

## MESSY FAITH: FINDING OUR STORY IN ESTHER

"Caught Between Two Worlds" (Esther 2:1-18)  
Community Group Curriculum for the week of February 22, 2015

### The Story Continues

Our passage opens with an ancient beauty contest to find a replacement for the queen. Three years have passed since Queen Vashti refused the king's command and was banished from his presence. During this time history tells us the king engaged in an unsuccessful war with Greece. Defeated in war the king "remembers" his decree and a search begins for another queen, which will be the means that God will use to save the nation of Israel.

### Let's Discuss!

1. If someone agreed last week to memorize Esther 2:1-18 let them "**tell the story.**" After telling the story, then read Esther 2:1-18. Compare the passage that was told and the passage read. Regardless if the story is told or just read, have everyone now close their Bible and **rebuild** the story from memory.
2. This passage highlights that we (just as Esther was) are often caught between two worlds, struggling to survive in a faithless world, and we make choices. These choices made are often good and sometimes bad, however all choices have consequences.
  - a) List the choices made in this passage. Were they good or bad choices (or both)? Were there consequences to the choices made? If so, what were they?
  - b) Now list some key choices you have made in your life and the consequences of those choices. Discuss in your group. How did God use your choice for His purpose?
3. Choose one verse or phrase from Esther 2:1-18 that stands out to you. Write it down. What strikes you about the verse or phrase? Discuss in your group.
4. Even though God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, His presence is certainly evident. Are there any evidences of God in Esther 2:1-18? Discuss in your group.

5. Ok, let's fill in the details of Esther 2:1-18.
  - a) What plan did the king's servants suggest for replacing Vashti?
  - b) Who was Mordecai? How had his family come to be in Persia?
  - c) What was Esther's connection to Mordecai?
  - d) Describe how Esther came to be chosen as a candidate to replace Vashti. What was done for her then?
  - e) Who knew Esther's ancestry? Why?
  - f) Describe how each young woman would visit the king.
  - g) What happened when Esther's turn came? What was the end result?
  
6. Read Isaiah 61:10 and Revelation 19:8. The calling and preparations that Esther went through to be crowned with an earthly crown show how only one was chosen. How does this differ from what God has done for us? Does God limit those who can be a part of His family?

**NEXT WEEK:** Leaders, ask for a volunteer to memorize (the best they can) the next portion of the story told in Esther 2:19 – 3:15 and be ready to tell the story (from memory) to your group when you next meet. After telling the story, then have everyone turn to Esther 2:19 – 3:15 and read the story. Compare the telling and the reading of the story. Finally, have everyone close their Bibles and have the group rebuild the story (Esther 2:19 – 3:15) by memory.

### **Prayer**

As a group utilize the A.C.T.S. method this week in prayer:

**A**doration – Praising and worshipping God for who He is

**C**onfession – Asking God to cleanse us from sin

**T**hanksgiving – Believing and acknowledging God's grace

**S**upplication – Our specific prayer requests

### **Final Thought**

By risking her life after rising to prominence, Esther, the captive Jewish orphan, protected the lineage of the coming Messiah. Her gift of intuition and sense of timing were God-given. Through the whole ordeal she remained humbly committed to her people and used her influence to save them all. Through her kindness and gracious spirit Esther found favor with the eunuch in charge of the candidates for queen. He rewarded her with a position of prominence and high visibility. During this time Esther remained close to her foster father, Mordecai. She maintained a teachable spirit and did not lose sight of her origins.