

THE WELL: BEYOND SUNDAY

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY



How to Use The Well

THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

Esther 6:1-13

"The king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." - Esther 6:3

THIS WEEK'S CORE THEME

Faithfulness

Faithfulness means doing what is right without making recognition our motivation.

Q?

Am I willing to do what is right even when no one notices?

The Well is designed to help you slow down, study God's Word for yourself, and put what you learn into practice. It follows a simple progression: observe what the passage says, think more deeply about what it means, use the provided resources to help you understand it, and then consider how God wants you to respond.

There is no single right way to complete the study. You can work through it in one sitting, spread it across several days, or simply move at a pace that works for you. The goal is not to complete every page or question perfectly, but to spend meaningful time in Scripture and respond to what God is showing you. The final section helps you think in terms of what the passage calls you to Do, Know, and Become. Remember, these actions do not earn God's favor or make you a better Christian by themselves; they are a response to His grace and a way to live out what He is already doing in you.

A Few Ways to Use It

One Sitting — 30-40 minutes

Read the passage, complete the observation and interpretation questions, look through the commentary and resources, and finish with the application section.

Five Days

- Day 1 — Read: Read the entire passage slowly. Mark anything that stands out.
- Day 2 — Observe: Complete Dig Into the Text.
- Day 3 — Interpret: Answer the Dig Deeper questions.
- Day 4 — Explore: Read the commentary and key-word sections.
- Day 5 — Apply: Write the main message for your life and consider what God is calling you to Do, Know, and Become.

Or Make It Your Own

Spend more time on a section that interests you. Skip a question and come back to it later. Read the passage several times. Discuss the questions with your family, a friend, or your group. Do the work, but do not feel like you have to do everything the same way every week. The purpose is not to complete a worksheet—it is to know God through His Word and allow His truth to shape your life.

1 Article on the Passage

When Pride Meets Humility

The story of Esther reaches its most dramatic turning point not with a loud miracle, but with a quiet case of insomnia. On the night before Esther's second banquet, King Ahasuerus found himself unable to rest. The Hebrew expression for "the sleep of the king fled" suggests a vivid image—as if sleep itself had literally run away from the monarch. This was not a simple medical issue or a case of indigestion; it was a strategic divine intervention.

While the king lay awake, God was at work behind the scenes, preparing the stage for a massive shift in power. To pass the time, the king requested the royal chronicles—the official records of his reign—to be read to him.

Of all the many volumes of records that could have been pulled from the shelf, the librarian "happened" to select the one containing the account of Mordecai.

This record, written five years earlier, detailed how Mordecai had saved the king's life by exposing an assassination plot. In a kingdom where kings prided themselves on rewarding loyalty promptly, the fact that Mordecai had been forgotten for five years was a massive bureaucratic oversight. Yet, this delay was perfectly timed by God. As many have noted, God's delays are not denials; they are strategic setups. Had Mordecai been rewarded immediately, he would not have been in the position to be honored at this exact moment when the Jewish people were facing imminent destruction. God held the reward in reserve for the precise hour it was needed most.

The irony of the situation peaks when Haman enters the outer court early the next morning. Haman arrived with a heart full of hate, intending to ask for Mordecai's execution. Instead, he found himself trapped by his own ego. When the king asked how to honor a man he delighted in, Haman was so

convinced the king meant him that he described a reward fit for a coronation. He suggested royal robes the king had worn and a horse the king had ridden, specifically one with a "royal crest" or crown on its head—a detail confirmed by ancient Persian reliefs. The "reputation" Haman craved was based entirely on outward show and the envy of others, while the "character" of Mordecai was rooted in quiet, humble faithfulness.

The scene that followed was a total reversal of Haman's expectations. The very man Haman planned to hang was instead paraded through the streets by Haman himself, who was forced to shout Mordecai's praises. This moment shows how human recognition is fleeting and hollow compared to God's perfect timing. By the time Haman returned home, his own advisors and wife saw the "handwriting on the wall." They realized that if Mordecai was of Jewish descent, Haman's downfall was not just likely—it was already certain because God protects His own. God's invisible hand had turned a night of restlessness into a day of deliverance, proving that no human plan can stand against His sovereign will. To truly understand this story, we must now "slow down" to see the details Haman missed.

