

# Study Guide

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one! For message manuscripts and videos go to [spwired.com](http://spwired.com).

**Monday.** Note as you read Esther that this is the only book of the Bible in which God is never directly named. While God is not named in this book, pay careful attention to how God's presence is implied and God's direct intervention is demonstrated. **Read Esther chapter 1.** This chapter highlights the power of king Xerxes (some translations use the Hebrew translation of his name which is Ahasuerus) and the downfall of Queen Vashti. What does it say about the king that he threw such a lavish party for the regional leaders and population of his Empire? What does it say that he wanted to show off his wife Vashti? What does it say about him that he needed to go to his "Supreme Court" in order to know what to do about her? What is the end goal of the decree that the king and his council send out?

**Tuesday. Read Esther chapter 2.** As a woman from each province is chosen, what is the primary reason she is picked? While we don't know much of the back story about why Esther was orphaned, or why Mordecai took her in, what might we learn about Mordecai's character from this chapter? As Mordecai uncovers the plot to kill the king and foils that plot, what does that say about his loyalty to the king? To the kingdom?

**Wednesday. Read Esther chapter 3.** How would you describe Haman? What seems to be his primary motivation in life? Aaron talked about the difference between a real mission and a shadow mission. What evidence of each of these do you see in Haman? What evidence of these do you see in yourself? At what times in your life have you found yourself living out your real mission and at what times have you found yourself living out a shadow mission? Are there specific things that draw you one way or the other?

**Thursday. Read Esther chapter 4.** Why is Esther hesitant to do what Mordecai suggests? What helps her change her mind? How does this reveal her real mission? What is that real mission? What is at stake for her? For her people? What verses in this chapter jump out at you with meaning?

**Friday. Read Esther chapter 5.** Why does Esther not come out directly and ask for what she wants? Does this have something to do with her or with the king? What do we see revealed about Haman's character in this chapter? How would you describe Haman in your own words? What might be his real mission? What might be his shadow mission? How are the characters thus far in the story motivated by their own comfort? What evidence do you see that they are motivated by a greater good? How would you sort out your own motivations?

## Prayer Concerns

### Health & Healing

Bob Preble, Ray Rich, Jacob Hortell,  
Julia Rich

### Cancer Treatment

Pam Clifton, Easton Murdock, Joey  
Walker, Bob Benefiel, Sarah Burkybile,  
Dorothy Barlow, Marvin Waugh

### Grieving

The family of **Michael Summers**

### Other Concerns

Mario, Noah & Natalie Soriano,  
Tammy Comer