

Session 2 Leader Guide

A Moment of Decision - ESTHER 2:19-4:17

READ

Ask one person to read the following passage, and then discuss the questions that follow.

"Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For 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 /wows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14).

When is a time in your life that you received encouragement or some tough love from another person just like Esther re-ceived here from Mordecai?

What was the result of that nudge? Why did you listen-or not listen-to this person?

WATCH

Play the video segment for session two (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). Use the fol-lowing outline to record any thoughts, questions, or points that stand out to you while you're viewing the teaching.

Mordecai had resolved in his heart to never bow before Haman. A crisis is no time to prepare an escape plan. The time to prepare to resist temptation is before it strikes.

Haman revealed himself to be a servant of hell. Satan hoped to use Haman to destroy the Jews, thereby destroying the lineage of Jesus.

Mordecai moments are occasions in which God invites us to join him in his work. They are instances in which our true allegiance is revealed.

Journey CHURCH

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Mordecai had opened a window and shed a divine light into Esther's world. "You are here for a reason," he said. "You were placed here on purpose for a purpose."

God is the one who placed you on this planet in this generation. He determined your birthdate, your nationality, and selected your neighborhood. What if he knew the world needed some-one like you at such a time as this?

You were made to stand up like Mordecai. You have been called to speak up in this world like Esther. You have the opportunity to be a participant in God's divine plans.

DISCUSS

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. What events led to Xerxes naming Haman as his right hand man?
2. Read Esther 3:1 and Deuteronomy 25:17-19. What is the significance of Haman's ancestry? What history did the Israelites have with the Amalekites?
3. Review Esther 3 :2-4. How has Mordecai changed since we first saw him in session one? What do you think led to this change?
4. What was Esther's initial response to Mordecai's plea to talk to Xerxes about Haman's plan? What caused her to react in this way?
5. What was Mordecai's response back to Esther? What was he essentially saying to Esther? What was he helping her to see about God's plans for her life?
6. Have you ever had a moment like this when you decided to call out an injustice after initially hesitating to do so? What happened as a result?

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RESPOND

Spend a couple of moments considering injustices in your own community. These could be at your school, in your neighborhood, or in your workplace. What have you seen others do to address these injustices? What are some things that you could do to address this need?

PRAY

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for putting you on this earth for such a time as this. Confess any times that you have failed to act when God has prompted you to take a stand, and ask the Lord to help you be the hands and feet of Jesus to a hurting world. Write down any prayer requests the group has, and pray for those needs during the coming week.