



Faithful & Fearless

RUTH & ESTHER

Lesson Six – Esther 7-10

LA MIRADA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DWELLING RICHLY BIBLE STUDY





Written by
Jennifer Richmond
©2019, Dwelling Richly

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

Join the Dwelling Richly online studies at www.YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond

[Listen to the complete "Faithful and Fearless" Bible study playlist](#)

Worship with the "[Faithful & Fearless](#)" study on our Spotify worship playlist.

...Lesson Introduction...

Let's review what we learned from our time in Esther chapters four through six. Share your responses to the following questions you answered from Lesson 6. Did you have any other insights? Questions? Feel free to share those as time permits at the close of your discussion time.

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

Share your responses...

2. Day 2, pg. 8, Q 2
3. Day 3, pg. 10, your Reflect on the Word response
4. Day 4, pg. 12, Q 11
5. Day 5, pg. 16, Q 7 & 8
6. Day 6, pg. 18, Q 6
7. Day 7, pg. 20, Q 7 & 8
8. Day 8, pg. 22, Q 7 & 9
9. Day 9, pg. 23-24, share your thoughts and, if possible, your experience with fasting
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 Five Review: Esther 4-6

Listen to this talk at www.DwellingRichly.com

...Lesson Six - Day One...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:11

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE** [Psalm 42:11](#) – Review and meditate on these verses daily. [Psalm 42](#) is printed at the end of this lesson.
- READ & REVIEW** [Esther 1:1-5:8](#). 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 Six. Over the next two weeks, we'll read, write, memorize, and study our way through Esther 7:1-10:3 along with Psalm 42:1-10

TWO DAYS... Over the next two days, we'll re-read Esther. Chapters 1-5:8 today and 5:9-10:3 tomorrow. What a great experience these past lessons have been! Whether you've been in this study since Lesson One or are just joining now, Enjoy this time as you read through Esther again. It's always amazing to me what I see and understand when I read, re-read, read, and re-read a text.

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

JOIN ME! I'll be completing each day in this lesson live, and you can join weekdays on [Facebook.com/LMCCwomen](#), [YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond](#) or the [Dwelling Richly podcast](#). We have fun and learn a ton!

AS YOU READ, NOTE ANY...

- ... parallelisms that connect the opening and closing events, emotions, actions, etc.
- "new" verses that weren't there the last time you read! LOL!
- ... "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**)

ESTHER 1:1-5:8
NOTES – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

...Lesson Six - Day Two...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:11

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE [Psalm 42:11](#) – Review and meditate on these verses daily. [Psalm 42](#) is printed at the end of this lesson.
- READ & REVIEW [Esther 5:9-10:3](#). Read it from a different version than last time.



ESTHER 5:9-10:3

NOTES – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

...Lesson Six - Day Three...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:11

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE: [Psalm 42:11](#)
 - READ & WRITE: [Esther 7:1-10](#)
 - MEDITATE ON: [Psalm 7:1-17](#)
 - COMPLETE: today's questions
- (There are pages available at the end of this lesson for you to write Esther 7:1-10:3)



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. **GET A RUNNING START** on today's scene by reviewing where we've been. Read [Esther 6:12-14](#). What has Haman just returned from doing with...

Mordecai...

His wife and wise men...

2. What **PROPHETIC WORDS** are looming over Haman as he's hurried off to the feast?

3. **THINK THROUGH** and try to picture the scene of this second feast. Imagine the progression of Haman's mental and emotional state. How do you think Haman is feeling in each of these moments?

7:1-2

7:3-4

7:5-6

4. What does **ESTHER** request of the king in 7:3?

My _____ and my _____

5. Esther's comment, "our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king" (7:4ESV) is interesting and has presented translators with some challenge. Compare [Esther 7:4](#) in several versions and note the nuanced interpretations.

CHALLENGE: Read this verse in several versions – without referencing any commentary or study notes. Consider reading it in the original [Hebrew](#). Then, write your thoughts below. What point do you think Esther is making?

6. **COMPARE** how Haman entered and exited the feast. [Esther 6:14 and Esther 7:8](#)

7. **WHAT INTERESTING DETAIL** about Haman's gallows do we learn from Harbona the eunuch in Esther 7:9? (Compare this with Esther 5:14.)

8. **HOW** does Harbona characterize Mordecai? (7:9)

9. **WHAT IRONIC REVERSAL** takes place in Esther 7:10?

10. What truths from Psalm 7 (today's meditation) do you see affirmed in Esther 7:1-10? Listen to today's online study with Jennifer for some interesting extra details!

...STUDY SMART...

