

# YOURBIG M O M E N T

## PART ONE: JUST AN ORDINARY DAY

Most days, life seems quite ordinary. In fact, some days God seems entirely absent. If you can relate to that, you need to meet Esther. Sometimes the little moments are more significant than you think. And you can trust that God is present, even when God seems absent. The book of Esther gives us a surprising example of how that is true.

**BIG IDEA:** God is present even when God seems absent.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Was there ever a time in your life when you felt like God was absent?
2. Does it seem strange to you that God doesn't even 'appear' in an entire book of the Bible? Why or why not?
3. Chris said the characters in the book of Esther seem to make morally ambiguous choices. Does the moral ambiguity you see around you (or within you) ever make you feel like God is absent?
4. Is it comforting for you to know that God is faithful to us even when we have not been faithful to him? How so?
5. How would you make decisions differently if you could have full confidence that God is present even if God seems absent? What decisions are you facing now that could be impacted by the confidence?

## GOING DEEPER

1%. It appears to be such an insignificant percentage. Can a fraction that small affect the whole? You might be surprised. History reminds us that 1% of a group of people can impact the other 99%. During the 1960's, Dr. Martin Luther King led the civil rights movement with only 1% of the U.S. population on board. During the 1420's, a teenage girl named Joan of Arc led 3,000 French knights into battle, achieving her goal with less than 1% of the population. The story of Esther is about how the entire Jewish race was almost annihilated by a madman. Very similar story to Hitler and the holocaust, the story of Esther is how God used 1 Jewish girl to save the lives of millions of Jews from death.

1. Describe a time when you toured a mansion estate or attended a grand party that left you speechless.
2. What was the longest party you have attended? How long did Xerxes' party last? (Esther 1:4)
3. At the end of Esther 1:4, the Bible gives us the reason Xerxes held a party. What were those reasons?

*...a tremendous display of the opulent wealth of his empire and the pomp and splendor of his majesty.*

*Esther 1:4*

6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Esther 1:3-8.* How does the parties or the mansions you've been to compare to this scene?
7. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Esther 1:9-12* and list all of the things you learn about Queen Vashti, as well as what you can infer about her.
8. Compare the end of verse 4 with the end of verse 11. Why did King Xerxes want Vashti to come to his party (look back at your answer to question #3)?
9. Offer three possible reasons from your own perspective why Vashti might have refused King Xerxes' order.

*So far in chapter 1, we have seen a 6-month drunk fest in Iran. We have no mention of Esther, the person for whom the book is written. We don't even have any mention of God in this story. Strangely enough, you will see that God's name is never mentioned in the book of Esther.*



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bigIdea Small Group Discussion

10. Does that seem strange to you that God's name is never mentioned? If God's name isn't mentioned, then why do you think we studying this book? (Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:19-21)
11. Why is it easier to believe in a God of miracles than it is in a God who works through the mundane details?
12. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Psalm 139:7.* Is there a place where God is absent? Is He absent from you?

#### THINK ABOUT IT

Maybe there is no greater amazement than when God works not through the miraculous but through the mundane, normal details of our lives. He is always there, behind the scenes, working His plan. When you haven't seen Him for a while, know that He is going to make a grand appearance!

**YOURBIG**  
M O M E N T

#### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

**First**, read the book of Esther this week. It will take you 25 minutes. That's all. As you read through the book, notice the silence of God, and the mixed decisions the characters in the story make.

**Second**, be confident that God is present in whatever circumstance you are facing. What decisions will you make this week because you can trust that God is present even when God seems absent?

**Third**, We have asked, "Where is God in the story of Esther?", but now ask yourself, "Where is God in your story?" Is He even there? Have you banished Him to the sidelines of your life? Or have you allowed Him to be smack-dab in the middle of the miracles and the mundane of your life?

#### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence. Psalm 139:7*

HOW DO YOU PREPARE  
FOR YOUR BIG  
MOMENT



WHEN EVERYDAY  
SEEMS SO  
ORDINARY?