

# Esther

—SESSION TWO—

## *If I Die, I Die*

ESTHER 3 – 4



THE TIMES OF Esther were truly desperate. Genocide was about to be carried out against God's people. But even though Mordecai saw Esther as a chance for reprieve, he told her that if she didn't accept it, God would find another way to deliver his people. He confronted, but he didn't coerce.

—EUGENE

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1. *Think of a time someone you cared about faced a crisis. How did you support that person? What did you say? How did he or she react to you?*
2. *Think about your own time of crisis. What did you hope would happen? What, if anything, did you say to God about it? What, if anything, did God do?*

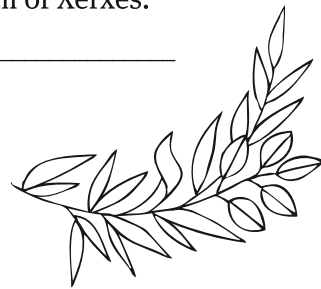


SOMETIME LATER, KING Xerxes promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, making him the highest-ranking official in the government. All the king's servants at the King's Gate used to honor him by bowing down and kneeling before Haman—that's what the king had commanded.

Except Mordecai. Mordecai wouldn't do it, wouldn't bow down and kneel. The king's servants at the King's Gate asked Mordecai about it: "Why do you cross the king's command?" Day after day they spoke to him about this but he wouldn't listen, so they went to Haman to see whether something shouldn't be done about it. Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

When Haman saw for himself that Mordecai didn't bow down and kneel before him, he was outraged. Meanwhile, having learned that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman hated to waste his fury on just one Jew; he looked for a way to eliminate not just Mordecai but all Jews throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

ESTHER 3:1-6



3. *In chapter 3 we're introduced to Haman, "the highest-ranking official in the government" (verses 1-2). Having read this chapter, what are your initial impressions of Haman?*

4. *Mordecai refuses to bow before Haman. We're not given a reason why. Why do you think he refused?*

*Have you ever resisted pressure to conform in a situation you knew wasn't right?*

 A NOTE  
FROM  
EUGENE

HAMAN WAS FROM the tribe of Amalek, Israel's chief enemy during the wilderness wanderings under Moses. They were the enemy that first sought to deny Israel entry into the Promised Land. They came to be regarded as the opponents of God's guidance and providence—a way of life that was bent on eliminating not only God's people but God's rule.





"There is an  
ODD <sup>set</sup> <sub>of</sub> PEOPLE

SCATTERED  
through the  
PROVINCES  
of your  
Kingdom."

*from Esther 3, The Message*