



Esther

Session 6: Uppity Esther?

Before watching today's DVD session and discussing the questions below, re-read *The Book of Esther*, chapter 8.1-10.3.

1. In the final analysis, what was Haman up to?
2. By what method was Haman executed?
3. How are Haman's plans reversed?
4. After reading the story of Haman's execution, his sons' hangings, and the revenge of the Jews in Susa and elsewhere, how do you see *Esther* justifying or condemning the role of violence in resolving conflict?
5. How would you lead a discussion on keeping the genre of "revenge fantasy" separate from behavior in real life?
6. Taking into consideration that God is not mentioned in *Esther*, what is the implicit "theology" of this book?

7. Why is this story so profoundly relevant for Jews today?

8. Who are the heroines/heroes in *Esther*?

9. Share the stories of any women you know (or women in history) who were like Vashti (where their “uppitness” led more or less in their demise)?

10. Share the stories of any women you know (or women in history) who were like Esther, who used their sexuality and its influence to provide safety for themselves and/or their people?

11. What are the implications of this session’s material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

12. What are the implications of the whole book of *Esther* for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

