



Learning To Lean

Text: Esther 4:1-17

Series: Esther, #4

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March 15, 2026

Theme: **Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.**

The role crises play in faith.

1. Lack of faith in God in normal day to day situations leaves you ill-prepared for a crisis. (11)
2. In a crisis a choice of faith must be made. (1, 14-16)

The route to living by faith.

1. Get things straight with God. (1, 3, 16)
2. Place your confidence in God. (14)
3. Act on your confidence in God. (13-17)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Esther 4. Esther and Mordecai, and all the Jewish people, faced a startling, horrifying crisis. After you read the chapter, try to place yourself in their position. How do you think you would have responded? *No easy answers allowed!*

Tuesday. Mordecai and many Jews throughout the empire mourned and fasted when they learned of the decree to kill the Jews. Esther and her servants fasted. What is the significance of fasting coupled with prayer? Check Acts 13:1-3 and 14:21-23 for two examples of fasting and prayer in the New Testament church. Have you ever fasted for a day or more, or skipped a meal to focus on seeking God's direction?

Wednesday. Today review the role crises play in faith (see the outline). When a crisis strikes you have to make a choice to trust God or not—there is no avoiding it, as much as you may try. And so it is critical to realize that you must live by faith in normal day to day situations to be prepared for a crisis. Make a two-column list of where you have and have not consciously lived by faith in the routine circumstances of this week.

Thursday. Today focus on the route to living by faith (see the outline). Walk through the three steps with Mordecai and Esther with the references that are listed. Now walk through these steps looking at your day (or yesterday). Are you living by faith?

Friday - Saturday. On Sunday we plan to consider chapter 5, and the truth that God is in control of events in our world. Read the chapter in preparation for our time together.