

## God Has a Plan for You



MEMORY VERSE: “Dear friends... Let’s make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:19 MSG

### DAY 1

#### ESTHER 1:1-22 — The King’s Banquet

1. King Xerxes was planning to invade Greece in the near future, so he held a very long celebration. What do you learn about the first and second banquets? vv. 1-8
2. Read verses 9-12. Why did Xerxes order the eunuchs to bring the queen? Why do you think Queen Vashti refused?
3. How did King Xerxes respond? What did his advisers tell him? vv. 13-20
4. Share a time when your friends gave you bad advice.

### DAY 2

#### ESTHER 2:1-9 — Search Is Made for a New Queen

5. Four years have passed and King Xerxes had made his great, unsuccessful invasion of Greece and come home a defeated man. His attendants suggested sort of a “Miss Persian Empire” contest to find a new queen. What does Xerxes think of the plan? vv. 1-4

6. Who are Mordecai and Esther? vv. 5-7

7. Read verse 8-9. What do you think it was about Esther that made her stand out? (In addition to her beauty.)

8. What character traits of others most impress you?

### **DAY 3** ESTHER 2:10-14 — Preparation to Visit the King

9. What does Esther not reveal? Why? v. 10

10. What did Mordecai do every day? Why? v. 11

11. What did each girl have to go through? vv. 12-14

12. How do you think God was preparing Esther during this time? What do you think God is working on in you right now?

### **DAY 4** ESTHER 2:15-23 — Esther Is Selected as Queen

13. What happened when it was Esther's turn? v. 15

14. How did Xerxes feel about her and what did he do? vv. 16-18

15. Why did Esther still keep her family history a secret? v. 20

16. What does Mordecai hear and do? vv. 21-23

## DAY 5 ESTHER 1-2 — Wrap Up

17. Consider the advice that was given in these chapters. Who advises whom to do what? Is it good or bad advice? What does this say to you about the importance of the advice you give and receive?

18. How did you see God working behind the scenes to arrange for Esther and Mordecai to be in a place of influence? How have you seen God at work behind the scenes in your life?

### TAKE AWAY

God planned this remarkable course of events with Esther playing the lead role! You also have a place in God's plan. God has a reason and a purpose for you wherever you are. It might require sacrifice and courage. Are you game? Talk to God.

### BLESSING

Lord, help us to see how the Book of Esther has much to reveal for our own lives. Help us to understand the beauty and the glory You have planned for each of us. We pray in Christ's name, Amen.

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Esther made the best of a difficult situation. She probably would not have chosen to leave her cousin's family and enter the pagan king's harem. However, after being forced to go there, she demonstrated maturity, humility, and good sense. Like Esther, we face situations we would not have chosen, but we can control our response to them.

Tell God how you feel. Remind Him—and yourself—that He loves to work in the most unlikely situations. Ask Him for grace to walk humbly and to trust Him for the good He is going to do. Then watch and listen for signs of what He's up to so you can join Him in it, like Esther did.

Where do circumstances have you these days? Are you fearful? Discouraged? Frustrated? Without hope?

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