

UNEXPECTED LEADERS Reading Plans

Week 2: June 10, 2018

ESTHER

Day 1-

READ: Esther 2:5-12; Esther 2:15-17 & 20 Esther 4:4 & 10-17; Esther 5:2-4; Esther 7:2-6; Esther 8:3-6; Esther 9:29-32

REFLECT: After reading these various passages about Esther what are your impressions of this young woman? How would you describe her?

PRACTICE: Tell someone something you learned about Esther. What quality of Esther would you like to see God develop in your life?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: This video overview of the book of Esther from Right Now Media -- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/204178> (If you don't yet have a RNM account, email sarah@whoisgrace.com to get started.)

Day 2-

READ: Esther 1:12; Esther 2:7-9; Esther 2:17; Esther 2:22

REFLECT: In her study on Esther, Beth Moore writes, "Coincidences are miracles in which God prefers to remain anonymous." She says of the book of Esther, "God's name might not be in it but it is ON it." What are some of the ways these verses show our sovereign God was working in Esther's story?

PRACTICE: Take a few minutes to reflect on your life and thank God for the ways He has orchestrated your circumstances to bless you and to bless others through you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

REFLECT: What are some of the reversals and twists in Esther's story?

PRACTICE: Pray and ask God to help you believe he is in control of your life.

Day 3-

READ: Esther 3:8-10; Esther 4:1-17

REFLECT: What events in Esther's life support Mordecai's comment in vs. 14 "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Why was Esther an unlikely choice for this mission? Why was she the perfect choice?

PRACTICE: Ask someone you trust to tell you what they think God is calling you to "for such a time as this?" (this may not mean saving a whole nation, but saving or enriching the lives of those near you)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: To "For Such A Time As This" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXcJUIAJNWO> or, for a more contemporary sound try Jesus Culture's "Anthem" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzmFSBmrd1Y>

REFLECT: Why did God put you in this time and place? Who is He calling you to serve?

PRACTICE: Decide to encourage, pray for, or serve someone TODAY and ask God to help you do it.

Day 4-

READ: Esther 2:10,11; Esther 2:21,22; Esther 4:1-5; Esther 4:12-16

REFLECT: How did Esther seek wise advice? Why did she ask all the Jews to fast for three days and nights before she went to the king?

PRACTICE: Plan to fast for part or all of a day (from food or from entertainment) and spend extra time in prayer asking God for His wisdom.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[For Such a Time As This](#)" from thegospelcoalition.org.

PRACTICE: Spend some time asking God to give you boldness to share your faith story with those around you.

Day 5-

READ: Esther 8:1-8; Esther 9:1-5; Esther 9:29-32

REFLECT: Esther undoubtedly risked her life to save her people, but what if she'd chosen NOT to take the risk? She would most likely have been killed along with her people. So, which was the greater risk?

PRACTICE: What risk is God calling you to take? If God is calling you to follow Him, would it be a greater risk to obey or to refuse? Ask God to give you courage to do His will today.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: ["Freedom is Risky"](#) by Christine Caine on YouTube.

REFLECT: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." –Jim Elliot (missionary martyred at age 28 while taking the gospel to the Auca tribe in Ecuador)