

## **ESTHER**

April 19, 2020

### **Our Bible heroes were people just like us**

They asked the same questions and struggled the same ways we do. They only became iconic symbols of faith because they bet everything that God would guide and provide if they trusted and obeyed. They did, and He did!

**Esther 1-3, Hebrews 11-12**

### **At “such a time as this,” team up with God and others**

Mordecai mobilized God’s people to fast and pray—then he mobilized them again when Esther asked him to. When they couldn’t be together, they used a messenger to make sure they still communicated.

**Esther 4**

### **We must focus on today**

Life happens in a series of real-time moments and choices. Setting our minds on God, truth, and good things allows us to see and handle reality better. Focusing on the past, bad stuff, or ourselves makes us miserable and easily manipulated.

**Esther 5-8, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:4-9**

### **We must take responsibility for our own choices**

Mordecai and Esther did not feel prepared or know how things would end, but they trusted God and each other, fasted and prayed for each other, and always told the truth. They submitted to authority but not to “destiny.”

**Esther 9-10**

### **God guides and provides when we trust and obey**

God is always working, even when we can’t sense His presence, and we are always on duty, even when everything seems crazy or on hold. We must serve with humble courage, teaming up to play each of our parts well.

**Proverbs 3:5-6, Colossians 3:17,23**

**Lord, I will...**

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

### **ESTHER**

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#### **Our Bible heroes were people just like us**

How were you prepared for the present crisis?

How were you not prepared and surprised?

What are the biggest questions you and your family are asking?

How are you trusting and obeying?

How is God guiding and providing?

**Esther 1-3, Hebrews 11-12**

#### **At “such a time as this,” team up with God and others**

Who are you fasting and praying with, and what are you praying for?

How are you staying in contact with other believers?

**Esther 4**

#### **We must focus on today**

Share at least one way you have focused on the past, bad stuff, or yourself?

How has that made you more miserable and easily manipulated?

Share at least one way you have focused on right now, good stuff, or God?

How has that made you stronger and more effective?

**Esther 5-8, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:4-9**

#### **We must take responsibility for our own choices**

How do you identify with Mordecai and Esther?

How are you taking responsibility for your own choices?

**Esther 9-10**

#### **God guides and provides when we trust and obey**

How are you serving with humble (teaming up) courage?

How are you seeing God and others playing their parts well?

How are you playing your part well—and what do you need to improve?

**Colossians 3:17,23**

**Lord, I will...**