2 DIG INTO THE TEXT

Esther 6:1-13 (ESV)

1 On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

2 And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

4 And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

5 And the king's young men told him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

6 So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"

7 And Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,

8 let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set.

9 And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.' "

10 Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned."

11 So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor."

12 Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

13 And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him."

[Observation]

This is a step by step Bible study . This first part is just to observe the text, nothing more. Follow the steps below to help you observe the passage.

- Circle the names of the three key people (Ahasuerus, Haman, Mordecai)
- Highlight every time the word "honor" appears.
- Underline Haman's specific suggestions for how to honor someone in verses 7–9.
- Draw a box around the phrase "Mordecai the Jew" in verse 10.
- Identify and mark the contrast between Haman's morning entrance (v. 4) and his hurried exit (v. 12).

What one word would you use to describe the **TONE** of this passage? (i.e., stern, joyful, cautious, etc.)

Is there anything you do not understand in this passage?

What is the main theme of this passage?

Answer the questions to help you understand the passage more deeply.

1. Mordecai saved the king five years before this night. Why might God have allowed the king to "forget" to reward him for so long, and how does the timing in verse 1 change the impact of the reward?
2. Why does the "wise men's" warning in verse 13 sound so certain about Haman's defeat?
3. The king asked "Who is in the court?" exactly when Haman entered. How does this show God's control over timing?
4. Why did Haman assume the king wanted to honor him in verse 6?
5. Based on verse 13, what did Haman's advisors recognize about the Jewish people?

The turning point of Esther begins with a sleepless king. Although God's name never appears in the book, the timing of events points to His unseen care. While Ahasuerus lay awake, he ordered the royal chronicles to be read. The account brought before him described how Mordecai had exposed a plot against his life several years earlier.

When the king asked what honor Mordecai had received, the answer was simple: nothing. An overlooked act of loyalty suddenly became the center of royal attention. What appeared to be a forgotten reward now served a greater purpose. Just as Haman arrived to request Mordecai's execution, the king was considering how to honor him.

This account encourages us to trust God when faithfulness seems unnoticed. It does not promise immediate recognition or explain every delay, but it reminds us that our limited perspective cannot measure the reach of God's purposes.

The Irony of Haman's Arrival

Haman entered the court determined to destroy Mordecai. Before he could make his request, the king asked what should be done for someone he wished to honor. Haman immediately assumed that person must be himself.

His response exposed the blindness of pride. He could imagine no one more deserving of royal recognition. Without realizing it, Haman began planning a celebration for the very man he hated. The contrast is striking: Haman actively pursued his own importance, while Mordecai's earlier service spoke for itself. The passage challenges us to examine our motives. Are we willing to serve faithfully, or does our satisfaction depend on receiving credit?

A Blueprint for Honor Rooted in Pride

Haman's proposal revealed his hunger for status. He requested a robe the king had worn, a horse the king had ridden, and a noble official to lead the honored man through the city, publicly announcing the king's favor.

These were visible symbols of royal distinction. Haman wanted more than personal appreciation; he wanted everyone to witness his importance. His desire for recognition had become an appetite that position and privilege could not satisfy.

Pride works similarly in us. We may begin by appreciating encouragement, then gradually depend on applause to feel valuable. When recognition becomes our goal, serving others can become another way of serving ourselves.

The Great Reversal and the Humiliation of Pride

The king's command shattered Haman's expectations: carry out every detail for Mordecai the Jew. The man Haman intended to execute would receive the honor Haman had imagined for himself.

Haman dressed Mordecai in royal clothing, led him through the city, and proclaimed the king's favor. His carefully designed celebration became his own public humiliation.

