

“We Must Protect  
**This House!”**

Quiet Times Week 8 – A House of Purpose

## Day1 – A House with a Purpose

**Scriptures**     *Esther 4:12-17, Acts 9:13-16, Ephesians 2:8-10*  
**Question**        *What is the purpose of your family?*

God had a very specific purpose in mind when he chose to use Esther and her family to save the Jewish people. The bible also says the Lord has a plan for us and our families! Take time to write down a list of some of the purposes and missions God has planned for you and your family. Which of these purposes are coming along well? Which ones are in need of attention, repentance and a better plan of action? Be in prayer this week for the Lord to use your family to accomplish the purposes for which he created it. Your family was created “for such a time as this.”

## Day 2 – A House with a Heritage

**Scriptures**     *Esther 2:5-18, Ruth 4:13-17, Matthew 1:1-6, II Timothy 1:3-7*  
**Question**        *What have you “inherited” from those who preceded you?*

Even though she was a great and gifted Woman, God’s purpose did not *begin* with Esther. Her life was preceded by other events and people who might be called her *heritage*. Likewise, most of us can identify a number of other people and events which have led us to our salvation and life. Think about the people who came before you – individuals who reached out to you and helped you to mature as a Christian. Remember those who have served and built the congregations where you have worshipped. Take time today to remember, to encourage and to pray for those who have served as your *spiritual predecessors* and “ancestors” in Christ. Treasure your spiritual heritage!

## Day 3 – A House with a Mission

**Scriptures**     *Esther 2:19-22, I Samuel 17:1-51, Matthew 28:18-20*  
**Question**        *How is your household involved in God’s mission?*

Sometimes our lives get so busy and hectic that we can forget that God has sent us on a mission into the world (John 20:21). What were the important missions for which God sent Esther and her family? What might have happened (or *not* happened) if she had allowed herself to be distracted from her assignments? Think about the various missions that the Lord has assigned to you and to your family. Are you consistently using your household situation as a mission-point for God? What are some changes you need to make to help your home and family to be better used for God’s mission and purpose?

## Day 4 – Each Part Does its Work

**Scriptures**     *Esther 2:1-11, 3:1-6, Ephesians 4:16*  
**Question**        *What jobs has God assigned to your family members?*

It's amazing to think about how many ways Esther and her family members were willing to serve and take a stand for God! In unique (and often challenging) ways Esther was called to use her gifts and her situation to be God's woman. Mordecai, her uncle, also took a courageous stand. Think about the various members of your household. What are some of the roles God has assigned to each of them? What parts do each one play in fulfilling the purpose and mission of God in your family? Take time this week to discuss these things with your family members. Pray that the Lord will help each one of you to identify their various roles and to work for God's glory with all their heart – just like Esther!

## Day 5 – Divine Power for Your Purpose

**Scriptures**     *Esther 8:1-2, I Samuel 18:5-12, Joshua 1:6-9, Acts 18:9-11*  
**Question**        *Is your family relying on the power of God?*

We think of Esther as a courageous and gifted woman, but she was only great because God was with her. Jesus has told us that apart from him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Take a moment to think about some of the things that would have happened to Esther and the Jews if the Lord had not been helping them. These are scary thoughts! Why was God able to so effectively work His will through Esther? What characteristics of Esther's life and heart made this possible? Which areas of your family's life and mission are most in need of divine power and help? Be in prayer that God's presence will be with you in these special challenges.

## Day 6 – A Plan for Your Purpose

**Scriptures**     *Esther 5:1-13, Acts 1:6-8, I Corinthians 16:1-4*  
**Question**        *Is your family organized for victory?*

It wasn't enough for Esther and her family to have zeal for the Lord – there had to be a great game-plan. Most Christians have a heartfelt desire for God's will to be done in their home, but not all Christians are willing to organize, prepare and schedule a plan for victory in their household. From scripture we see how God helped Esther make intelligent plans beforehand to accomplish His will. Take time to plan out some ways your family will pursue its purpose and mission in the world. Make a calendar! Set Goals! Be in prayer! Have a plan for your purpose!

## Day 7 – The Legacy of Your Family

**Scriptures**     *Esther 8:1-8, 9:18-32, Acts 7:44-50, 13:21-23*  
**Question**        *For what will your family be remembered?*

During Esther's life there were many occasions for joy and celebration, but even after her time, people remembered the major accomplishments of her life. Take time today to think about a distant time in your family's future. What are the things you want them to remember about the experience of being in your household? What do you hope that they (and others who spent time in your home) will recall and treasure? What parts of your family's life and purpose do you want them to pass on to their children and to others in future generations? What will be the long-term purpose of your home and family?