

Week 1: The Invisible Hand of God

Key Scripture

Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.

Esther 1:19

True Power is From God

1. There is no life apart from the Lord

In him we live and move and have our being.

Acts 17:28

2. God is in control

In the Lord's hand the king's heart is a stream of water.

Proverbs 21:1

"Although God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, nevertheless He is still working to bless and protect his people."

- John Risner

For personal reflection or group discussion.

- What has happened in your life that seemed lucky or coincidental, that you now realize was God at work?
- What's the biggest, most lavish party you have ever attended?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- The word, "God" does not appear in the book of Esther. Does that mean that he is absent from the story? Where do you see God in the story of Esther?
- Vashti has been portrayed as both a rebellious wife or as a woman of strong conviction for her refusal to obey the king's command. Why do you think she refused?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- Read Romans 8:28. What is the promise in this verse? Share an example of how you have seen this promise realized in your life?
- Describe a moment in your life when you didn't understand why God allowed something to happen to you.

Start digging. Read Scripture about God's plan.

Proverbs 16:4

Jeremiah 24:1-7

Daniel 2:21

Colossians 1:16

Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the ways that you are at work. Please help us to see you even more and give us hearts that desire obedience to your will and your way. Thank you for redeeming us and making us even more your son. In Jesus name, Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step, and live it out this week.

- Read through the book of Esther in one sitting. What jumps out at you? Share what God is teaching you with a friend or family member.
- Where have you tried to operate independently of God? Confess it the Lord and turn it over completely to him.



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