



Enemies in Hiding Leaders Tips Small Group Questions

Connect

Think of a time in your life when you've been tempted to seek revenge? What were your feelings and thoughts at the time?

Commit

Read Esther 2:19-3:15

1. **Subplots abound. Secrecy, concubines, obedience, plots to assassinate. Which ones most concern Xerxes? Mordecai? Esther?**

There's a plot to kill the king. Mordecai is threatened by Mordecai is threatens to kill off all his people. Virgins had been assembled a second time (2:19). It's a TV mini series in action. Discuss the implications of the storyline.

2. **What is the conflict between Haman & Mordecai that causes Haman's intense reaction to Mordecai (v.2-6)?**

The conflict begins by Mordecai refusing to honor Haman and bow down to him. However there is a history here between the Jews and the Amalekites, Haman's people, a rivalry that existed for years. So it's really goes beyond the scope of this relationship.

3. **What might the author have been trying to communicate in his detailed description of the edict? Describe the atmosphere of the kingdom after the edict had been proclaimed.**

The author uses repetition of words such as *envy*, *every* and *all* to emphasize the intensity of the threat against the Jews. It was clear this edict was for everyone. No one would be missed.

4. **Read Ephesians 4:25-27. How do you usually deal with anger? What do you learn about anger from this story and Paul's exhortation in Ephesians 4?**

Until we learn to forgive others as Christ forgave us, we are held in bondage by the unforgiveness of our heart.

5. **Describe the cycle of pain that Pastor Rick referred to his in message. Why doesn't seeking revenge work?**

When we take revenge, it hurts the person back and then they want revenge, which hurts us and it goes back and forth.

6. **Read Ephesians 4:32. How might you guard against anger and seeking revenge in your relationships? Is there a person in your life that God may be asking you to forgive? If so, how can we pray for you?**