

# CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 01

# GLIMPSSES OF GOD

## Let's Talk

Groups that meet weekly will meet 8 times during this sermon series on the book of Esther. To encourage unity around expectations, review together the 'Count Me In' (page 10) from the Leader's Guidebook.

Watch 'Esther Bible Book Overview' Video from The Bible Project.

Link: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/esther/>

## Let's Study

Read Esther 1:1-8.

King Xerxes throws a six-month 'open-house' banquet to gain support for the next war. What do you make of all the architectural, fashion, and wine detail given here? What does that tell you about the king's wealth? Popularity? Ego?

Pastor Jon explained that in Persian culture at that time, the most important matters were discussed when the leaders were drunk because they believed that was when the supernatural came close. How does this impact your understanding of the situation?

Read Esther 1:9.

Who did Queen Vashti throw a separate party for? What does this clarify about the culture?

Read Esther 1:10-12.

Queen Vashti refuses the king's order to come to the king's party because it would dishonor her. What possible consequences would she expect? What words would you use to describe Vashti's actions?

What reasons could the king have to be furious about this?

Read Esther 1:13-18.

The king seeks counsel from his advisors. In your own words summarize their advice.

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## Lets Apply

In decisions affecting other people, who is someone you rely on for counsel? And why?

What important decision is pending for you? What input from the group would you appreciate?

Read Matthew 6:33.

Pastor Jon said the Kingdom of God is any space or place where the reign and rule of God is welcomed, embraced and accepted through the person and ongoing work of Jesus! Where in your life are you struggling to seek God's kingdom first? (Home, marriage, family, sex and sexuality, money, tax returns, life-style, citizenship)

## Let's Pray

Lord Jesus, help us to seek your reign and rule in every area of our lives. Give us our daily bread, daily provision, daily help, daily deliverance, daily hope, daily love! Amen.