

## For Such a Time as This (Esther)

Small Group Guide  
Week 1: A Silent God

In this series we will walk through the book of Esther to understand how God works in our lives even when we can't see it. We will see how students should engage with God and depend on Him while exhibiting effort towards His good.

Our memory verse for this series is Proverbs 3:5-6

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

### BACKGROUND

- 1) This week is about God. Next week will be about leadership and the steps we should take.
- 2) The Book of Esther has its setting at the end of the biblical narrative of the Old Testament
- 3) Biblical Periods
  - a) Creation and Early History
  - b) Patriarchs
  - c) Exodus and Wilderness
  - d) Conquest and Judges
  - e) United Monarchy
  - f) Divided Kingdom
  - g) Exile and Return

### POINT 1: WHEN GOD IS NOT EVIDENT, HE IS STILL ENGAGED

- 4) Coincidence can show the hand of God
- 5) You will never see all of what God is doing (Rise of Rome to prepare for Jesus)
- 6) Gods promises are dependable.
  - a) "Make straight your paths." Prov 3:6
  - b) "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5)
  - c) "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

### POINT 2: WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT, HE IS STILL SOVERIGN

- 1) "For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place" Esther 4:14
- 2) Mordecai tells Esther that regardless of what she does, God will accomplish His purposes, but she is invited to be part of what God is doing.
- 3) There are many biblical examples where God seems to reply directly to someone's prayer. In the book of Esther there is no mention of God's response but we can see Him at work.

### POINT 3: WHEN GOD MOVES, IT CAN SEEM MUNDANE

- 1) God can use the bad and the broken.
- 2) God's actions can seem mundane even when our situation feels monumental
- 3) There are mundane events in the story of Esther that become pivotal to God's deliverance (Mordecai overhears a plot, the king's failure to honor him and his insomnia, etc)

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Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

### **POINT 1: When God is not Evident, He is still engaged**

- *How have you seen God's engagement/presence in your life?*
- *What are some ways in which God might be working in your life even when you don't feel His presence?*
- *How does reading the Bible help you understand God's presence and engagement even in difficult times*
- *What are some ways that kids your age might think of wrongly about praying to God and God's response*

### **POINT 2: When God seems silent, He is still sovereign**

- *Have you ever experienced a situation where you later realized God was at work behind the scenes even though you didn't see it at the time*
- *If God is sovereign, then why should we pray doesn't God already know what I need and what difference will it make*
- *How do Mordecai's words to Esther in Esther 4:14 help us understand this*  
    *"For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place" Esther 4:14*
- *Have you ever experienced an answer to prayer? Do you know someone else who has?*

### **POINT 3: When God moves, it can seem mundane**

- *Have you ever experienced a moment that seemed ordinary but looking back, you realize it made a big difference (a move, a change of friends, ending a relationship, etc)*
- *Why does it matter that we remember that sometimes the way God moves can be in small things*
- *Have you ever experienced God work through ordinary people or every their circumstances pause dictation hey caps come here look I got something for you hey hey why does it have to be open*
- *Have you ever felt like you had to have a hard conversation that seemed like it was appointed by God, "For such a time as this"*