

## *Questions for Reflection and Discussion*

### **Esther 5-7**

#### ***Turning the Tables***

##### ***Getting Started***

What gives you hope for the future of America?

##### ***Background***

Good news! Esther has become Queen of Persia. Bad news! Haman is plotting to annihilate the Jews. Good news! Esther is willing to intercede with the king. Bad news – at the risk of her life.

##### ***Digging In***

1. **Read Est 5:1-8.** How was Esther received by King Xerxes? What was her first request?
2. What was her request at the banquet she'd prepared? How does this demonstrate wisdom?
3. **Read 5:9-14.** Why was Haman happy and then angry?
4. How did he plan to get revenge against Mordecai?
5. **Read 6:1-5.** Why did the king want to honor Mordecai?
6. **Read 6:6-14.** How did the king honor Mordecai?
7. How do these verses reveal Haman's pride, humiliation and coming downfall?
8. **Read 7:1-6.** What was Esther's request?
9. How does she finally identify the culprit?
10. **Read 7:7-8.** How did Haman further seal his fate?
11. **Read 7:9-10.** How is his death an example of poetic justice?



##### ***Getting Personal***

- How is God's sovereignty seen in these chapters?
- How can these chapters give us hope for the future of America?
- How might faithfulness in hard times require trust and courage? Give some examples that relate to you personally.
- How can we follow Esther's example of interceding for those whose lives are at risk? Give some examples.