Read a passage from at least three different versions. I generally read from the ESV, NIV, NASB, and NLT. Use a websites like [BibleGateway.com](#) or [BibleHub.com](#) to help you in your study and understanding of the Word. They each offer multiple versions at-a-glance.

...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

How many times have you felt that sting watching evil seem to get its way? Have you ever considered how God feels about evil? In Psalm 7, David says, "God feels indignation every day." Not only does God feel righteous anger, but He "pronounces doom" on the wicked. In other words, God is taking care of the wicked for their evil even as He's taking care of the righteous for their faithfulness. Mordecai waited. Esther acted. Haman plotted. God took care of them all in His righteousness and also in His timing. How much more can we wait and trust God to do the same for us? This truth of God's righteous nature should be a dire warning to those who shake their fist at heaven and defy God and be an encouragement to those who are honoring God.

6. How is the **CHARACTER OF GOD** revealed in the events of Esther 8:1-8?

7. What series of fearless and faithful righteous actions and evil and corrupt unrighteous actions had to have happened for Esther and Mordecai to be in the position they are now in?

<u>Chapter</u>	RIGHTEOUS	UNRIGHTEOUS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

In spite of David's encouraging reminder not to "fret because of evildoers" I find myself often doing exactly that! Call me Jennifer McFretsAlot, but I see the evil, and it seems to be going on and on and on unpunished. I get sad and frustrated...until. I. See. God. I mean, really see Him - see in my mind what He's famous for - making things right. Then, rather than hitting the rewind button in my mind and continually replaying all the stupid, evil, nonsense in this world, I kick that DVD out and pop in this one: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness." Befriend faithfulness. Now that's a friend I need and want. I take faithfulness by the hand, we kneel together, walk together, and delight in God together. Then, I keep my eyes on Him, my ears attentive to His words, and my heart freed from fretting and faithful in following His lead. What a difference that makes.

...Lesson Six - Day Five...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:11

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE: [Psalm 42:11](#)
- READ & WRITE: [Esther 8:8-17](#)
- MEDITATE ON: [Isaiah 55](#)
- COMPLETE: today's questions
(There are pages available at the end of this lesson for you to write Esther 7:1-10:3)



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. How is the **NATURE** and **CHARACTER** of God revealed in our mediation passage today?

2. Chapter eight continues the fascinating series of reversals in this account. Use this chart to connect the "that was then/this is now" scenes of Esther:

That Was Then		This is Now	
3:10		8:2	
3:12		8:9	
3:12		9:10	
3:13		8:11	
3:14		8:13	
3:15		8:14	
3:15		8:15	
4:1		8:15	

Adapted from NIV Commentary, Esther © 1999 by Karen H. Jobes.

3. **REVIEW** Esther 8:11. List the directives of Mordecai's. (There are six verbs.)

1) _____

4) _____

2) _____

5) _____

3) _____

6) _____

4. Read [Romans 12:18-19](#) and [Deuteronomy 32:35](#). How do you reconcile these passages with Esther 8:13?

5. The reversals that Esther and Mordecai, not to mention Haman, experienced are dramatic and even poetic. It's like God orchestrated their stories in this melodrama for a delightful and poignant reminder of his supreme sovereignty. What does the symmetry and beauty in the balance of this account reveal to you about God's nature?

...REFLECT ON THE WORD - DIY...

6. I don't think God will necessarily give you a symmetrical parallel in reversing the difficult circumstances you are facing. However, I do believe God wants you to bring your requests before Him in prayer, petition, and even fasting for His good will to be done. Consider an evil you are facing: disease, broken relationships, betrayal, etc. Now consider the chart above is a record of your life. What would you write in the first column and how would you imagine God reversing and redeeming it for your good and His glory? As you reflect about this, hold close to your heart the truth about God that you read in Isaiah 55, particularly verses 8-9.

Why not share your thoughts today? Bless a friend with what you are learning. Take a photo and share it on social media or just send it along to a friend that God brings to your mind.

...Lesson Six - Day Six...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:11

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE: [Psalm 42:11](#)
 - READ & WRITE: [Esther 9:1-10](#)
 - MEDITATE ON: [Daniel 6:1-28](#)
 - COMPLETE: today's questions
- (There are pages available at the end of this lesson for you to write Esther 7:1-10:3)



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. Note any **PARALLELS** from the account of Daniel and the account of Esther and Mordecai:

2. "It's as permanent as the laws of the Medes and Persians" is a saying that still used today when someone wants to suggest a thing cannot be changed. The origin of this saying is found in the account of "Daniel and the Lion's Den" from Daniel chapter six, and we saw it again in Esther. If the law of a man like Ahasuerus was considered permanent and irrevocable, how much more so God's Word!
Read [Psalm 119:89 and 1 Peter 1:23-25](#) and share your thoughts on the value of God's word in your life:

3. **SUMMARIZE** what happens and when (specifically the month and day) in Esther 9:1-10.

