

Teaching Tips

November 19
Bible Study Guide 12

Words You Should Know

A. Wrath (Esther 3:5)—The word is used here to describe Haman’s emotional response to Mordecai’s refusal to honor him. The word speaks of Haman’s anger, rage, annoyance, and resentment toward Mordecai.

B. Decree (4:8)—Other translations use “edict.” A written declaration or proclamation that is usually made public, which calls for a response or merely shares an announcement of some consequence.

C. Shushan (vv. 8, 16)—Modern translations use “Susa.” Susa was one of four major cities in the Persian Empire. It is the city where King Ahasuerus’ royal palace was located.

Teacher Preparation

A. The Book of Esther constitutes one short, self-contained story, and should be read in its entirety. This lesson and the following lesson focus upon key episodes in this book. In order to place these episodes in their best possible context, you are urged to read the entire Book of Esther several times. Put yourself in Esther’s shoes and read it. Then put yourself in Mordecai’s shoes and read it. Jot down thoughts and questions that come to mind each time you read it.

B. Read In Focus, The People, Places, and Times, Background, In Depth, and More Light on the Text. Then go back and read the entire Book of Esther from a modern translation, such as the Living Bible, or the New International Version.

C. Pray and ask the Lord to enable you for this teaching task.

O—Open the Lesson

A. Greet your students and announce the aim of this session. Then in your own words, summarize Esther’s story through chapter four.

B. After you have summarized the story, have a student read the Focal Verses aloud.

P—Present the Scriptures

A. Ask the students to share their thoughts and responses to Esther’s story. List any questions they may have on the chalkboard, then discuss some of their questions. You may want to use some of the questions in the Discuss the Meaning section.

B. Call attention to the Application for Activation section. Have two or three students share about a time when they had to make a decision and God’s guidance was not as clear as they would have liked. Have them tell what things might have influenced their decision.

E—Explore the Meaning

A. Ask students to share any lesson or new understandings about dealing with impossible situations from their study of the Book of Esther.

N—Next Steps for Application

A. Refer to the In Focus story and ask one of the students to read it aloud.

B. Close the class in prayer.