



ESTHER 4:1-17

INTRODUCTION:

The Jews are under a decree of destruction. It seems only Esther is in a position to help. Despite her initial reluctance, she rises to the occasion and boldly plans to risk her own life to mediate for her people, pointing us to a greater mediator to come.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your community group.

REVIEW

- Have someone read **Esther 4:1-17**
- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?
- Why does Esther hesitate in interceding for her people?
- Read Gen 12:1-3. How does it help explain what Mordecai says in verse 14?
- How does Esther's courage make us grateful for the even greater courage and mediation of Jesus Christ?

APPLICATION

- How do we react in troubling times? Do we panic, or do we pray? Do you lament? Discuss.
- Why does it often take God's using drastic matters to get us to the point of repentance, remorse, dependence, or even wanting to communicate with him?
- Who is someone God has used to encourage you to be obedient to something God was calling you to do? Why do we need others who will help spur our obedience? How can we encourage others to be obedient?
- Describe a time the Lord called you to do something but you were full of fear rather than faith? Did you obey?
- How do you think God may have put you in your present circumstances 'for such a time as this?' How can you – like Esther and above all like Jesus – be faithful where God has put you?
- In what ways, if any, are you currently hesitating to obey the Lord? What is the next step God wants you to take? How can the gospel fuel obedience?
- How might the gospel bring us to the point where we are willing to say, "If I perish, I perish, but I put everything into God's hands?"

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?

