

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in this reading of His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Esther 1 straight through, as you would any book. You can read on, but for this study week we will concentrate on this Chapter.

Questions:

1. In **V1-2**, who was King Xerxes, and how extensive was his kingdom?
2. What do you think was the purpose of the banquet described in **V3-8**?
3. Think about what you may have the tendency to put on display for others to see and reflect on your motivations for doing so.
4. What do you think was behind the King's command when he sent for Queen Vashti in **V10** (why would the King want to show off his Queen to the people)?
5. In **V12**, what was the King's reaction to Vashti's refusal and why?

6. In what areas are you prone to control or take advantage of someone you love for your own purpose?

7. Who did the King turn to for advice in dealing with Vashti's defiance?

8. **In V15**, what was the question the King asked these "wise men?"

9. **In V19**, what advice did Memukan give the King?

10. **In V21-22**, what was the final outcome?

11. Memukan's advice to King Xerxes had a huge ripple effect. To whom or what do you turn to for advice in the challenges you face? What ripple effects have you seen from your source(s) of advice?

For Possible Reflection: Focus verse: / prayer / quote