Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Esther 8-10

God's Hand in History

Getting Started

What kinds of things do you tend to worry about, or complain about?

Digging In

1. **Read 8:1-2**. How did King Xerxes reward Esther and Mordecai?

2. **Read 8:3-6**. Why did Esther plead with the king a second time?

3. **Read 8:7-14**. How did King Xerxes and Mordecai solve the problem?

4. What was the response of the Jews? (**8:15-17**)

5. **Read 9:1-10**. How did the Jews turn the tables on Haman, and on *those seeking their destruction*?

6. **Read 9:11-19**. Why did the Jews in the city of Susa celebrate their deliverance on a different day than those in the provinces?

7. **Read 9:20-32**. How did the feast of Purim become an annual celebration for the Jews?

8. **Read ch. 10**. What final commendation is given for Mordecai?

9. How is God's providential care of his people seen in these chapters?

10. How would the book of Esther have encouraged the Jews living in exile and in Jerusalem?

Getting Personal

- How is *God's hand in history* seen in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther?

- What are the three most important lessons you've learned from our study of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther?

- How will these help you to remain faithful in the days ahead? Be specific.