



Faithful & Fearless

RUTH & ESTHER

Lesson Five – Esther 4-6

LA MIRADA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DWELLING RICHLY BIBLE STUDY





Written by
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...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...

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...Lesson Introduction...

Our focus is to share what we are learning from within the pages of the Bible while doing this study. There are helpful commentaries, study notes in our Bibles and other interesting teachings available to us, but the purpose of this group is for us to share from what we are personally learning out of the Bible. If you are new or didn't get a chance to do your study, please enjoy the fellowship and insights of others in your group. After reviewing the past lesson, your leaders will provide time to hear comments from commentaries or other sources that you have found interesting.

1. Recite Psalm 42 together – printed at the end of this lesson.

Share your responses...

2. Day 2, pg. 10 – Read the "Reflect on the Word" then share your responses to quest. 6 & 7
3. Day 3, pg. 11, question 3
4. Day 4, pg. 14, questions 8 & 9
5. Day 5, pg. 16, question 9
6. Day 6, pg. 18, questions 7 & 8
7. Day 7, pg. 20, questions 8 & 9
8. Day 8, pg. 22, Read the "Reflect on the Word" then share your responses to quest. 7
9. Day 9, pg. 24, question 8
10. Share your Day 10 "Create & Share."
11. Pass around the Prayer Journal. Please feel free to share aloud as you write your prayer/praise in your group journal. If you have a more private prayer request, you can share with your group leader or our teaching leader, Jennifer, after the study.

...Group Guidelines...

- 📖 God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything. We are using the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible for this study.
- ♥ We come from varying faith backgrounds, so please be thoughtful of denominational and religious differences.
- 🚫 Avoid commentaries or study notes in your Bible. Trust God, pray, ask for wisdom then read and answer on your own.
- 👉 We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
- ✓ This isn't a personal opinion study. This is a Bible study. So, there are going to be "right" and "wrong" answers. Try your best and have a humble and teachable spirit.
- 🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and questions. I bet you have something great to share! 😊
- 👂 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. You're here! Yay, you! This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down answers as others share.
- ⌚ Be considerate of your "slice of the pie" Share your thoughts, and allow time for others to do the same.
- 🕒 Watch the time. We'll usually return for teaching time by 7:45pm (evening) or 10:45am (morning) group. So, your leader will wrap up the discussion five minutes before that.

Lesson Four Review: Esther 1-3

Listen to this talk at www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

...Lesson Five - Day One...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE** [Psalm 42:9-10](#) – Review and meditate on these verses daily. [Psalm 42](#) is printed at the end of this lesson.
- READ & REVIEW** [Esther 4:1-6:14](#). Read it from a different version than last time.
- THINK AHEAD** to the Create & Share on [Day 10](#). Read over the Create & Share day so you can be thinking ahead and maybe even completing it as you go.



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

Welcome to Lesson Five. Over the next two weeks, we'll read, write, memorize, and study our way through Esther 4:1-6:14 along with Psalm 42:1-10

REMINDER: One of the goals of this Bible study is to help you develop skills of a good student of the Word. Read Esther straight through *without referring to any study notes or commentaries*. Use only the maps and references in your Bible. It may be tempting to read notes or commentaries, but do the work of your own personal study. Pray for wisdom and understanding as you read.

TRY THIS: Don't just read Esther, read Esther *aloud*. Read it to your spouse or kids or read it with a friend. You'll find it really changes the experience. Enjoy!

AS YOU READ...

- Write your questions and key observations
- Note repeated words and phrases
- Note "just so happened" type of events – apparent coincidences in the narrative
- Highlight: people (**brown**), places (**green**), times/dates (**pink**), God's name (**blue**), phrases of note (**orange / yellow**)
- Locate places on a map https://www.bible-history.com/maps/maps/map_persian_empire.html

...REVIEW...

1. **HOW** would you describe Mordecai's character (spiritually, morally, personally, etc.)?

On what actions do you base your description of Mordecai?

2. **ESTHER** is chosen from amongst hundreds of other women - some hopeful for this honor, others perhaps dreading it. How do you think Esther felt about being crowned?

How might the other women have felt seeing her crowned?

3. **DRAW A TIMELINE** of people and events from Esther 4:1-6:14

...Lesson Five - Day Two...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- READ & REVIEW [Esther 4:1-9](#)
- COMPLETE today's questions



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. **CONTRAST THE ACTIONS** of Haman and Ahasuerus at the close of chapter three with those of the people and Mordecai in the opening of chapter four:

2. **WHERE** does (and doesn't!) this decree go out? ([4:3](#); [1:1](#))

Does Esther know about it yet? Why do you think that?

