



# Esther

## A Guide for Facilitators

### Role of the Facilitator

The primary role of the facilitator is to coordinate the flow of each session. The facilitator is not expected (and should resist the temptation) to provide answers for the class. The facilitator can also help or be responsible for organizing the location of the gatherings, collecting supplies and materials, organizing refreshments, recruiting participants, etc.

### Printed Materials

There are three sets of written materials for *Uppity Women of the Bible: Esther* available online at [www.uppitywomenofthebible.com](http://www.uppitywomenofthebible.com):

- 1) The Introductory material and Outline for participants
- 2) The weekly Discussion Guide with questions for participants (one to two pages each week).
- 3) Facilitator Guide to assist leaders.

Many people will find it helpful to provide a three-hole punch and a three-ring binder in order to keep all their materials together. An 8.5x11 binder cover (to slide into the front of binders with clear vinyl covers) is available on the supplemental materials page of [www.uppitywomenofthebible.com](http://www.uppitywomenofthebible.com).

### The Text

Be sure to encourage participants to have a Bible in front of them during each session. There will be frequent references to passages throughout the Bible, some of which people will want to look up. A variety of translations will be helpful, but Dr. Wolfe primarily uses the text of the New Revised Standard Version.

**NOTE:** *Other helpful reference books include Bible dictionaries, Bible commentaries, Bible atlases and annotated Bibles (rather than devotional Bibles).*

### Preparation

- 1) View the DVD segment ahead of time and make your own notes and observations regarding its contents. Note your own observations on your Discussion Guide.
- 2) Duplicate the necessary number of copies of the Discussion Guide before each gathering. Have extras of everything (Discussion Guides, pens/pencils, etc.) for visitors or folks who forget their materials.

## Setting

The most important thing about preparing the meeting place is for people to be comfortable. Arrive early; help organize any refreshments AND MAKE SURE TO TEST THE DVD TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THE CORRECT DISC AND THAT EVERYTHING WORKS!

## Session Outline

*Uppity Women of the Bible* has been produced with flexibility in mind. The duration of the DVD input for each session varies each week. Depending on the amount of time committed to reading the actual text of *Esther* and the extent of conversation in your group, sessions can be completed in under one hour or expanded to fill well over an hour.

- 1) It's always good to begin with introductions, especially the first week, but also whenever you have new people in attendance.
- 2) Depending on the session, it may be appropriate to read the pertinent chapter from Esther aloud. As the first session's video is short, reading the entire book of Esther as a group may be worth tackling at this time.
- 3) As a warm-up, be sure to review any observations or questions from the previous session.
- 4) View DVD session (5-15 minutes).
- 5) Discuss the questions from the Discussion Guide.

**NOTE:** *if your group is larger than 4 or 5 people, be sure to divide up into groups of three (and at most, four) people to discuss the questions prior to sharing people's observations and learnings with the whole gathering.*

If you have time remaining after viewing and discussing one DVD segment, move on to the next session of *Uppity Women of the Bible: Esther*. Otherwise, save the remaining sessions for your next gathering.

## Closing

Depending on the tradition and comfort level of your group, each session may be closed with silent reflection or spoken prayer. The facilitator may want to have someone identified through a sign-up sheet who will be responsible for the close of each session.



### Group dynamics tips from Dr. Wolfe:

- Everyone should take responsibility for making sure everyone else gets an equal amount of time to talk.
- Listen to others first; evaluate later. Make sure you understand a comment, then ask questions or pose other options.
- The better your group knows one another, the better discussions you will have. Start with snacks and end with prayer (or vice versa)!
- Don't be afraid to ask questions of the Bible, the Bible study, or your other resources! Throughout the centuries, people of faith have struggled with the Bible. You are joining the rich tradition of those spiritual thinkers.

## The DVD Sessions of Uppity Women of the Bible: ESTHER

1. Who's Who
2. Setting the Stage
3. The Defiant Queen
4. From Coronation to Doomsday
5. The King's Scepter
6. Uppity Esther?

