some of the emotional struggles she might have experienced?
  - How do you typically respond when put in circumstances that are beyond your control?
2. Esther did not choose her circumstances, yet God used them to further *His* plans. How has the Lord used difficult circumstances in your life to further *His* plans?
3. In chapter 2:15 it says, *Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her*. When thinking about the women you favor, what qualities do you find attractive in them?
  - How can you cultivate some of the same qualities in your own life?
4. In chapter 3, we see that Haman's jealousy and hatred for Mordecai was so great that he put a plan in action to destroy the Jewish people. Chapter 4:16 reveals Esther's response to Mordecai's exhortation to her. What does her response declare to you about her character?
  - How can you apply the meaning of Proverbs 24:10 to a similar circumstance in your own life?
5. What possible outcome did Esther face when approaching the king? See 4:11
  - What promise do you have when approaching your King? See Hebrews 4:15-16

- Do you approach God with the confidence that He is the King He describes Himself to be, or do you fear He may be more like the king Esther faced?
  - Find a verse that accurately describes your King and write it and the reference here. Take a moment to praise Him for the wonderful king He is!
6. Chapter 5:2 tells us that Esther found favor in the sight of the king. What do Psalm 139:17-18 and Jeremiah 29:11 tell us about God's favor toward those in His kingdom?
  7. Esther did not choose her circumstances, yet God's favor was extended to her to further His plan. When you are facing your own difficult circumstances, how can the words Mordecai spoke to Esther encourage you? ...*Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?* 4:14
    - Think about a time when you didn't understand the circumstance God had allowed into your life. How did the Lord use that time to further His purposes?
  8. The Feast of Purim (9:26-28) was established to remember God's protection over His people from generation to generation. What are some practical ways you can remember and thank God for His love and protection over your life?
    - List some practical ways you can share God's faithfulness with those you love.
  9. What is the greatest lesson you have learned from Esther's life?