

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

OPEN in prayer

SHARE

- Share about a time in your life when God's power and strength were particularly evident.

READ the Esther story: Esther 3:12—4:17 (Since this is a lengthy portion of text ask several persons from your group to read it in sections.)

BACKGROUND

Author and pastor Max Lucado writes that, *“Esther was quite a lady and queen. You have to admire her courage. You have to love her story. But there is one thing that is tough to figure. God’s name never appears in the entire book. His actions do. His thoughts do. His plan does. His fingerprints are on every page. But his name never appears. Could it be that God is more concerned about getting the job done than getting credit?”* The greatest contribution of the book of Esther is to our appreciation for God’s providential care.

Esther teaches us this lesson: The God of miracles, who has at times intervened in obvious supernatural acts to benefit His people, is also at work in the flow of “natural” events as well! God superintends the “chance” experiences that prove to be the turning point in the lives of individuals and in the history of nations. This is the teaching of divine providence: the conviction that the God of the Bible is in full control of the details of everyday life. Divine providence tells us that the world and our lives are not ruled by chance or fate, but by the God who lays bare His purposes in the life and love of Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION of Esther’s story

- 1) How do the verses of 3:12-4:13 teach you that **God is in control**?
- *Where in your life are you needing to recognize that God is in control?*
- 2) How does verse 4:14 teach you to **be obedient**?
- *Where in your life are you needing to be more obedient to God?*
- 3) How do verses 4:15-16 teach you to always **include others**?
- *Where in your life are you needing to include others more, rather than being isolated?*
- 4) How do verses 4:16-17 teach you that we have to **accept the sacrifice**?
- *Where in your life are you needing to accept sacrifice or submit yourself more?*

CLOSE IN PRAYER

April 11 – April 17
“For Such a Time as This”
-The Story of Esther-

Cinderella
Stories