

THE STORY OF
ESTHER
THE HIDDEN KING DELIVERS



Small Group Guide: The Sovereignty of God in Esther 1-2

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to open your hearts and minds to His Word and His work in your lives.

Icebreaker

Share a time when something that seemed like a "coincidence" or "bad luck" turned out to be part of God's plan in your life.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Human power and prestige are ultimately empty - King Xerxes had immense wealth and authority, yet couldn't control his own household.**
 - 2. God works sovereignly even when He seems silent - God's name isn't mentioned in Esther, but His fingerprints are everywhere.**
 - 3. God uses dark circumstances for His glory - Esther's trafficking into the harem was evil, yet God used it to position her for His purposes.**
 - 4. God never abandons His people - Even when Mordecai and Esther seemed forgotten in exile, God was actively working.**
 - 5. We must choose: pursue worldly success or align with God's purposes - Our time and energy are limited; what will we invest in?**
-

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. What contrasts do you see between the royal household (Esther 1:1-9) and Mordecai's household (Esther 2:5-7)? What is the author trying to communicate through this contrast?
2. The pastor mentioned that Esther's story parallels Joseph's. What similarities do you see? What does this pattern teach us about how God works?
3. Why do you think God's name is never mentioned in the book of Esther? How does this absence actually highlight His presence?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon described our culture as having "a terrible beauty pageant full of sexual immorality, narcissistic leaders, and a people claimed by God who are scared to speak up." Do you agree with this assessment? Where do you see these parallels?
5. When have you experienced a "dark" season where God seemed silent? Looking back, can you now see His sovereign hand at work?
6. The pastor said, "The older I get, the more I realize that time is a fleeting commodity." How does this reality affect what you prioritize in your daily life?

Going Deeper

7. Esther and Mordecai had names derived from Babylonian gods, suggesting they were compromising with their culture. In what ways might we be doing the same today? What does faithful living look like in a hostile culture?
 8. King Xerxes made an irreversible decree in his anger that he later regretted. What does this teach us about human authority versus God's authority?
 9. The sermon challenges us to "compare our lives against the backdrop of God's sovereignty" rather than pursuing power, prestige, and possessions. What would this look like practically in your life this week?
-

Application

Individual Reflection (5-7 minutes of silence)

Take time to honestly assess:

- **What am I currently pursuing that amounts to "folly and foolishness"?**
- **Where am I putting my trust—in human power/possessions or in God's sovereignty?**
- **What "dark" circumstance in my life right now might God be using for His purposes?**

Group Sharing

1. **Identify the lies: What lies are you tempted to believe when circumstances are difficult? (e.g., "God has abandoned me," "This is too dark for God to be present," "I need to fix this myself")**
 2. **Reframe with truth: How does the truth of God's ceaseless, sovereign activity counter those lies?**
 3. **Practical steps: Share one specific way you will "rewrite what you do, think, and say to work alongside what God is accomplishing" this week.**
-

This Week's Challenge

The Sovereignty Journal: Each day this week, write down:

- **One thing you're tempted to worry about or control**
- **One way you saw God's "fingerprints" in your circumstances (even small things)**
- **One prayer surrendering your plans to His sovereign purposes**

Share your observations with the group next week.

Closing Reflection

Read together: Romans 8:28-29

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."

Discussion: How does Esther's story illustrate this promise? How does it challenge or comfort you?

Prayer Time

- **Confession:** Confess areas where you've pursued worldly prestige, power, or possessions over God's glory
 - **Trust:** Ask God to help you trust His sovereignty even in dark or silent seasons
 - **Surrender:** Commit your remaining time, energy, and resources to align with God's purposes rather than your own
-

For Next Week

Read Esther 3-5 and consider: How does God continue to work "behind the scenes" in these chapters? What does this teach you about prayer and action in difficult circumstances?

"God's activity is ceaseless and sovereign. Trust in Jesus Christ to be your Lord. Model your life after His selfless love of the Father, even in the darkest times."