When: _____

What:

4. How is Haman repeatedly described throughout Esther? (Consider [3:10, 7:6, 8:1, 9:10, and 9:24](#))

5. What **HAPPENED** to the enemies of the Jews in Esther according to 9:5?

6. How do you **RECONCILE** this event with [Matthew 5:43-48](#)?

7. What **REASON** does the author give for the Jews' success in 9:2 and 9:3

8. What had the edict specifically said the Jews could do, and yet they didn't (9:10)? (Review your answer Day 5/#3) Why do you think they didn't?

9. What happens to Haman's sons? Why do you think the author takes care to name each one of them?

...JEWISH CULTURE...

Jews to this day read aloud the complete Megillat Esther (the scroll of Esther) on Purim every year. Not only is Esther read, it is sung – or actually chanted in a style developed by Ezra during the exile. When chanting Esther, an interesting tradition remains - to sing all the names of Haman's sons quickly and in one breath because the sons all died together.

Also interesting, is the way Haman's sons names are arranged on the scroll. Unlike the rest of Esther, this portion is arranged so they form the basic shape of a gallows. You can hear a cantor chant this passage by going to the "Bible Study: Esther" playlist on my YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond](https://www.youtube.com/c/JenniferRichmond)

...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

Recall that six centuries before Esther, God had specifically commanded Israel's first king, Saul, to kill Agag, the wicked king of the Amalekites. Saul didn't kill Agag. Instead, he spared the king and all the good spoils from the Amalekites. Fast-forward to Esther, and we meet up with a long-lost descendant of this very king – the "evil Haman." Not only does Haman, an Amalekite, die, but at the decree of Mordecai, all enemies of the Jews are taken out including Haman's sons. How different might it have been had Saul obeyed God 600 years earlier. How might your obedience or disobedience impact the generations that follow you? Don't think you are exempt from the lasting blessing of your faithfulness or the consequence of your sin. Mordecai's admonition to Esther is for us as well. "Don't think you'll be spared." Act in faith and fearlessly obey God no matter what.

5. Summarize the events of the 13th, 14th, and 15th of Adar for the Jews in Susa and the Jews in the rest of the provinces as recorded in [Esther 9:1-19](#)

	<u>in Susa</u>	<u>in other Provinces</u>
13 Adar		
14 Adar		
15 Adar		

6. **DESCRIBE** a time in your life when you know that God gave you a victory. Have you been able to share that moment and encourage others because of it? How so?

7. **REVIEW** Psalm 42. How does David counsel himself when he is so “downcast” in his soul?

...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

The idea of recalling to mind the faithfulness of God is throughout Scripture. God told his people to set stones at the boundaries of their lands to leave a visual reminder of His deliverance. Every feast day recorded in Leviticus points to the greatness of God – deliverance, provision, forgiveness and more. In Psalm 42 David is so sad and depressed he says it feels like he’s drowning, but through that, he says “I remember.” David calls to mind the good times with God and with God’s people, and he asks the same question we should, “Why be so sad? God’s got this!” As the Jews rejoiced with gladness and feasting at their miraculous deliverance, we should follow their example. Recall the greatness of God, rejoice in what He’s done, and retell the account to bless others and lift our own soul from deep sadness.

...Lesson Six - Day Eight...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:11

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE: [Psalm 42:11](#)
 - READ & WRITE: [Esther 9:20-32](#)
 - MEDITATE ON: [Psalm 30](#)
 - COMPLETE: today's questions
- (There are pages available at the end of this lesson for you to write Esther 7:1-10:3)



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

1. **WHAT PHRASES** from Psalm 30 (our meditation passage) speak to your heart today in light of what you're going through or in light of what you're seeing in our text from Esther...or both?

2. What two actions does Mordecai take after these events? (9:20)

3. What was the purpose of Mordecai's letters?

4. **DRAW A LINE** in your Bible connecting the wording of Esther 9:1 "the reverse had occurred" (ESV) and Esther 9:22 "turned for them" (ESV). Add Psalm 30 as a cross-reference in the margin of your Bible.
5. The theme of reversals of events and even people "turning" is hard to miss in this account, but in case the reader did, the author lays it out in 9:22. List the reversal pairs of words and illustrate them here.
C'mon now, have some fun, grab your markers, and really make this colorful!

6. **HOW DOES THE AUTHOR** describe the tone of the holiday being instituted at the end of 9:22?

7. **WHAT SPECIFICALLY** does the author say shall be done on this holiday?

