

**1. Strangers in a foreign culture**

- a) How did the Jews end up in a foreign land? Daniel 1:1-4
- b) According to the promise of the LORD recorded by the prophet Jeremiah, how long would the Jews be held in captivity? Jeremiah 29:10
- c) Why didn't all the Jews in captivity return to their homeland when permission was granted for their return?

**2. Historical setting for the story of Esther and Mordecai**

- a) Esther 1:1-2 What year does this story begin? 483BC
- b) What can we learn about the culture of Medo/Persia from the Book of Esther? Esther 1:3-22
- c) How did Hadassah, later called Esther, end up in the Persian court? Esther 2:1-8
- d) Why did Esther's older cousin Mordecai instruct her not to reveal her Jewish identity? (Esther 2:10,20)
- e) When is it appropriate to conceal our full identity while still seeking to be a witness for God?
- f) What other Bible character concealed his full identity while still seeking to be a witness for God?

**3. Esther's impact in the harem of King Ahasuerus**

- a) Esther 2:9 Why do you think Esther made such a positive impression on Hegai, custodian of the women?
- b) What can we learn from Mordecai's daily conduct after Esther was

taken to the king's harem? Esther 2:11

- c) How did Esther demonstrate a wise spirit as she prepared to go before the king? Esther 2:15
- d) What was the outcome of her careful (and prayerful?) preparation? Esther 2:17-18

**4. Mordecai's witness**

- a) How was Mordecai's report of an assassination plot a witness to the pagan king? Esther 2:21-23
- b) How was Mordecai's refusal to bow down to Haman a witness to those around him? Esther 3:1-4
- c) How did Haman respond? Esther 3:5-6
- d) What was Mordecai's appeal to his cousin Esther? Esther 4:13-14

**5. Esther's witness**

- a) How did Esther's response to this death threat demonstrate her faith in God? Esther 4:15-16
- b) Who gave Esther such wise counsel to capture Haman in his own trap? Proverbs 2:10, 3:9, 9:10
- c) How did God use Esther and Mordecai to deliver and bless His people? Esther 7:1-10, 10:1-3
- d) What mission lessons can we learn from Esther and her cousin Mordecai? Esther 8:17

