

What Can We Learn from Esther?

Esther 1:12- “Queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s command.”

Was there ever a time when you took a strong position counter to that of someone in authority? What happened? How did it feel? What were the consequences, negative and positive?

Esther 2:10- “Esther did not reveal her people or her birth.”

When have you felt the need to hide some aspect of your identity or pretend to be something that you were not? What was the situation? How did it feel? What were the results?

Esther 3:5- “When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel or bow low to him, Haman was filled with rage.”

What makes you feel rage? When is rage an appropriate response to a situation? What has been helpful to you in

moving beyond that sense of rage? What are healthy ways to express rage?

Esther 3:8- “There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king’s laws; and it is not in the King’s interest to tolerate them.”

Do you find yourself struggling with stereotyping groups of people? Have you ever been stereotyped by others? How can we overcome this tendency to divide people into *us* and *them*? Why do you think people stereotype?

Esther 4:16- “Then I shall go to the king, though it is contrary to the law, and if I am to perish, I shall perish.”

When was a time that you had to reach into the deepest depths of your own being to summon up your courage to face a personal challenge? What was that experience like for you?

Esther 6:3- What honor or treasure have we bestowed on Mordecai on account of this?

Acknowledging the good in our lives is a basic Jewish value. When have you been on the giving end of a special acknowledgement? When have you been on the receiving end of a special acknowledgement? How did those experiences feel to you?

Esther 9:28- “These days shall be remembered and observed in every generation, family by family, state by state, city by city.”

What is a special moment in your and/or the life of your family which you will never forget and is the source of great joy? How will you be sure to remember that moment? How do you share that moment with others?