DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PLAN

For Such a Time: Esther and Nehemiah

Nine studies through two people who risked everything at the moment it mattered.

9 Bible Studies by CoMission

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

For Such a Time: Esther and Nehemiah

CONTENTS

◆ How a Discovery Bible Study works

1 **A king's banquet, a queen's refusal** Esther 1:1-22

2 **An orphan becomes queen** Esther 2:1-23

3 **A plot against a people** Esther 3:1-15

4 **“For such a time as this”** Esther 4:1-17

5 **The tables turn**
Esther 5:1-8 · Esther 6:1-11 · Esther 7:1-10

6 **A man who wept and prayed**
Nehemiah 1:1-11 · Nehemiah 2:1-8

7 **“Let us rise up and build”** Nehemiah 2:11-20

8 **Building with one hand, armed with the other**
Nehemiah 4:1-23

9 **The Word is read, the people weep**
Nehemiah 8:1-18

More Bible study plans at **comission.cc**

How a Discovery Bible Study works

This page is for whoever leads the study. Everyone else only needs the passage.

A Discovery Bible Study has no teacher. The person leading only asks the questions; the Bible does the teaching. That is what makes it simple enough for anyone to lead — no title, no training, no materials, no money.

EAT, DIGEST, GROW

Eat the Word — Read the passage aloud, read it again, then close the Bible and have someone retell it in their own words. Reading is the bite, re-reading the chewing, the retelling the swallow. If the group can't retell it, read it once more before going on.

Digest — Work through the four questions. This is where the passage turns into faith and obedience — answered from what the text actually says, not from what someone already knew.

Grow — Growth is God's part, not yours. One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7). Do the cycle faithfully and leave the growing to Him.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**
2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**
3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**
4. **Who will I tell?**

THE SHAPE OF A MEETING

Look back — What are you thankful for? What is hard right now? How did you obey what we found last time, and who did you tell? Pray briefly for each other.

Look up — Read, re-read, retell — then the four questions.

Look forward — Each person says their own “I will…” out loud and names one person they will tell. Next time, the group asks about both. Asking is what turns a discussion into obedience.

THE ONE RULE: DON'T TEACH

The moment you start explaining, the group stops discovering. If someone says something that is not in the passage, do not correct them — ask, kindly, “Where do you see that in this passage?” and let them look. The text and the group sort it out. This is the rule that lets someone who has been in two studies lead the third.

Four to fifteen people. About an hour, once a week. Nothing else required.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

A king's banquet, a queen's refusal

Esther 1:1-22

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does King Xerxes put on display at his banquets, and what happens when Queen Vashti refuses to come?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Human power fills this chapter, yet God is never named. Where have you assumed God was absent because he was silent?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   How will you trust God's quiet rule this week in a situation that seems controlled by powerful people?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you tell about a God who is at work even where his name is never mentioned?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, even in a palace where no one speaks your name, you are already at work. Help me trust that you rule over kings and kingdoms — and over the details of my life.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY An orphan becomes queen

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

An orphan becomes queen

Esther 2:1-23

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does Esther, an orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai, end up as queen of Persia?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   When have you ended up somewhere you never planned to be — and could God have placed you there?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   In which place God has put you — home, work, neighborhood — will you serve him on purpose this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear that God has plans even for the overlooked and forgotten?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, thank you that no one is too small or forgotten for your plans. You placed Esther, an orphan far from home, exactly where she would be needed — and you place me too.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY A plot against a people comission.cc/en/study/for-such-a-time/03/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

A plot against a people

Esther 3:1-15

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Why does Haman hate Mordecai, and what decree does he persuade the king to sign?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Mordecai would not bow. What pressures push you to bow where you should stand?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Where will you refuse to bow this week, even if it costs you something?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   With whom could you share what you are learning about standing firm when it costs?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, when evil people gain power and your people are threatened, remind me that Haman's story is not the end of the story. Keep me faithful like Mordecai, even when standing firm is dangerous.*

This study online

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

“For such a time as this”

Esther 4:1-17

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Mordecai ask Esther to do, and what does she risk by doing it?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   For what moment might God have placed you exactly where you are right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What risky step of obedience will you take this week, after praying like Esther fasted, trusting God with the outcome?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear that their position — job, family, city — may be God's placement for such a time as this?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord, you have placed me where I am for such a time as this. Give me Esther's courage to say, 'If I perish, I perish' — and then to act.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY The tables turn comission.cc/en/study/for-such-a-time/05/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

