

Esther—1

When Life Looks Nothing Like Your Plan

Sometimes the places where God seems hardest to find are the very places He's most at work.

Just because God feels silent doesn't mean He's absent.

On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him ... ¹¹to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. Esther 1:10-11 NIV

But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger. Esther 1:12 NIV

When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa ... Esther also was taken to the king's palace ... Esther 2:8 NIV

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval ... So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:17 NIV

God can use the very thing you'd never choose.

Even if God feels absent, it doesn't mean He's not working.

During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate ... two of the king's officers ... conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. ²²But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. ²³And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king. Esther 2:21-23 NIV

providence: when God uses ordinary moments to bring about His supernatural will

Faithfulness is never wasted.

TALK IT OVER

Read **Esther 2:21-23**. How do you see God at work in this passage? How did God work through Esther's faithfulness in the past and Mordecai's faithfulness in the present to bring about a specific outcome?

Share about a time when life changed without your permission. How might God have been working in the situation, even when it felt disappointing or difficult?

Even if God feels absent, that doesn't mean He's not working. If you're in a season where God feels quiet, how can you choose to lean in? How might your faith be built in the silence?

Learn more about Esther's story: www.go2.lc/estherstory

Start the Bible Plan *Esther: Trusting God When You're Running on Empty* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/plan