

**Lesson Title:** Mordecai and Esther

**Scripture Focus:** Esther 4:14

### The Lesson in Context

When times are tough, we may wonder if God is even around. When we see inequity, we assume God has turned His back. When we see the atrocities of war, we cannot imagine God could be near. When we experience sadness and loss, we ask where God is in all of it. We often equate difficult times with God's absence. However, on the other side of the trauma, many times we can look back and clearly see God was there in the midst of our mess. God spoke through the prophet Isaiah that when we pass through difficult times, God is always there (Isaiah 43:2).

As we consider Esther's story, we must ready ourselves. We will experience moments of great conflict that demand we make a decision. In those moments we have a choice: run and hide or stand up and do what covenant people do. Covenant people trust in the God of their salvation. Covenant people know God has not forgotten them. Covenant people trust that God is working even when they cannot see or hear Him. We learn from Mordecai and Esther that God is present even when He seems absent or silent.

### Group Discussion

1. What are some ways parents can raise their children to honor their heritage, their faith, and their God?
2. Have you ever felt pressure to compromise your identity as a covenant child of God? Explain.
3. When was a time you recognized God had placed you in a particular situation for a specific purpose?
4. Share an instance when you looked back after a trial ended and saw how God's hand had been at work in that difficult situation.
5. How do you know God is working, especially when you do not see or hear Him?

### My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?

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