



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

### **June 19, 2022**

#### **Refresh**

Read Esther 2:1-23 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

#### **Discuss**

The author of the book of Esther uses “verbal modesty” when describing the events surrounding King Ahasuerus’ pursuit of a new queen. In a culture where explicit language is the norm, why is it important that we as Christians speak with verbal modesty? How might this distinguish us from the world? And how might it protect our hearts and minds as we live in a wicked world?

This passage shows that both Esther and Mordecai had fully embraced their Babylonian identity. How does this seem to go against God’s desire for His people to be set apart from the nations around them? In what ways are we as believers tempted to identify with the world around us more than with our identity in Christ?

Esther’s Jewish heritage potentially endangered her well-being in the Persian empire. How does our identification with Christ sometimes put us in danger in this world? What does that “danger” look like in the United States, as opposed to other cultures across the world?

How do the events of this chapter directly contradict God’s design for sex? In what ways does our world’s pursuit of sexual fulfillment contradict God’s beautiful design? How and why should we guard ourselves against sexual temptation as Christians?

In what ways does God’s design of sex within the marriage relationship protect us? Why is it a gracious gift that God has given rather than something that brings guilt and shame?