



A World Where God Seems Absent Small Group Leaders Tips

Connect

Think of one person whom you respect. What are some characteristics of this person? How did he or she gain your respect?

Commit

Read Esther 1

1. **Try to imagine yourself at this banquet. What would you be experiencing? Describe the sights, sounds, smells, etc.**

Help the members of your group produce a scene that they might see in a movie. What are the characters doing? Describe the mood, the atmosphere.

2. **Why does King Xerxes ask Queen Vashti to come to him (v.10-11)? What factors do you think weighed into her decision to refuse the king's request?**

It is clear from the text that King Xerxes is drunk & wanted to showcase his trophy wife to the leaders, princes and nobles of his time. Who knows what his intentions were, but while Queen Vashti might have questioned his motives, she was also busy having her own party as well.

3. **The author probably wanted us to evaluate King Xerxes' character with the teachings of the Old Testament. Contrast how well did Xerxes do in light of these Proverbs:**

He didn't fair well, as he had wrong priorities, a quick temper and was accustomed too much drink.

4. **How do each of the characters in this chapter view gaining and maintaining respect? How might you have handled these matters differently?**

They use wealth, position and power to impress others and gain respect, instead of letting their character speak for itself.

5. **What parallels do you see between our current culture and that found in Esther 1? What are some ways we can live for God in a world that has denied God?**

Many topics to discuss on this: The misuse of power and position, how our society treats women, materialism, entitlement mentality, etc. Have fun.

6. **Does this chapter in Esther 1 make you want to change any of your habits, priorities, methods or decisions? If so, what would you like to change or do differently? How can the group pray for you or your situation?**