

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Irony

Why is there irony in the bible?

- Irony in the Old Testament
 - a. Joseph (Genesis 37:18-20)
 - b. Moses (Exodus 2:10)
 - c. Elijah (1 Kings 18:27)
 - d. Messiah (Isaiah 53:2-3)
 - e. Jonah (Jonah 1:9)

Can you find out more ironic stories in the Old Testament?

- Irony in the book of Esther
 - a. The King (1:12, 20-22, 4:11, 5:1-3)
 - b. Haman (3:13, 5:14, 7:10, 8:2)
 - c. The day of Purim (3:7, 9:1, 22, and 25)

Why is there irony in the book of Esther?

3. Read Esther Ch. 4

4. Discussion

- a. Jews began fasting. What did they expect by fasting?
- b. What do you see in the correspondence between Mordecai and Esther?
Or, what does this chapter try to tell us?
- c. What is the point of Mordecai's argument? And what is the point of Esther's?
- d. Reading chapters 1-4, what do you think about Mordecai?
- e. Do you see any change in Esther? What made or didn't make her change?
- f. Why do you think that even the queen cannot come to the king without permission?
- g. Can you find out yourself in Esther?
- h. In light of diaspora perspective, what is the danger in not standing against the injustice in the world?

5. Closing Prayer