Building Your Life for God

Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Ezekiel, Haggai, & Malachi

[Shaping Hearts for God Curriculum]

**Lesson 7 – God Uses Esther to Take Care of His People**

**Theme: Faith - Trusting in God’s Care, Even When in Danger**

**Memory Verse - Daniel 6:10**

“Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house…[with] windows open toward Jerusalem...and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.”

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Thursday** – Esther 6:1-11 - **Friday** – Esther 7:1-10 - **Saturday** – Esther 8:1-3, 10-11. 15-17 **Monday** – Esther 9:2-5, 11-14 - **Tuesday** – Esther 9:26-28; 10:3

**Questions**

1. **When the king could not sleep, what did he learn from the book of records?**
2. **Whom did Haman think the king was planning to honor?**
3. **Whom did Haman have to honor?**
4. **At the banquet she prepared, what did Esther tell the king?**
5. **What did the king command be done to Haman?**
6. **Who did the king appoint in Haman’s place?**
7. **Responding to Esther’s request, what law did the king make for the Jews?**
8. **What happened on the day the Jews in Persia were to be destroyed?**
9. **Explain how Haman’s plan backfired on him.**

**Teacher Notes:**

**As we discussed in our last lesson, pride and envy bring a lot of trouble to people’s lives. Hamman was a proud man, and he wanted everyone to know that Queen Esther had invited him and the king to a banquet. Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride goes before destruction”, and we will see this happen to Haman in this lesson.**

**The night before Esther’s special banquet for the king and Haman, King Ahasuerus could not sleep. He gave orders that the official records be read to him. In the reading, the king heard how Mordecai had protected him against men who planned to kill him. The king discovered that he had not thanked Mordecai for what he did. The king asked Haman for suggestions about a good way to honor someone.**

**Proud Haman thought the king wanted to honor him! Hamman suggested that the honored man wear one of the king’s robes and be led through the city on the king’s horse. Ahasuerus thought a parade was a good idea. Ironically, he told Haman to have the parade to honor Mordecai! Haman had to carry out his own suggestion for the man he hated the most. Haman’s plan backfired!**

**Right after Haman honored Mordecai, messengers came to take Haman to Queen Esther’s banquet. During the meal, the king asked Esther what she wanted. Bravely, Esther told him that someone had planned for her people, the Jews, to be killed. The king immediately wanted to know who it was, and Esther pointed to Haman.**

**The king was angry that Haman had secretly planned to wipe out Esther’s people. When a servant told the king about the gallows Haman built to hang Mordecai, the king ordered that Haman be hanged instead. Ahasuerus promoted Mordecai to Haman’s position in the kingdom. Mordecai did his work well, and he became greater and greater in Persia.**

**One more time, Esther came before the king to ask for her people to be protected. King Ahasuerus made another law allowing the Jews to protect themselves against their enemies. The day came when the king’s army could attack the Jews, but God had worked to protect them. With God’s help, no one could defeat them and they defended themselves against their enemies. Mordecai gave instructions for the Jews to celebrate. Every year after that they celebrated how God took care of them. This holiday is called the Feast of Purim.**

**People often think they are in control of what happens. We may think at times that nations and rulers are powerful and in complete control of what happens in the world. But remember, God allows kings to rise and fall, and He is in control of all. We may be afraid or puzzled by what happens around us. Esther and the Jews were afraid for their lives. When bad things happen or we think they might happen, we are often afraid and anxious. Esther found courage to go before the king. She decided that this was the right thing to do even if her life was at risk. We must learn that God is in control, and that He will take care of His people. We must decide to do the right thing, and trust that God will take care of us.**