

## Conversation Starters

- How has your week been?
- How has this series impacted your approach to each of the last few weeks?

## Discuss

**God's agenda in this world is to reach those who are far from him to come into a relationship with him, and then for us to take our stand in the world to seeing his will and purposes be done. And his will is a good one. If we live for that purpose, making God's agenda our agenda, we will truly live for the best purpose possible. The story of Esther in the Bible is one example of how life can be lived according to that purpose.**

*Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:15-16 NIV)*

**Often times when we set out to live that way, it will follow a common pattern. God will give us an opportunity or moment to do something significant. As in the case with Esther, the Bible uses a word, "kairos", which translates literally as "time" and refers not to calendar time but radical moments of life for decision to action. When one of these opportunities arises, it is our job to rise to the occasion.**

*He [Mordecai] also gave him [Hathak] a copy of the text of the edict for their [the Jews] annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. (Esther 4:8 NIV)*

- Have you made the resolution to make God's agenda your agenda?
- How is (or can) that changing the way you live?
- Is there an opportunity God has put in front of you right now that you are considering?

**Along with the presented opportunity often comes the need to face the cost of acting on that opportunity. It will often have a significant price tag or require great sacrifice.**

*"All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king." (Esther 4:11 NIV)*

- Have you ever had to face the cost of choosing to live for Christ?
- What barriers keep you from following through on an opportunity God has given you?
- Do you care more about making a difference for Christ than anything else?

**Finally, there will likely be a direct challenge to accepting the opportunity. Something will try to step in your way and prevent you from succeeding. However, if you push through, you will make history like Esther; maybe not in the world's eyes, but more importantly in God's eyes.**

*"For if you [Esther] remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:12-14 NIV)*

- Are you facing any challenges right now to living for Christ?
- How are you responding?

## Next Steps

If we choose to live on purpose (God's purpose), we will experience life that we would not be able to anywhere else. It will not always be the easiest or the safest, but it will be fulfilling. What if there is no significance apart from sacrifice? And we can always remember that God is faithful (2 Thessalonians 3:3) in our journey to live for him. How will you respond to the opportunities that God puts in front of you? Spend time praying this week for an opportunity to serve God, strength and courage for overcoming any obstacles, and resolve to follow through.

## Further Reflection

*Read Esther 4 or read the entire book of Esther this week.*

## Pray

God, your Word shows your faithfulness and when we live for you we know we can experience it firsthand. Forgive us for any opportunities we may have missed or may be ignoring. Thank you for offering us the opportunity to live for you and play a part in your agenda for this world. Give us wisdom to see any opportunity to share our faith in you with others and live for you in this world, and strength to follow through.