

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 May 22, 2022
“Esther: For Such a Time as This”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this amazing story about Queen Esther and all of the lessons we learn from it about our own lives. Lord, help us to not live our lives for our own selfish desires but help us to understand our purpose and calling. And then give us the courage to live it out for such a time as this. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Esther 4:13-14

[Mordecai] sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

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INTRODUCTION

The story of Esther focuses on the Jewish community that remained living in the Persian capital of Susa after the Babylonian exile was over. The most powerful man in the world at that time was King Xerxes, who was a shallow man who lived his life for his own pleasure and wealth. After an orphan named Esther wins a beauty contest, she becomes the new queen and saves the Jewish people from a genocide ordered by her husband the king. So what do we learn about ourselves from this story.

Like King Xerxes, we all have a shadow mission where we want to center our lives around something selfish and unworthy. God has created us for a purpose to serve him and make this world a better place. Our job is to discern our purpose in this season of life and not give in to our shadow mission. Like Esther, we were created for such a time as this.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your shadow mission? What can you do to keep it from ruling your actions?
2. Are there any contests or events that you believe devalue a group of people today? What can be done to help bring justice for this group?
3. Are there any groups of people that you dislike? Why? What can you do to start seeing them as children of God?
4. What is God calling you to do in this season of your life?
5. Barbara Skinner once said “It’s not your fault, but it’s your time.” What does this statement mean for you?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to work for justice?