

WEEK SIX: ESTHER

Friday **Esther 5–6**

Long ago, the people of God were living in a faraway land. God had allowed them to be taken to this land because they continued to be unfaithful to him and continued to love other things in their life more than they loved God. God wanted them to turn to him and to love him more than any of the things he had given them.

The ruler of this land, King Ahasuerus, set out in search of a queen. Esther was chosen. Esther was one of the people of God. She had been raised by her uncle Mordecai. Mordecai also believed in the true God.

Mordecai refused to bow down to a high official named Haman. This made Haman angry. In fact, Haman was so angry at Mordecai he wanted to destroy not only Mordecai but all of God's people.

Mordecai told Esther to go to the king to ask that God's people be spared. Mordecai told Esther that she may have become queen for this reason, so she would be in position to help her people.

Esther did as Mordecai asked and went before the king. In those days, anyone who came before the king without being invited might be sentenced to death, even the king's wife! When the king saw Esther, however, he welcomed her. Esther told the king what Haman was doing. She pleaded with the king for the lives of her people. The king honored Esther's request, and God's people were saved. Esther did a difficult thing. She risked her life in order to plead for her people, whom she loved.

In a way, Esther reminds us of Easter. Jesus risked his life to save us and all people, whom he loves. But Jesus did more than risk his life – he gave his life on the cross to save us! And rose from the dead to proclaim and prove his love for all!

• **What opportunities to speak up in love and help others has God placed in your life?**

Dear Lord, thank you for winning the victory for me over sin, death, and the devil. Give me opportunities to speak up in order to help others. May the Holy Spirit give me strength to know what is the right thing to do and the courage to do it. Amen.