

NOTES & QUOTES

Character

S K E T C H E S

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 6
JUNE 10, 2018

CONNECT (BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)

1. Have you ever experienced or witnessed a great reversal, when you thought things were going one way but then they dramatically went in a different direction for the better or worse (i.e. getting a job, making a team or thinking something was going well and then it fell apart)?
2. If you had to choose three heroes in your life or in your field of work who would they be? What do they have in common?

THRIVE (EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)

3. Read Esther 7. What do you think of Esther's strategy? The king's reaction? Haman's response? Why do you think the king turns on Haman so violently when they had been so close? What does this reveal about the nature of evil and pride? How does Esther stand out in contrast to them?
4. Read Esther 8. List each of the "great reversals" that take place in this chapter compared to what has happened so far in the story. Especially note the difference between 3:15 and 8:17.
5. Read Esther 9:1-17. How and why are the Jewish people able to achieve triumph over their enemies, the Amalekites? How is this the complete opposite of what happened in 1 Samuel 15?
6. Why do you think the Jewish people seem intent this time to "take no prisoners" and "take no plunder"? How might this apply to the evil and earthly things we pursue and hold onto in our own lives?

7. Read Esther 9:18-10:3. Purim is the most revered Jewish festival, celebrated to this very day. Why do you think that is? What elements of the Gospel message do you find in the story of Esther?

COMMIT (BE ON MISSION)

8. Purim was a day for giving, giving to each other and to those in need. What prompts you to give to others? Where in your life have you recently showed significant generosity?
9. Can you identify an enemy (habit, temptation, etc.) that you have let hang around in your life for too long? Or maybe you have only half eliminated it but now with God's help and the help of others you are determined to remove it completely?
10. Has God done a reversal in your life? How can you serve as a "courier of Good News" and share that story with those around you? How can you help bring about a reversal and relief to those who are suffering (spiritually, physically, or emotionally) around you?

Ponder, Pray or Memorize This Week

"On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them." Esther 9:1