3. **HOW DOES MORDECAI RESPOND** upon hearing about this decree? ([4:1-2](#))

What he did...

Where he did it...

4. How did other Jews respond?

Although not mentioned, fasting implies what other activity? _____

5. **HOW DOES ESTHER** find out about this, and how does she respond at first?

Why do you think she sent garments to Mordecai? (Consider 4:2)

6. After Esther hears that Mordecai won't take the clothing she has offered, what does she do?

7. What does Mordecai give to Hathach and what are Mordecai's expectations for...

Hathach:

Esther:

8. Meanwhile, this horrible news is continuing to travel to the Jews in every province. Little do they know, all is not lost. Think of a challenge you're facing today. Maybe it seems overwhelming. Could it be that God is working now on a deliverance? What can you be doing while you wait? Consider the words of Psalm 42.

...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

While Susa and 127 other provinces were in fear and fasting for God to deliver them from their fate, where was God? While Mordecai was messaging, Esther and Hathach were explaining it all, where was God? Consider that question right now as you think about the trial you are going through. Where is God when we're panicking like the Jews in Persia? Where is He when we're mourning like Mordecai? Clueless like the king? Distressed like Esther? Is He drumming His fingers waiting for all the people and circumstances to come together? Is He holding out until we pray the right prayer? Fast enough? Mourn loudly enough? I don't think so. I think God is right there with us in the panic, the mourning, the fasting, and fear. David wrote, "*The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*" He is not far. He's close. He's ready. Trust and wait for his timing. While you wait, it's ok to mourn, cry, even fast. Beg for His favor, plead with Him to bring your answer, and trust Him to do it according to His will.

...Lesson Five - Day Three...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- READ [Esther 4:10-17](#)

COMPLETE today's questions



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. What reality of her circumstances does Esther mention – TWICE – in this passage? (4:11, 16)

Keep this in mind as you continue with today's study.

2. Hathach has relayed Mordecai's message. Summarize that here:
3. How is Mordecai's message in direct conflict with what he had previously commanded her? (2:10)
4. Esther commands Hathach to go back with what message? Summarize here:
5. Why do you think Esther replied this way: "all the king's servants and...people...in all provinces..."?
6. Think about Mordecai's actual response, then think about how he *might have responded* in light of Esther's reminder of her situation.

Mordecai Might Have Said...

...BUT...

Mordecai Said...

7. How do you think Mordecai had this kind of wisdom and prophetic foresight?

8. What kind of **EMOTIONAL** impact do you think Mordecai's words had on Esther?

9. What did Esther tell Mordecai to do? (4:16)

Response/Directives:

1) _____

2) _____

On whose behalf is she requesting them to fast? _____

10. What was Esther personally committed to doing?

11. What will Esther do after the fasting?

What she'll do... _____

In spite of: _____

Accepting what possible outcome: _____

12. How does Mordecai respond to Esther's reply? (4:17)

Notice the wording. Esther does not give him a simple reply, but a _____ ([Esther 4:17](#) - The ESV, NASB, KJV, CSB all keep the strength of the original Hebrew word: צִוְתָהּ / *ṣiw·wə·tāh*)

...REFLECT ON THE WORD – DIY 😊 ...

Esther's decision (4:16) will – not *might*, *will* – break the law. Do you think you'd be willing to commit civil disobedience like Esther? Why or why not? If so, what law would you be willing to break?

...Lesson Five - Day Four...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- READ [Esther 5:1-5](#)

- MEDITATE ON [Proverbs 21](#)
- COMPLETE today's questions



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. REVIEW CHAPTER FOUR... What did Mordecai insist would happen if Esther didn't act? He says it in a powerful if/then statement. Write what he said in [4:14](#)...

If... _____

Then... _____

Certainty of inaction... _____

Call to action... _____

2. What has Esther been doing for the past three days? _____ Fasting from what? _____ and _____
3. Why didn't she just go to the king immediately when she heard about his terrible edict?

4. What was the purpose of Esther's and Mordecai's fasting?

5. WHAT ARE urgent needs facing you or someone you love today? List at least two:

1) _____

2) _____

6. **HAVE YOU FASTED** about these? Why or why not?

