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| Monday (Dec 22 nd) | <p><u>Scripture: Esther 4:1-17</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Jews mourn Haman’s decree, but for Esther the situation requires personal action. Consider (a) what factors influenced the situation she reached (see particularly verses 4, 8, 13, 14, 16), and (b) whether verse 14 is relevant to your own immediate situation 2. Esther made careful preparations to enter the king’s presence. In our own approach to the King of kings, what parallels and contrasts can you find? 3. Have you ever fasted? How long? What for? What was the result? How do you show your readiness to do God’s will? |
| Tuesday (Dec 23 rd) | <p><u>Scripture: Esther 5:1-14</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What might be the purpose of Esther’s delaying tactics: Fear? Teasing the king? Buying time? Waiting for him to up his offer? 2. What is the king’s response so far to her requests? What does this imply? 3. What infuriates Haman most about Mordecai? What irony do you see here (ref. 3:2-6)? What does this say about Haman? About human nature? 4. How do you react when someone touches your “hot button”? |
| Wednesday (Dec 24 th) | <p><u>Scripture: Esther 6:1-14</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What noise might be keeping the king awake (ref.5:14)? What does he do when he can’t sleep? 2. What other ironies or coincidences do you see in the hidden identity? In the robe? In the friends’ counsel? 3. Where do you see the hand of God in all this: in circumstances? Hearts? Humour? |
| Thursday (Dec 25 th) | <p><u>Scripture: Esther 7:1-10</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does this chapter reveal about Esther’s character: (a)self-preservation? (b) Selfless loyalty? (c) Royal respect? (d) Sweet revenge? 2. What about Haman is “vile”? Foolish? Pitiful? Pitiless? 3. While this chapter ends with Haman’s death, what issues remain unresolved? 4. How does this chapter illustrate the theme of certain psalms (ref. Ps. 73:17-19; 94:1- 7, 21-23)? How should this influence our faith? |

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| Friday (Dec 26 th) | <p><u>Scripture: Esther 8:1-17</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before the victors dispatch Haman’s estate, what must be dispatched first? Why the anguish for Esther, who is now quite secure in the king’s favor? What is the problem with getting the king to reverse the death sentence on the Jews? 2. The Jews had nine months to prepare their defense (ref. verses 9-12). What could you accomplish in the next nine months that would put your life in better order? 3. Would the way you react to the good things in your life give honor to God and convert anyone to the Christian faith? Why or why not? |
| Saturday (Dec 27 th) | <p><u>Scripture: Esther 9:1-19</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How and why the Jews able to triumph? Who “turned the tables”? When the Jews got the upper hand, how did they handle it? 2. When might “winning the battle” mean “losing the war”? When might “going easy” on the enemy only invite their revenge later? |
| Sunday (Dec 28 th) | <p><u>Scripture: Esther 9:20-10:3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What event in your life has turned your sorrow into joy? How have you commemorated this event? How have you shared it with others so that they could join you? 2. Purim is “a day for giving...to one another and...the poor.” What prompts you to give to others? 3. For what was Mordecai honored: Character? Behaviour? Results? How are these three related? What was the source of his moral strength? |

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