

# 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—Read Esther chapter 6.** In this passage we see an interesting scene in which the king can't sleep and happens to read about how Mordecai had stopped an assassination attempt. While God is not mentioned by name in the book of Esther, how do instances like this in the story point to God? Some people see Haman as being humiliated here while others see this as God trying to reach out to Haman and open his eyes, and even save him. How might this be what God is doing? How has God tried to reach out to you? What has been your reaction?

**Tuesday—Read Esther chapter 7.** Does Haman see what's coming in this chapter? What foreboding does his wife have in chapter 6? Notice the irony in how Haman is now begging for his life from Esther, but by this point it is beyond her reach to help him. How do you see God's hand at work in this chapter? What unexpected ways have you seen God's hand at work in your life? In the life of others?

**Wednesday—Read Esther chapter 8.** Notice how the king gives Esther the ability to draft a decree. This is a very unconventional move for a king to allow his queen to do so. What does this say about Esther? About the king? About God? Why is it that so often God uses unlikely people to carry out his plans? How might you have been brought to where you are in life for a time such as this?

**Thursday—Read Esther 9:1-17.** This chapter depicts a gruesome scene of vengeance and retribution. How do you react to these acts of revenge? How might Jesus speak to this scene? How might the teachings of Jesus have affected the outcomes in this chapter? How do the teachings of Jesus come into play for you when tempted to seek vengeance or retribution?

**Friday—Read Esther 9:18-32 and chapter 10.** This last part of chapter 9 points out why the Jews celebrate the Feast of Purim. It's a celebration of deliverance, courage, and the work of God. How is Esther celebrated here? How might she be a hero of faith? How might you emulate some of her qualities? What is your shadow mission? What might be a next step for you in living out your real mission?

## Prayer Concerns

### Health & Healing

Bill Christman, Shawna Ketron

### Cancer Treatment

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

### Grieving

The family of **Eddie Hoagland** (cousin of Dennis and Tony Hoagland)

The family of **Otis Carter** (father of Lou Ann Capra)

### Other Concerns

Levi Vazquez, Tammy Comer, Patrick & Bobbie Hamilton, Lillian & Adrianna Yonally