

## Week 2: Positioned for God's Purpose

### Key Scripture

*The king loved Esther more than all the other women. She won more favor and approval from him than did any of the other young women. He placed the royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti.*

Esther 2:17

### In the world, but not of the world

#### 1. Be winsome

*For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.*

2 Corinthians 2:15

#### 2. Be wise

*See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*

Matthew 10:16

*"God has placed you in your school, in your family, in your neighborhood, and in your community in order to use you for His purposes!"*

- John Risner

### For personal reflection or group discussion.

- What do you think about beauty pageants or shows like The Bachelor? Do they intrigue you or disgust you?
- What's the biggest secret you have ever kept?

### 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?
- Esther won the favor of many people, including King Xerxes. How can winning the favor of your coworkers, peers, and neighbors bring glory to God?

### Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- Read Esther 2:11. What does this say about Mordecai? Do you have someone like him in your life?
- Take a moment to reflect on the circumstances you are currently facing. Has God placed you in these situations for a specific purpose? Are you choosing to be gracious and to seeking to grow in wisdom and humility in the midst of them?

### Read Scripture about being *in*, not *of* the world.

2 Corinthians 2:15

James 1:5

Matthew 10:16

Philippians 2:13-15

### Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

Heavenly Father, thank you for placing me where you have. Help me to grow even more like Jesus. Please use me for your purposes and give me favor with others. Help me to be wise and humble, that I might shine for you. 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.
- What have you grumbled and complained about recently? Confess it the Lord and turn it over completely to him.



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