7. **DESCRIBE** Esther's actions and imagine her emotions in 5:1.

8. Highlight the comma - yes, the actual comma - in your Bible at the end of the first phrase in 5:2, "...the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court,". That comma pauses us as we read, and with this waiting, looms the weight of this tense moment. At that comma, the king looks up and sees Esther. At that comma, only two options are available, and they are summed up either in Esther's words: "If I perish, I perish" or in Mordecai's words: "for such a time as this." Surely, even Esther herself paused, breathed, and rehearsed her own words in her mind, "If I perish, I perish. If I perish, I perish. If I..." and then the king does what?

_____ but not before the author makes sure we know
what happened in his heart? _____

9. From [Proverbs 21](#): What insight does this chapter give you into this moment in Esther's life?

10. What does the king offer Esther? What does she ask for in return?

11. Notice the verb tense in 5:4 when Esther mentions the feast. What does this say to you about Esther's confidence in coming before the king?

...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

Anyone looking at the circumstances of Esther's rise from orphaned Jewess to honored queen would think she's one lucky girl. If this story took place today, she might even have her own Instagram account and fashion line. What the world may see a type of Cinderella story, Mordecai saw as something far more serious. He couldn't have known for what purpose precisely Esther was being elevated, but he knows all along it was significant. How would it change your behavior today if you lived with that kind of confidence and seriousness about where God is leading you? Your job? Your family? Your encounters? Perhaps they are not just things that are happening to you. Perhaps, you are being placed for "such a time as this." What if you lived each day knowing that as God moves hearts of kings, he's moving in the hearts of those around you as well? Consider seriously taking time to fast for wisdom in your circumstances. Fast to know and do the will of God. Fast to demonstrate your faithfulness and reliance on God. Fast also to plead your case before God, your Heavenly Father, who "withholds no good thing from the righteous." (Psalm 84)



~~~~~  
for the lord god  
IS A SUN AND SHIELD  
the lord bestows  
FAVOR AND HONOR  
no good thing  
DOES HE WITHHOLD  
from those who  
walk uprightly.

# ...Lesson Five - Day Five...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

## TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- READ [Esther 5:6-9a](#)

- MEDITATE ON [Proverbs 3](#)
- COMPLETE today's questions



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. Note phrases from today's meditation in Proverbs three that remind you of...

Mordecai

Esther

Haman

2. After the feast, what does the king ask and offer Esther?

3. How does Esther respond?

4. Why do you think she delays her request?

5. **WHAT DO YOU THINK** Esther's strategy is by specifically inviting Haman?

6. Esther is not the only one who bides her time in this account. How have Haman and even Mordecai waited strategically?

Mordecai –

Haman –

Besides this moment, how has Esther also taken her time?

7. Esther hasn't been still during her fast. What has she been up to, aside from seeking God?

8. Since Esther was ready to serve this feast, she had clearly been doing more than laying around fasting. Not only that but by planning this feast she is assuming a positive answer from God. When you fast, what can you be doing?

9. **HOW DOES HAMAN RESPOND** to this whole event? (5:9a)

Why? Why on earth do you think this evil man is so joyful and glad of heart?

