

Using your Bible, fill in the blanks below and answer the thought questions about friends and relationships. Please bring this back to class next week with your Bible.

1. This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over _____ provinces stretching from India to Cush.
2. King Xerxes commanded Queen _____ to be brought before him, but she would not come.
3. Before a girl's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete _____ months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, _____ months with oil of myrrh and _____ with perfumes and cosmetics.
4. Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a _____.
5. When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on _____ and _____, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.
6. Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the _____ who are in Susa, and _____ for me.
7. That night the king could not _____; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.
8. That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of _____, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.
9. The _____ struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.
10. _____ the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.

Some Thoughts for You.

1. Think about a current book that you have read, or a movie that you have seen that depicts someone standing up for others. Be prepared to share this with the class. What impresses you about this person standing up for others? Could you be the star of the movie or character in the movie that stands up? What traits do you see in this character? Are there some parallels between your character and the character of Mordecai in the story of Esther?
2. If you had to make up a title for today's story, or pick a theme for this story, what would you use?
3. Esther was young and beautiful. Do you think that is what won her favor for the king, or did God's providence have anything to do with it?
4. What is the significance of Mordecai telling Esther that deliverance would come from somewhere else if she did not respond (Esther 4:14)?