

# Born for THIS!

Part 3 Esther 1

**God's Favor + Personal Character = Cultural Influence**

King Ahasuerus desires a new queen vs. 1-7

Process; create a **HAREM**; move to the **CONCUBINE**;  
select a **QUEEN** vs. 1-4

Esther's background: **ORPHANED** girl from the  
**CONQUERED** Jewish people vs. 5-7

Esther joins 'The **BACHELORETTE**' show vs. 8-16

Esther's **PERSONALITY** leads to favor with Megai vs. 8-11

Esther prepares to **IMPRESS** the King vs. 12-14

Esther's **DISCRETION** leads to more favor vs. 15-16

Esther is chosen to be new queen vs. 17-18

Esther's **KINDNESS** leads to favor vs. 17

The King **HONORS** Esther vs. 18

What does this story teach us about **GOD**?

God is at work **BEYOND** what they could see!

God uses people with **ROUGH** backgrounds

Esther's beauty & **TACT** + God's **FAVOR** lead to her crown

God uses **ORDINARY** people to play **EXTRAORDINARY**  
roles in His plan

## Life Group Discussion Questions – May 2, 2021

**Matthew 5:16** *Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

### DISCOVER (read Esther 2)

1. Describe Esther's personal background and cultural situation.
2. How do you think Esther must have felt as she was brought to the palace to compete in a "beauty contest"?
3. Esther "found favor in the eyes of all who saw her." She was not only beautiful, but she distinguished herself with many people. She did this because of her character. What would have been some of the challenges of a young Jewish girl living in a Gentile harem?

### EXPLORE

1. Our present-day culture could look at the Esther story and put a "victim" label on her. What reasons might people give in ascribing this title to others? Did Esther receive that label in any way? Why or why not?
2. Read Psalm 112:1, Proverbs 22:4 and 31:30. What conclusions can we draw about maintaining Godly character?

### EXPERIENCE

1. What do you value most highly in your life: your character and virtue, or your outward appearance and the way people perceive you? Why is it so difficult for people with less than favorable backgrounds and histories to believe they are useful and important to God and others? Describe the role of "self-perception."
2. Describe a time in your life when you saw God use someone with a questionable background to accomplish significant Kingdom purposes. How are you different as a result?
3. Esther won favor from many. She also had God's favor. Winning favor is an ongoing process. Have you ever been stuck in a situation where you found yourself blaming others rather than seeking favor? How did the circumstance conclude? What lessons can you glean as a result of your understanding of Esther's character?
4. Take a moment to reflect on the circumstances you are currently facing. Has God placed you in these situations for a specific purpose? Are you choosing to be gracious and seeking to grow in wisdom and humility in the midst of them?

### PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Praise God that He delights in bringing life to desolate places; for turning dark times into good things according to His purposes and plan; that His ways are always for good. Pray that God would place you in a situation that He could use you to work-out His Kingdom purpose.

Action...How can you use the normal skills and abilities God has given you to attract others to Jesus?