



### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION** (Page 1)

(Group leaders pick 4-5 questions to discuss as time permits)

Read Esther 3:1-4. Why do you think Mordecai wouldn't bow to Haman?

When have you felt you needed to be unbending about something? Are you glad you acted the way you did?

Do you agree/disagree with the statement that it is helpful to categorize an issue by preference, belief, or conviction in determining its magnitude? Describe some of the issues that fall into those categories for you. How is thinking through the issues in this way helpful to you in determining action to be taken?

Read Esther 3:5-6. Why do you think Haman hated Mordecai so much? Why does his hatred extend to Mordecai's people as well? In your opinion, why are human beings susceptible to bigotry? What is the solution to bigotry?

What forms of bigotry are Christians susceptible to today? What do you think should be done about it?

What cautions does Heb 12:15 provide about bitterness? How has bitterness gotten root in your life before and how did you dig it out?



### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION** (Page 2)

Read Esther 3:8-11. Why/how do you think Haman was able to convince Xerxes to annihilate the Jewish people? In what ways are we susceptible to manipulation today?

Read Lev 23:5 & Esther 3:12. What do you make of the timing of Haman's plan?

Read Matt 6:25 & Phil 4:6. In what ways is worry a useless emotion? How do you deal with anxiety?

What causes you to worry?

In what ways can anxiety be beneficial?

Which one of the hope refresher verses speaks to you most? Why?

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## **Guide – ESTHER 3: Bewilderment & Worry**

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Esther is beautiful, wise, and gutsy. Her beauty will prove irresistible to the most powerful king in the world. With wisdom she will outmaneuver a cunning manipulator. With guts, she will take her place in history and save the Hebrew people from sure annihilation.

### **OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES**

#### **Esther 3: Bewilderment & Worry.**

*We worry when we have a heightened sense of vulnerability and a diminished sense of power.*

#### **MORDECAI'S REFUSAL TO BOW – Civil Disobedience?**

##### **I. Categorize the issue**

- Preference
- Belief
- Conviction

##### **II. Determine the *appropriate* response** (concentric circles)

- I would die for this
- I would break fellowship over this
- I would debate this
- Not worth it

\* **Keep the bull's eye small!**

#### **HOW TO RESPOND TO WORRY:**

##### **1. Stop trying to control what you can't control.**

Ps 46

##### **2. Start praying about what you're *really* concerned about, not what you think you're *supposed* to be concerned about.**

Phil 4:6



### 3. Turn toward God not away from him

Ps 55:22; Mt 11:28

#### \* A hope refresher:

Ps 42:11 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your **hope** in God

Ro 4:18 Against all **hope**, Abraham in **hope** believed

Mic 7:7 I watch in **hope** for the LORD, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.

Ps 71:5 For you have been my **hope**, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.

Ro 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have **hope**.

Eph 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has called you,

Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the **hope** we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Ps 33:20 We wait in **hope** for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Ps 146:5\* Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose **hope** is in the LORD his God,

Heb 6:19 We have this **hope** as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Ps 31:24 Be strong and take heart, all you who **hope** in the LORD.

Col 1:5 the faith and love that spring from the **hope** that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel

Col 1:23 don't be moved from the **hope** held out in the gospel.

Tit 2:13 we wait for the blessed **hope**--the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

1Pe 1:13 set your **hope** fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Ro 5:2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God.

1Co 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, **hope** and love.