The tables turn

Esther 5:1-8

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does God turn the tables on Haman across these three scenes — the banquets, the king's sleepless night, and the gallows?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where does evil seem to be winning in your life or your world right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   How will you, like Esther, pair patient wisdom with brave truth-telling this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear that God can turn a story around when everything seems lost?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, thank you that in one sleepless night you can turn everything around. When evil seems to be winning, help me wait on you and act with Esther's wisdom and courage.*

This study online

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

The tables turn

Esther 6:1-11

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does God turn the tables on Haman across these three scenes — the banquets, the king's sleepless night, and the gallows?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where does evil seem to be winning in your life or your world right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   How will you, like Esther, pair patient wisdom with brave truth-telling this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear that God can turn a story around when everything seems lost?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, thank you that in one sleepless night you can turn everything around. When evil seems to be winning, help me wait on you and act with Esther's wisdom and courage.*

This study online

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

The tables turn

Esther 7:1-10

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does God turn the tables on Haman across these three scenes — the banquets, the king's sleepless night, and the gallows?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where does evil seem to be winning in your life or your world right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   How will you, like Esther, pair patient wisdom with brave truth-telling this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear that God can turn a story around when everything seems lost?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, thank you that in one sleepless night you can turn everything around. When evil seems to be winning, help me wait on you and act with Esther's wisdom and courage.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY A man who wept and prayed

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

A man who wept and prayed

Nehemiah 1:1-11

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Nehemiah do when he hears about Jerusalem's ruined walls, and what does he pray in the instant before he answers the king?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What broken thing in your family, church, or city moves you the way Jerusalem's walls moved Nehemiah?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Nehemiah prayed for months before he spoke. What will you begin praying for every day this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you tell about the burden God is laying on your heart?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God of heaven, break my heart with what breaks yours. Like Nehemiah, let me weep, pray for months, and be ready to speak the moment you open a door.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY A man who wept and prayed

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

A man who wept and prayed

Nehemiah 2:1-8

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Nehemiah do when he hears about Jerusalem's ruined walls, and what does he pray in the instant before he answers the king?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What broken thing in your family, church, or city moves you the way Jerusalem's walls moved Nehemiah?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Nehemiah prayed for months before he spoke. What will you begin praying for every day this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you tell about the burden God is laying on your heart?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God of heaven, break my heart with what breaks yours. Like Nehemiah, let me weep, pray for months, and be ready to speak the moment you open a door.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY "Let us rise up and build" comission.cc/en/study/for-such-a-time/10/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

“Let us rise up and build”

Nehemiah 2:11-20

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Nehemiah do by night before saying a word, and how do the people — and the mockers — respond to his call?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What work is God putting in front of you that you cannot do alone?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What first step will you take this week in the work God has shown you?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who will you invite to rise up and build with you?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord, give me Nehemiah's wisdom to look first and speak second, and his boldness to call others to the work. When mockers laugh, help me answer, 'The God of heaven will give us success.'*

This study online

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Building with one hand, armed with the other

Nehemiah 4:1-23

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How do Nehemiah and the people answer mockery and threats — what do they do with their prayers, their tools, and their weapons?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What opposition or discouragement is tempting you to put down your tools and stop building?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What will 'pray and post a guard' look like for you this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is under attack in the work God gave them, whom you could encourage with 'our God will fight for us'?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, when the work you gave me draws ridicule and threats, teach me to do what Nehemiah's people did — pray, post a guard, and keep building. Thank you that you fight for your people.*

This study online

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

The Word is read, the people weep

Nehemiah 8:1-18

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How do the people respond as the Book of the Law is read and explained, and what do the leaders tell them to do instead of mourning?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   When did God's Word last move you deeply — to tears or to joy?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   The people obeyed what they heard that very week. What from God's Word will you put into practice as soon as you understand it?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Like those who sent portions to people who had nothing prepared, with whom will you share what God has given you?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord, give me a heart like theirs — hungry to hear your Word, soft enough to weep, and glad enough to feast. Let the joy of the Lord be my strength.*

This study online

LAST STUDY IN THIS PLAN Choose your next plan

CoMission

Keep making disciples.

This is one of many. Find more Bible study plans and discipleship resources at

comission.cc