

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea



Are you willing you make a difference with those around you? Through a national crisis, God pushed Esther into the open about her true identity not be

The same thing God called Esther to do, God is calling you and I to do. He wants us to come out into the open with our relationship with Him and show our true identity to everyone around us. And just like Esther, there are millions of lives at stake. Will Esther stay quiet and keep her secret? Will you stay quiet and keep your relationship with God a secret?

BIG IDEA: God gave you a story so that you will tell it to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Esther 3:12-4:3. Has God ever allowed threat of trouble in your life to drive you to Him? If so, what did you learn through the experience?
2. Compare Esther 4:3 and 4:4-5. How do these verses point out that Esther was insulated from the real world?
3. Read Esther 4:8. What was Mordecai asking for Esther to do?
4. Compare Esther 4:8 with Esther 2:10. Why the sudden shift in Mordecai's instructions? How would you have felt if you were Esther listening to Mordecai's request?

Up to this point, Esther has been a pretty face who is being pampered and indulged in royalty. But now we find out why God made her Queen of Persia. God has a greater purpose for Esther that she has yet to discover.

5. What do you think is Esther's greater purpose?

God was working in Esther's life, but it wasn't just for Esther. God is working in you, but it will never be just for you. Influence always involves more than one. Influence always involves a group of people

6. What did God use to change the direction of Esther's life?
7. God used a national crisis to change the direction of Esther's life. Sometimes God uses troubles to change our direction. Share a time when God used hard times in your life to change your focus and direction.
8. Read Esther 4:10-14. List all of the risks of approaching the king unannounced or the risks of keeping silent. Now that you have listed both, which one seems riskier—keeping silent or approaching King Xerxes?

So far in the story, Esther has kept a huge secret—that the Queen of Persia isn't Persian, but Jewish. Her real name isn't even the Persian name Esther, but the Jewish name Hadassah. Her husband, the King doesn't know she's Jewish, and doesn't even know her real name!

9. Put yourself in King Xerxes place. You have been married to your spouse of five years, and you just found out you don't know her real name or her history. How would you feel?

The name Esther means to conceal, to be hidden. But layer-by-layer, God is forcing Esther to reveal more about her true self and her true identity. Yes, she is Esther, the Queen of Persia, but she is also Hadassah, a Jewish orphan.

10. Are there people in your life—at work, in your family, in your neighborhood—who do not know that you're a Christian? Why don't they know? What is going to have to change before you open your mouth and tell them about Jesus?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Practice telling your story to each other in your small group. Your story should consist of three things:

1. *Your life before Jesus?*
2. *How you met Jesus?*
3. *How has Jesus made your life meaningful today?*

Identify three people you need to listen to their story, tell your story, and invite them into God's story. Set a date to share your story with them.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" Esther 4:14