

Sunday School Stories – Esther
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July 28, 2024

Reflection & Discussion Questions

The Queen Esther story is racy, violent and doesn't explicitly mention God

If you have time, read the entire book of Esther to refresh your memory.

*What memories of this story stick out to you?

*What lessons do you remember learning or taking away from this story if you heard it during childhood?

Esther teaches us that a willing heart is a powerful force in the world

You don't need to wait for a burning bush moment to step into Kingdom work.

Read and discuss Esther 4:4-17(NIV)

⁴ When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. ⁵ Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

⁶ So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

⁹ Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. 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."

¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

*What characteristics do we see of Esther here and throughout the entire book?

*How do we see God in this passage even though he is not expressly mentioned?

*How have you experienced inertia in Kingdom life?

*What does willingness look like for you right now?

Esther had a lot in her life to overcome

Nothing you do and nothing that has happened to you will keep you from Kingdom work if you are willing.

*What wounds, brokenness, comfort, dysfunction, etc. do you sense may be holding you back from Kingdom work? How have you overcome some of this to press in to the work?

*What part does acknowledgement of fear and reluctance play in being willing?

*Can you think of a time when you faced fear or reluctance BUT chose not to be unwilling?

*Do you tend to overthink serving God?

You have already been positioned to impact the world for God's Kingdom of love and justice

We find Kingdom purpose in our work

We find Kingdom projects to help with

We create ways to represent the Kingdom

*Can you think of the Kingdom implications in your job or work?

*What are the Kingdom projects you are drawn to? What had God given you a heart for?

*How would you describe Kingdom work in light of the phrase 'for such a time as this'?

*Where do you sense you are being called to do Kingdom work right where you are? What is a next step you could take toward this?