Afterward, Mordecai returned to the king's gate, while Haman hurried home mourning, with his head covered. Scripture does not describe Mordecai's inner thoughts, but his return to the gate contrasts sharply with Haman's distress.

This reversal exposes the instability of an identity built on public approval. Honor could not secure Haman's peace because pride always demanded more. For believers, lasting security rests in belonging to Christ, freeing us to serve without making recognition our reward.

The Warning Signs of a Certain Fall

At home, Haman received no reassurance. His wife and advisers warned that his reversal before Mordecai the Jew signaled a downfall he could not overcome. Their words deepen the story's warning: Haman's power could not guarantee the success of his hatred.

The passage does not record Haman repenting. Yet his humiliation invites readers to consider their own response when pride is exposed. Will we defend ourselves, blame others, or humble ourselves before God?

Esther 6 calls us to release our demand for recognition, take pride seriously, and remain faithful in ordinary responsibilities. Depending on God, we can serve with humility and leave the outcome in His hands.

Here are some important terms used in this passage:

- **Providence:** God's invisible hand guiding everyday events and "coincidences" to work out His perfect plan.
- **Chronicles:** The official daily record books where a king's helpers wrote down important events, deeds, and facts about the kingdom.
- **Insomnia:** The inability to sleep, which in this story was a tool used by God to get the King's attention at the perfect time.
- **Royal Crest:** A special symbol or crown placed on the king's horse to show that the animal belonged specifically to royalty.
- **Eunuchs:** Specially assigned palace officials and servants who attended to the needs of the king and queen.

Main Message of This Passage

God's quiet reversal of human plans—bringing honor to Mordecai and humiliation to Haman. Through seemingly ordinary events, God's providence becomes evident as Haman's pride leads to his downfall and Mordecai's previously overlooked faithfulness is recognized.

Main Message for Your Life

(rewrite the main message above to personally apply to your own life)

For each question, identify a clear response the passage calls you to Do, Know, Become. Remember, **these actions do not earn God's favor or make you a better Christian by themselves**; they are a response to His grace and a way to live out what He is already doing in you. (See examples below- Topics to Focus On)

1. What does this passage want me to DO?

(What does God want me to do in response to this truth? ex. Practices that help me grow spiritually)

2. What does this passage want me to KNOW?

(What truth do I need to know, believe or remember?)

3. What does this passage want me to BECOME?

(How is God shaping me to become more like Christ?)

Topics to Focus On

Use these topics to help recognize what a passage teaches you to DO, KNOW, and BECOME. This list is not all inclusive, but just some examples.

Do (Practices): Prayer, Quiet Time, Reading God's Word, Sharing your Faith, Studying the Bible, Consistent Community, Silence and Solitude, Serving, Fasting, Calling, Missions

Know (Truths): Man's Fallen State, Grace Through Faith, Salvation, The Local Church, Baptism, Who is God?, Abiding with Jesus, Exchanged Life, Spiritual Rest, Being a Cheerful Giver, The Great Commission, Discipleship, Commands of Christ

Become (Character): The Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

KIDS AND FAMILY



PARENT CONNECTION

God often uses "unlikely heroes" to save His people. Even though Esther was a queen, she was scared! God also uses "helpers" like Hathach, who stayed busy carrying messages to make sure the right things happened. God has a plan for your life, and He can use you to be a helper or a hero right where you are.

Discovery Session: Questions for Kids (Under Age 12)

MEMORY VERSE:

"A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor."

— Proverbs 29:23

3 SIMPLE QUESTIONS

- Why did Haman think the king wanted to honor him?

Parent's Note: Haman was proud and thought he was more important than anyone else.

- What is the difference between being proud and being humble?

Parent's Note: Pride says, "I'm better than others." Humility remembers that others matter just as much as we do."

- How can we celebrate someone else when they receive praise or a reward?

Parent's Note: We can congratulate them, cheer for them, and thank God for the good things happening in their lives.

Family Action Step

Choose someone your family can encourage this week. Make a card or tell them something you appreciate about them. Together, ask God to help you grow in humility and find joy in celebrating others.

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