

# Season 3 Study 5: Esther & Mordecai

# THE BIG YEAR

*A Journey through God's Word*

## *Has God been speaking to you through your Bible readings?*

1. What have you found most encouraging about the story of Esther, and the way God works for the deliverance of His people through this fascinating account?
2. God's Name is never mentioned in the book of Esther. Do you find this problematic?
3. Do you see any 'types' of Jesus in this story? Anything that points us to Christ?

### **READ ROMANS 8:28-31**

4. How does the promise of vs 28 relate to the events recorded in the book of Esther? What does it mean that God works 'in all things' for good?
5. What is the ultimate good God is accomplishing through 'all things'? Where do we fit into this great plan?

### **READ ESTHER 8:1-17**

6. What rewards were bestowed on Esther and Mordecai?
7. Why did Esther beg the king to overturn his edict (vs 5)? How did the king and his scribes respond (vs 11)?
8. How was God glorified through all of these events at the end of the day (vs 17)?

### **READ ESTHER 9:1-5 & 11-17**

9. How do you feel about the Jews' retribution?
10. How might this victory have impacted the collective conscience of the Jews and their sense of identity?

### **READ ESTHER 9:18-19 & 23-28**

11. This is why Jews today still celebrate the festival called 'Purim', to remember God's deliverance of the people of Israel. Discuss whether you think Christians should also celebrate the festival of Purim.
12. Have you experienced this truth in your life when you've come through a period of trial, pain or uncertainty, only to look back and see how God used it all for good?

*"...the Jews were no longer afraid. In fact, they were very happy and felt that they had won a victory. In every province and city where the law was sent, the Jews had parties and celebrated. Many of the people in the provinces accepted the Jewish religion, because they were now afraid of the Jews." (Esther 8:16-17 CEV)*