### ...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

It's been three days since Esther began her fast, and now, she has gone from fasting with concubines to feasting with the king. Not only is she feasting, but the royal scepter and up to half of the king's kingdom have been extended to her. If a pagan king like Ahasuerus is willing to extend this kind of lavish grace, how much more will our good God?! Clearly, our Heavenly Father not only can but wants to extend grace to us. The Word of God is full of reminders of this kind of lavish grace. Never forget that as a child of the King you can come boldly before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16) and ask boldly in Jesus' name with eager anticipation, "how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"



# ...Lesson Five - Day Six...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

## TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- READ [Esther 5:9b-14](#)

- MEDITATE ON [Philippians 3:4b-20](#)
- COMPLETE today's questions



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. How does Haman want Mordecai to respond to him? (5:9b)

2. How does Haman respond?  
First he...

Then he...

3. **WHY DOES HAMAN** call for his friends and wife? (5:11)  
In general, to...

Specifically to recount...

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Note each of these and compare with Haman's ultimate demise.

4. How does John's admonition in [1 John 2:15-17](#) relate to Haman's behavior? How could it relate to yours?
5. How is Haman's expectation of what will happen "tomorrow a stark contrast to what Haman will actually experience tomorrow at the feast?
6. From today's meditation, [Philippians 3:4b-20](#), contrast the humility of Paul's with the pride of Haman. Consider Haman's specific words "all of this is worth nothing..." All of what?
7. What does Haman's response indicate about his heart toward Mordecai (and all Jews) and what does it reveal to you about his character?
8. **WHO ADVISES** Haman, and what is the advice?
9. **WHAT WOULD THE EFFECT** of this gallows be on all the Jews of Susa who are already in confusion?

### ...CULTURE & CONTEXT...

A cubit was approximately 18 inches. Do the math and estimate how high the gallows would have been:

### ...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

"Pride is the only known disease that makes everybody sick except the person who has it." (Anonymous). Haman's would be humorous if it weren't so sickening. He is not only satisfied with the potential demise of his enemy; he is pleased by it. He, like all who oppose God, seeks to lift himself up to glory while lifting others up to shame. God wants the exact opposite for us. "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Instead, Haman delights himself in – well – himself. The malice Haman has is like yeast in dough. It thoroughly permeates. Malice in your heart, no matter how much you're egged on by others, will do the same. Pray that God would reveal any tendency you may have to pridefully seek your own way and to try to get others on your side. Delight in God, not in yourself.

# ...Lesson Five -Day Seven...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

## TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- READ [Esther 6:1-5](#)
- MEDITATE ON [Psalm 27](#)
- COMPLETE today's questions



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. What series of apparent coincidences occur in [Esther 6:1-5](#)?
2. **HOW IS GOD** at work in the king's insomnia? Read also [Ecclesiastes 5:12](#).
3. What is God doing while we're sleeping? [Psalm 121:3-4](#)
4. What do you do when you're sleepless?
5. Think of all the possibilities available to a king like Ahasuerus to help him get over his insomnia:

But "he gave orders to bring... \_\_\_\_\_"

*Think of all the books containing chronicles that eunuch could have brought, and he just so happened to bring the one book that had Mordecai's account! Wow!*

