

# MADE FOR THIS MOMENT

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

### STAND UP

#### FELLOWSHIP 5 | 5 MINUTES



*Leader Note: Take a moment to look at The Fellowship 5 on the church app to encourage members about opportunities to be connected to God, others, and to make an impact.*

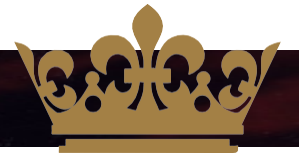
#### ICE BREAKERS | 5 MINUTES



#### Choose any of the following ice breakers:

- Did any of you hunker down in the storm that came through last week? If so, where did you hunker down?
- What kind of cell phone do you have and what do you like the most about it?
- If you had to choose a favorite time of the day, what time would it be and why?
- What is your favorite day of the week and why?

#### READ AND DISCUSS | 25 MINUTES



*Leader Note: This week's discussion will center around defining moments in our lives. Defining moments are those in which God's providence and our obedience intersect. It could be sharing our faith with someone, standing up for what we know is right (righteous), stepping in to help someone, or making a big request of those in authority. While the believer is called to trust in God's providence, it does not mean we sit idly by watching all the events of history just unfold. We can be part of something greater than history itself. God invites us to stand up when we in our positions of influence, and to be part of His Story!*





**What are some words you would use to describe the culture in which we live?**

*Leader Note: Take note of whether your group shares only negative things or if there is a combination of both negative and positive things said. If everything sounds negative, maybe take a moment and ask them what they believe is positive in the culture today.*



**If the culture that we find ourselves in feels out of control, do you believe God is still present and at work? Why or why not?**

*Leader Note: Have someone read Isaiah 46:9b-10.*

*(...for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,')*



**Now that we have read this verse, what does it tell you about the presence and provision of God?**

We are in week three of the message series entitled Made For This Moment, a look at the book of Esther. Mordecai, a Jewish man from the tribe of Benjamin, lived in Babylon under the rule of King Xerxes. Mordecai had a beautiful young cousin named Hadassah (also known as Esther) who he raised as his own. When King Xerxes commanded the removal of Queen Vashti from the throne after a series of shocking events, Esther ended up in the palace as a new member of the king's harem. Vashti's replacement would be crowned from this group of the loveliest virgins in the land. Esther found favor in Hegai, the head eunuch in charge of the harem. Soon, she gained the affection of the king himself. "And the king loved Esther more than any of the other young women..." (Esther 2:17). She was made Queen. Around this time, one of the king's most trusted advisors named Haman

despised Mordecai, so he set a plot in motion to kill the Jews. He convinced the king of his plan with deceitful words, and a decree was written to annihilate the Jews.

*Leader Note: Have someone read Esther 4:1-8 (Mordecai grieves)*

So Mordecai is grieving and mourning wearing sackcloth and ashes. These things signified to others around you that you were in a deep state of grief. Mordecai turns to Esther as hope for the people urging her through the messenger to go into the presence of the king.



**Can you share a situation where help was needed and you felt powerless?**

*Leader Note: Have som one read Esther 4:9-11 (Esther expresses concern over going to the king.*



**If you were in Esther's situation, how do you think you would have responded?**



**Can you think of a defining moment in your life where taking action could have changed things for the better, despite the risk?**

Defining moments in our lives often do not come without risk or the temptation to shrink back and not act.

*Leader Note: Have someone read Esther 4:12-16*



**When things look bleak in your life, how do you tend to respond? (In other words, what do you typically do?)**



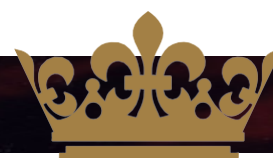
**What do you think about Esther's actions of fasting and praying?**



**When you are confronted with a difficult situation and need to act, do you fast and pray as well?**

There is no doubt fasting and praying gave her both the faith and encouragement to go before the King. She invited God to strengthen her, embolden her, and to give her favor. God often places us in situations to partner with Him in His providential purposes and plans. When there is an opportunity to respond as difficult as it may be, we should pause and ask ourselves "Has God placed me here for such a time as this?"

**APPLICATION | 5 MINUTES**



What is God calling you away from or toward? If you sense God's voice asking you to do what is uncomfortable, or even impossible, don't shut that voice out. Explore it. Hold it up to Scripture. Seek out a Christian mentor. Don't harden your heart to the possibilities. The next step you take could be a defining moment.

And remember that waiting on God does not mean being idle. Esther took action with fasting and prayer, planned a banquet as a part of her decision to speak to the King.



**What place in your life is God prompting you to act, and to trust in His providence?**



**What challenges or obstacles stand in your way – preventing you from taking action?**





*Leader Note: Break up in groups of guys and girls for prayer. Remind the group to place prayer requests in the church app. Consider praying for anything that might be a challenge or obstacle mentioned.*

