



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 147:5-6

⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.

⁶ The Lord sustains the humble
but casts the wicked to the ground.

- **Praise God for his limitless power.**
- **Pray:** Almighty God, King of glory, there is no one greater or more powerful than you, our all-loving God. In the midst of the bitterness, hatred, strife and corruption we constantly see and experience in the world, fill us with the power of your love and compassion that we may see the opportunity to do good, make the sacrifices that you call us to make, to accomplish the plans you have at such a time as this, to bring justice, hope and peace to the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



SHARE life together

1. In no more than seven words, share your highs and lows from the last week?
2. What is the most courageous thing you have done in life...where you have taken a stand in difficult times?
3. How have you seen bitterness perpetuate more injury or wrongdoing in the world or your own life?

Pray for each other



LISTEN attentively

4. How did you go with the goals you set last week?
 - How can this group better help you achieve the goals?

Read Esther 3-4 in your own Bible or online at Bible Gateway [here \(www.Biblegateway.com\)](http://www.Biblegateway.com)

Week beginning:
Sunday 14th August 2022

Worship series:
GOD'S SILENT SOVEREIGNTY
#2 When Power Corrupts



VERSE for the week

**“And who knows but that you
have come to your royal
position for such a time as
this?”**

Esther 4:14b



REMEMBER this week

**In the midst of
powerlessness and
chaos,
stand and act
in the power of God.**

5. Retell the story in your own words.
6. What is challenging/confusing about this text?
7. Haman is introduced to the story in these chapters. Describe his character.
8. What motivates Mordecai refusal to bow down. What consequences does he face?
9. How does Esther's faith play a role in the decision she makes in chapter 4? Notice her response in verse 10-11 and then again in verse 16.
10. While God is not mentioned in this book, where do you see God's intervention and providence being worked out in these chapters?



GROW deeper

11. How did Mordecai respond to the injustice, evil and corruption he sees around him?
12. How do we respond individually and as a Church to injustice, evil and corruption we see happening around us and how could we respond differently?
13. Re-read Mordecai's speech in 4:12-14. What does it tell you about his faith? How is it similar to Joseph's words in Genesis 50:20 and what encouragement does that give to you?
14. How do Esther's actions point to Jesus and the things he will do for us?



LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:

15. "Better to serve God even if I fail, than fail to serve God." Discuss what this passage says to you.
16. How might Mordecai's words, "who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?", apply to you right now?
17. List two things you feel God calling you to do this week for others?

a. _____

b. _____

Who are you going to share your discoveries with this week?

- Name: _____ Pray for them each day
- Name: _____ Pray for them each day
- Name: _____ Pray for them each day

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



PRAY intentionally

- **Praise God** that the power of his love is greater than the power of evil at work in the world. **Thank Jesus** for enduring the corruption of the world and taking a stand on the cross for us. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to empower us to work for justice in the world and to stand for those who don't have a voice.
- **Pray for your Living purposefully actions and the people you are going to share with.**
- **Pray for the people of Myanmar and the civil strife and persecution they are facing at this time, and for all places in the world where corruption brings harm and injury to innocent people.**
- **Pray for a willingness to let God use you and your life for good in the life of others.**



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], may the power of God be at work in every action. Amen.