8. What is the origin of the name of this holiday?

9. **WHAT THREE REASONS** does the author give in 9:26 for why all Jews would be obligated to observe Purim?

10. There is some disagreement amongst scholars as to whether or not Jesus observed Purim and Dedication. What do you think? Support your answer biblically as you are able. Listen to today's session on the Dwelling Richly podcast for my thoughts.

11. **WHAT** does Esther do in 9:29-32? Why?

...THINK ABOUT THIS...

There are 7 feasts appointed by God at Sinai that He clearly outlined for all Jews to observe. You can find these in Leviticus 23. They are Sabbath, Passover, First-Fruits, Weeks, Trumpets, and Atonement. Two holidays are observed by Jews that were not instituted by God at Sinai: Purim and Festival of Dedication *or* "Hanukkah" *as it is called today*. Hanukkah is not recorded in the Old Testament because the event it commemorates took place during the intertestamental time between Malachi and Matthew in our Bible.

...REFLECT ON THE WORD...

Ultimately, God has promised that "joy comes in the morning" and not just for a day, but forever when "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev. 21:4) So, the joyful reversals and thrilling relief in the turnings of Esther are just a foretaste of the greatest joy, the final relief, and the culmination of all turnings when every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord! What a day! What a glorious day to anticipate.

While we wait and long for that day we "sing the praises of the Lord and praise his holy name!"

...Lesson Six - Day Nine...

...WRITE & MEMORIZE THE WORD...

PSALM 42:11

TODAY'S LESSON:

- WRITE & MEMORIZE: [Psalm 42:11](#)
 - READ & WRITE: [Esther 10:1-3](#)
 - MEDITATE ON: [Psalm 122](#)
 - COMPLETE: today's questions
- (There are pages available at the end of this lesson for you to write Esther 7:1-10:3)



...DWELL IN THE WORD...

So, here we are at the final verses of Esther. What a journey. What a story. What a reminder of God's faithfulness. As you're finishing today's lesson know that I have prayed over every word and asked God to bless you with peace and confidence in His love for you.

1. **HOW DOES THE ACCOUNT** in Esther - Mordecai's role in particular - reflect the truth of Psalm 122 to you?

2. **CONTRAST** the way Haman and Mordecai served in the king's government.

3. **REVIEW** Esther 9:30. How does the author describe the words of the second letter?

4. **TO WHAT SPECIFICALLY** could this "peace" and "truth" be referring? Consider that the author chose these words with intention and perhaps to draw attention to some kind of new age in the kingdom. What do you think?

5. With all this peace and truth, why bring up the taxes? **CONSIDER** what this time of peace and truth would have enabled the Jews to do.

|

6. **HOW** is Mordecai remembered in this account? And why?

|

7. **IMAGINE THIS:** Mordecai is the Prime Minister of Persia, second only to the king, and yet he is remembered as a man who “spoke peace to all his people.” What does this reveal to you about Mordecai’s character?

|

8. **READ** [Romans 8:28](#). How do you see that truth revealed in the account of Esther and Mordecai’s lives?

|

...REFLECT ON THE WORD – DIY...

9. Based on what you’ve learned through Esther, what would you say to a friend who is struggling in her faith today?

|

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

Esther



A vertical decorative border on the left and right sides of the page, featuring intricate black and white patterns. The patterns include stylized floral motifs, geometric shapes like circles and triangles, and swirling lines. The central area of the page is filled with horizontal ruling lines, providing a space for writing.

Esther

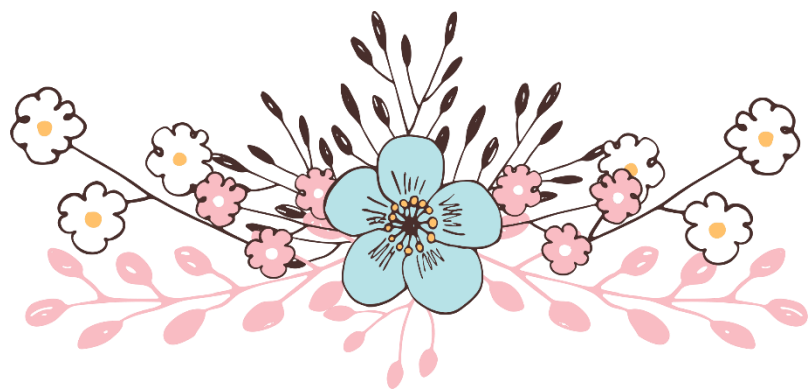


A series of horizontal lines for writing, framed by decorative borders on the left and right sides.

Esther



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



*Faithful &
Fearless*
RUTH & ESTHER

