



A "BEHIND- THE-SCENES" GOD

FOCUS PASSAGE: ESTHER 1-2:23

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: When was the last time you had a "hindsight is 20/20" moment where you finally understood the purpose or entirety of a past situation?



HEAR THE WORD

Pause for a moment of prayer before reading today's focus passage.

CONTEXT

In Esther's day, it was common for kings like Xerxes to throw grand banquets to show off their vast wealth and power to please the people who lived under their rule. These banquets could be anywhere between weeks to months long and would encourage guests to drink and party without restriction. If anyone were to displease the king during these celebrations, they risk facing consequences much like what Queen Vashti experienced.

After dismissing Vashti as queen, the king goes out in search of someone to replace her. Esther, a Jewish orphan living in Susa under the care of her uncle Mordecai, wins the favor of the king and is taken into his court as the new queen of Persia.



Additional Resource: Consider using the BibleProject's video called "Book of Esther Summary" to get a general overview of the book.

SEEK THE WORD

Spend the next 5-10 minutes seeking to understand more about the passage. What are the key events, characters or themes that stand out? Which parts of the passage draw your attention? Express these in questions, observations, and reflective response.

ENGAGE THE WORD

Continue to reflect and discuss today's focus passage using the following questions. Feel free to address any questions or observations brought up in the previous section.

- God is never explicitly mentioned in the book of Esther. Why do you think that is and what does that tell you about the way God works in the lives of His people?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you were unsure about why God put you in a particular place or situation only to find out later that He had a greater purpose for it?
- Through God's favour, Esther was put into a position of authority that would allow her to influence the king and the people under his rule over a wicked society. Faced with these circumstances, how do you think Esther was able to put her trust and confidence in God?

LIVE THE WORD

Whenever we encounter the Word of God on our own time or with other believers, we are called to understand its message with not only our heads, but with our hearts.

- As you conclude this study with today's focus passage, how will you choose to live this week in response to what you have learned about how God can be a "behind-the-scenes" God?
- How might it change your mindset to live knowing that God is present in your life no matter where you go or what you do?

BIG IDEA: There may be times when God places us in positions or even particular situations that we may not understand in the moment. But such times and places are for His purposes and for a coming time when a need will arise!

