

## Study Guide - Esther

November 19, 2017

God is never named in the original Hebrew version of this story. Is this of any significance? Where, if anywhere, do you see God in this story?

Read Esther 2:1-16

By concealing her Jewishness and becoming part of King Xerxes' harem, was Esther caving in to the pagan culture in which she lived? What do you think of Esther's actions in this regard?

Read Esther 4:15-17

What can we learn about seeking divine guidance in times of difficulty?

Have you done any fasting in your life? If so, why and what impact or outcome did it have?

Read Esther 4:12-14

What do you see in Mordecai's words that might have motivated Esther to take the risk?

Think about your current place and situation. What might God have for you to do right where you are now?

What fears do you have? How can your group support you?



## PURIM

The Jews still celebrate Purim. What do you recall about this festival? Is there value in still celebrating it today? Do we have any similar celebrations, is there anything we should incorporate into our Christian worship celebrations?

Pray for one another for courage to follow God's leading "for such a time as this."