

# Life Group Discussion

## Esther: Behind the Scenes

Week 1: When God is Silent

Esther 1:1-13 (ESV)

Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)

Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) — “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”

### Upcoming:

The Next Generation Gathering Update: Wed, September 10, 6:30 PM at a home. Please register online for the address.

Marriage Seminar: Friday-Saturday, September 26-27. Register Online

Member Vote? For those who have not voted yet, member Vote this weekend at Church

## Observation Questions

1. In Esther 1, what are the main things King Xerxes shows to his people?
  2. What was Queen Vashti asked to do, and how did she respond? What was the king's reaction?
  3. What makes Esther unique from every other book of the Bible, what are the things missing from the book of Esther that is usually found in other books of the Bible?
  4. What are the differences from the world's "palace" and God's kingdom? ([09:48])
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## Interpretation Questions

1. Those who seem powerful (like Xerxes) are actually powerless, and those who seem powerless (like Esther or Vashti) are used by God. What does this upside-down way of God's kingdom mean for how we view influence and success? ([09:48])
  2. A main theme of Esther is sovereignty and providence of God—God working behind the scenes, even when we don't see Him. How does this idea help us when we feel like God is silent or absent?
  3. In Ephesians 5:25, husbands are told to love their wives as Christ loved the church. How does this relate to the way Xerxes treated Vashti, and what does it say about respect and love in relationships?
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## Application Questions

1. The “palace” represents the world’s promises of position, power, and pride. Are there any “palaces” in your life right now that tempt you with temporary glory? What would it look like to choose humility and service instead?
  2. The story of Vashti reminds us that people are to be loved, not used. Is there a relationship in your life where you need to show more respect or sacrificial love, rather than expecting something in return?
  3. Have you seen the predestination vs free choice argument go south and cause division? How can you prevent it from happening in your own life?
  4. “God is always working, even when we can’t see Him.” Can you think of a time in your life when you only saw God’s hand in hindsight? How does that encourage you in your current situation?
  5. In Christ, there is always hope for reversal. Is there a situation, mistake, or pain in your life that you need to trust God to redeem? What would it look like to surrender that to Him this week?
  6. “Jesus left his palace, gave up his crown, and came here for us.” How does remembering what Jesus gave up for you change the way you approach your own ambitions, relationships, or struggles?
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