

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

For Such a Time as This

Week 1: God's Grace

Esther 2:1-8

Week of October 25, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Esther is the only book of the Bible without a reference to God. Though God is not mentioned, He can be found on every page...if you look for Him. In this first week of our new series, we learned that Esther is a study of the doctrine of "Providence." Providence is the invisible activity of God working behind the scenes to guide and provide.

Kicking it off: Can you remember a Halloween costume you wore in your childhood? Tell the group about it.

Discussion:

1. Reread *Esther 2:2-4* "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, and let beauty treatments be given to them. Then let the young woman who pleases the king become queen."

In what ways does Esther's story resemble a Disney princess story?

2. Read *Esther 2:14* In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem.

This verse describes what happened to each contestant when it was her turn to appear before the king. How does this verse impact our understanding of King Xerxes' "beauty contest?"

3. The Book of Esther never mentions God. Esther's terrifying abduction is devoid of mention of the Lord. Why is it that God often seems distant in our most difficult trials?
4. The title of this series ("For Such a Time as This") comes from *Esther 4:14*. Esther's adoptive father uses this phrase to declare that God has been working behind the scenes in Esther's life to get her to the position of queen precisely so that she could save the people of Israel. Jeff suggested that the phrase points to the intersection of "providence" and "obedience." Can you think of a time when your recognition of God's providence demanded your obedience? If so, tell the group about it.

5. Reread *Genesis 50:20* "What people meant for evil, God meant for good."

How does this verse apply to Esther's story?

6. How is God working for good in your life through this pandemic?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that, in our darkest hour, we might recognize God's hand of providence and that we might have the courage to join Him in what He is doing.