

## Week 4: For Such a Time as This

### Key Scripture

*For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place... And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

Esther 4:14

### How to use influence wisely

#### 1. Be real

*Mordecai... tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.*

Esther 4:1

#### 2. Be an encourager

*Go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.*

Esther 4:8

#### 3. Be a person of prayer

Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.

Esther 4:16

### For personal reflection or group discussion.

- Who are the people that have most greatly influenced you?
- When was the last time you were overcome with sorrow? How did you express it?

### Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Why did Esther need encouragement? What may have tempted her to remain silent? Are you ever tempted to stay silent when you should speak up?
- John said that we need more encouragers. He said, "What we need are people, not who pretend everything is ok and ignore the realities around us, but who will call us to take heart." Are you an encourager? Do you want to grow in that area?

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

- How are you challenged to trust God with your circumstances—however tragic—as Esther trusted God?
- Have you ever fasted? How long? What for? What was the experience like?

### Read Scripture about influencing others.

Proverbs 27:17

Ephesians 4:2-3

1 Timothy 4:12

Matthew 5:13-16

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

Heavenly Father, thank you that you have a plan even when circumstances surrounding us look bleak. Use us to influence others wisely. Help us to trust you as we step out courageously. 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.
- Commit to praying each day this week for our broken world.
- Speak into someone's life with words of affirmation and encouragement.



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