6. Compare [Esther 6:4 and 5:4](#). Both Esther and Haman come before the king with something prepared. Both Esther and Haman have Mordecai in mind. Who's prepared for what? What were Esther's hidden motives? What were Haman's?

Esther:

Haman:

7. The king's sleepless night changes everything. How do you see the hand of God in this seeming coincidence?

8. **HOW MIGHT HAVE THINGS** been different had the king honored Mordecai back when the incident happened?

9. **PARAPHRASE** the stunning, and honestly hysterical, reversal that takes place in Esther 6:6-11.

10. Read [Psalm 147:10-11](#). What truth can you apply from this passage to your life today?

### ...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

Mordecai's humility and patience have not only been rewarded, they've been rewarded publicly. Had Mordecai received recognition immediately it would have changed everything. Consider that moment you've been waiting for. Think about the recognition you've been wanting. Are you just? Are you seeking the honor of God? If so, be patient. Just like God's timing is perfect in delivering you from the trial, so is his timing perfect in blessing your faithfulness. Remember, "God's delays are not God's denials." Trust his timing in every aspect of your life, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Ps 27)

# ...Lesson Five - Day Eight...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

## TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- READ [Esther 6:12-14](#)
- MEDITATE ON [Psalm 27](#)
- COMPLETE today's questions

...DWELL IN THE WORD...



1. **WHAT HAS MORDECAI** just returned from doing?  
|
2. Compare this moment with the last time that Mordecai was in the city ([Esther 4:1-2](#))  
|
3. Now, whose cry is probably "loud" if not "bitter" \_\_\_\_\_ Why?  
|
4. Consider the satisfied return of Mordecai and the sad return of Haman to their respective places.  
Mordecai returns to \_\_\_\_\_  
Haman returns to \_\_\_\_\_ What other details does the narrator include about Haman's return?  
  
How is this moment another in the many reversals of this account?  
|
5. **CONTRAST** the reversal from Esther 5:14 and Esther 6:13.  
|

6. God can warn anyone through any means. He's used a donkey, handwriting on a wall, and here in Esther, a scheming wife. What was Zeresh's prophetic warning?  
|
7. The principle of her warning is based on Scripture and is timeless. Read Genesis 12:1-3. Summarize God's word to Abraham:  
|
8. **READ** Jeremiah 20:10-12. How is Jeremiah's experience like Mordecai's?  
|
9. What do Haman's wise men and his wife appear to realize about the Jewish people?  
|

### ...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

How many times is the name of God mentioned in Esther? Zero. How many times is prayer mentioned? Zero. What about the Temple? Again, zero. How many times has God's will been stopped? Ah, yes...once again, zero times. No matter who is on the throne; no matter who is scheming; no matter the time we have to wait or the length of our efforts to do the right thing or the efforts of those to do evil, God will have his way. Consider that truth today. Do you feel God is silent? Does he seem to be far off? Like the pagan god Baal, who Elijah mocked as being off on the toilet, does God feel like he's got a "Do Not Disturb" sign out on his royal doorknob? Rest assured, and actually, do just that – rest. And while you rest, be assured that God is on the throne getting the job done for your best and for His glory today! Amen? Amen!

# ...Lesson Five - Day Nine...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

## TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)
- MEDITATE ON [Matthew 6:16-18](#)
- REVIEW [Esther 4:1-17](#)
- COMPLETE today's questions

...DWELL IN THE WORD...



