

Esther Lesson 1

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Both Ruth and Esther point us to the providence of God in history and in the lives of individuals.

1. Look up the word providence in the dictionary and write the definition in your own words.

Quickly reread the book Ruth

2A. List the ways you saw God work to bring about his purposes in the story of Ruth.

2B. Look over your list again. How were different individuals seeking God's will or not seeking it as He ultimately directed the events of their lives?

2C. From the genealogy at the end of the book, what do you think was God's ultimate purpose in these events?

3. From these passages what can we learn about God's direction of all things: Psalms 103:19, Psalms 135: 6-7, Daniel 4:35, Ephesians 1:11?

4A. The life of Joseph is told in Genesis 37-45. Just skimming through these chapters to refresh your memory, how did God direct the events in the life of Joseph? Give examples. How did God use these events to direct the life and history of Israel?

4B. What principle is laid down in Genesis 50:20 and reiterated in Romans 8:28? How have you seen this lived out in your life? SHARE.

5A. Read 1 Kings 22. How did God's providence play out in the life of Ahab and Jehoshaphat?

5B. In your opinion does one have to be seeking God's will to be directed by him? Give Biblical examples. See Isaiah 42:16.

6. Share with the group a time in your life when you look back and see God's providential hand directing the affairs of your life. What has been the outcome of God's directing in your life?

The book of Esther doesn't directly mention God's sovereignty and doesn't even mention the name of God. But as you study it in the next weeks, look for God's providence as the events unfold.