



Esther 2 - Living in a fallen kingdom

These are some suggestions, but feel free to use some, all or none of them according to the needs of your group!

Read over Esther 2, as you do pay attention to each of three main characters- Xerxes, Mordecai and Esther. You may want to do this separately for each of them.

1. Looking at Xerxes:

- a. What do you notice about him, how would you describe him?
- b. How does he make his decisions?
- c. What kind of ruler is he? What are his priorities?

2. Looking at Mordecai:

- a. What do you notice about him, how would you describe him?
- b. Are there ways in which he's a good role model for us?
- c. Are there ways in which he may not be a good role model?

3. Looking at Esther:

- a. What do you notice about her, how would you describe her?
- b. She is obviously in an appallingly difficult situation, are there any hints so far in the story that God is active?

4. One of the key ideas of the book of Esther is that it's dealing with a portion of God's people who are still living in exile, far from God's promised land- and as Christians this may feel very familiar to us.

- a. Does the book of Esther so far give us any principles about how God's people can live well in an ungodly kingdom?
- b. How does the New Testament speak to Christians about how best to live in an unbelieving nation?