1. **CONSIDER** the reason and results for Mordecai's and Esther's fast:

## ...WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT FASTING?...

**CONSIDER** doing a study on the spiritual discipline of fasting. A word search in [BibleGateway](#) or other concordance will be helpful. Also, [GotQuestions.org](#) is a helpful website. Then, consider fasting. Record what you learned about fasting here:

RECORD your personal thoughts and reasons for fasting, then write about your experience.

## ...Lesson Five - Day Ten...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:9-10

### TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:9-10](#)

...DWELL IN THE WORD...



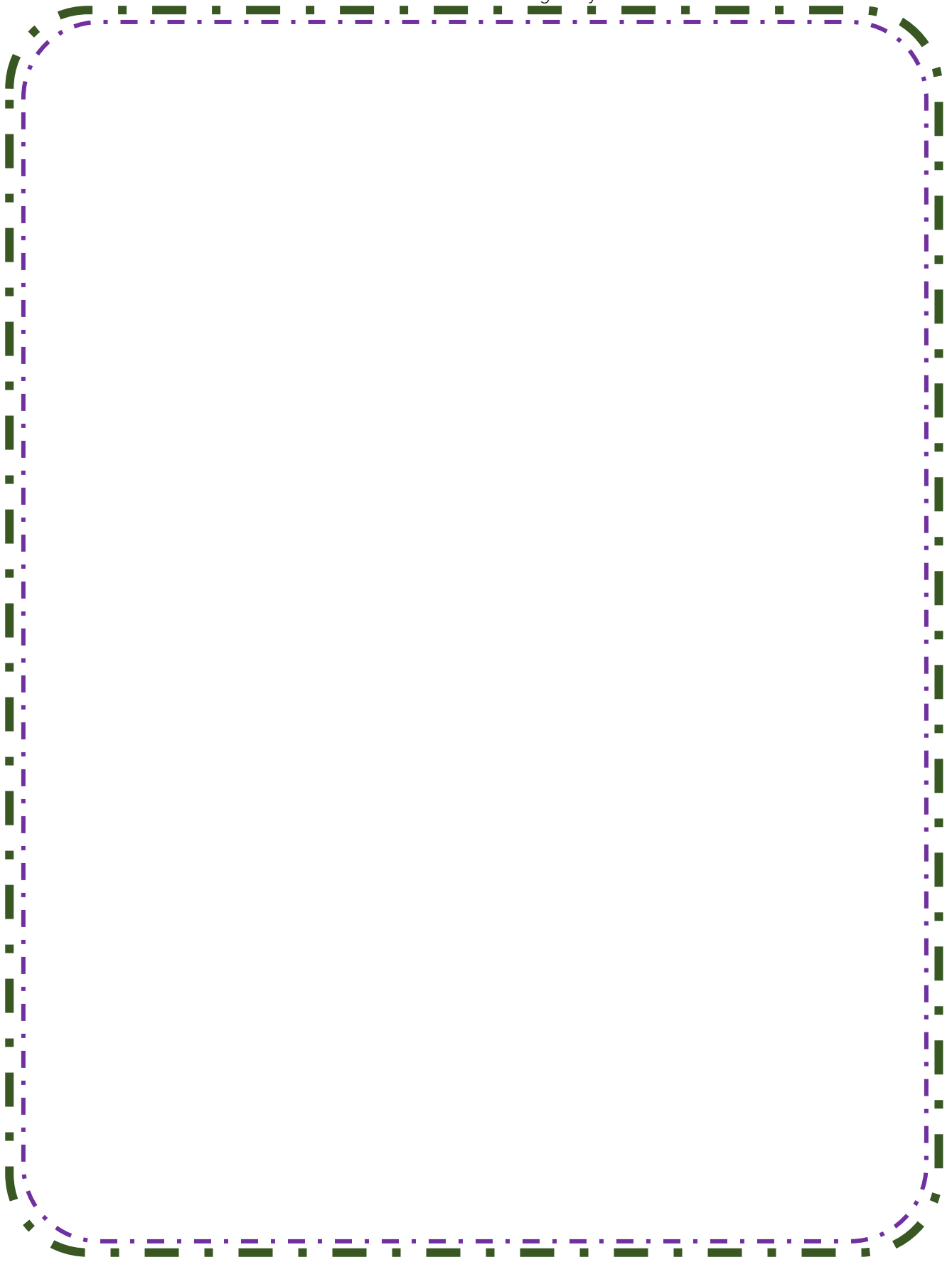
From the many passages we've read and meditated on in this lesson, write out one that has been especially meaningful to you. Write it in your own handwritten style, or design a graphic using an app you like. When you're done, share it on Instagram, Facebook, or just send it to a few friends along with your thoughts on how that passage has been a reminder to you of the good will of God in your life.

#LMCCWomen #DwellingRichly



# ...Lesson Five - Day Ten...

#LMCCWomen #DwellingRichly



# Psalm 42

*As a deer pants for flowing streams,  
so pants my soul for you, O God.*

*2 My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.*

*When shall I come and appear before God?*

*3 My tears have been my food  
day and night,*

*while they say to me all the day long,  
"Where is your God?"*

*4 These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:*

*how I would go with the throng  
and lead them in procession to the house of God  
with glad shouts and songs of praise,  
a multitude keeping festival.*

*5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?*

*Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation 6 and my God.*

*My soul is cast down within me;  
therefore I remember you*

*from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.*

*7 Deep calls to deep*

*at the roar of your waterfalls;*

*all your breakers and your waves  
have gone over me.*

*8 By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.*

*9 I say to God, my rock:*

*"Why have you forgotten me?*

*Why do I go mourning*

*because of the oppression of the enemy?"*

*10 As with a deadly wound in my bones,  
my adversaries taunt me,*

*while they say to me all the day long,  
"Where is your God?"*

*11 Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?*

*Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.*

*Psalm 42, English Standard Version*

# Esther



A vertical decorative border on the left and right sides of the page, featuring intricate black and white patterns. The patterns include circular motifs, floral designs, and geometric shapes, creating a symmetrical and ornate frame for the central text area.

A series of horizontal lines for writing, spanning the width of the page between the decorative borders.

# Esther



A vertical decorative border runs along both the left and right edges of the page. It features a complex, repeating pattern of black and white geometric and floral motifs, including circles, lines, and stylized floral shapes. The central area of the page is filled with horizontal ruling lines, providing a space for writing.

# Esther

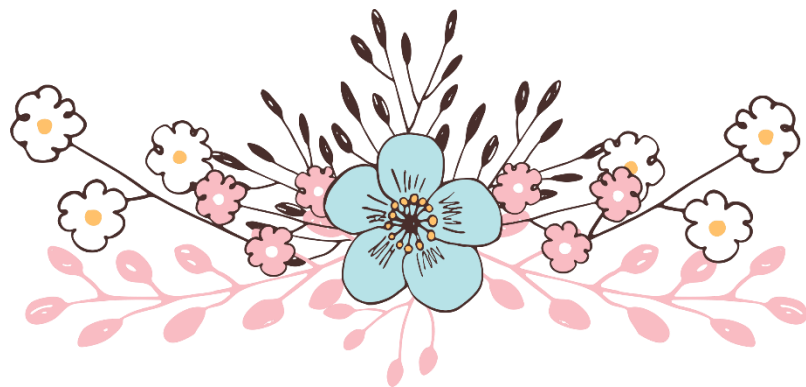


A series of horizontal lines for writing, framed by decorative borders on the left and right sides.

# Esther



A vertical decorative border runs along both the left and right edges of the page. It features a complex, repeating pattern of black and white geometric and floral motifs, including circles, lines, and stylized floral shapes. The central area of the page is filled with horizontal ruling lines, providing a space for writing.



*Faithful &  
Fearless*  
RUTH & ESTHER

