



## Part 10: Esther

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### The Characters

King Xerxes – *King of Persia from 486 to 465 BC; a son of King Darius*

Esther – *a Jewish orphan, also known as Hadassah*

Mordecai – *Esther's cousin who raised her like a daughter*

Haman – *King Xerxes' highest official; the villain*

### The Storyline

- King Xerxes throws a six-month party
- Queen Vashti refuses to come and is deposed
- King Xerxes begins the search for a new queen
- Mordecai is a godly Jewish man who has been raising his cousin, Esther
- Esther becomes queen
- Mordecai uncovers a plot to assassinate Xerxes
- Haman unleashes a plot to have all of the Jews destroyed
- Esther is a Jew
- Mordecai asks Esther to save her people
- Esther risks her life to approach the King
- Haman begins another plot to kill Mordecai on a 75-foot gallows
- King Xerxes remembers how Mordecai saved his life and honors him by having Haman parade him through town like royalty
- Esther asks the king to spare her people from Haman's plot
- The king orders Haman hung on his own gallows for attempting to kill Esther's people
- The people of Israel are saved through the courage of Esther who was chosen "for such a time as this." (*Esther 4:14*)

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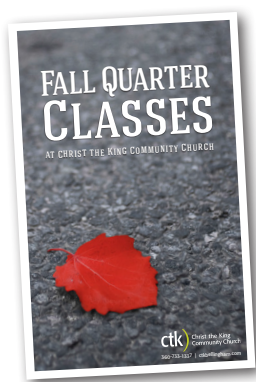
## Valuable Life Lessons

The sovereign hand of God is always moving.

A surrendered life can move under that sovereign hand.

God's plan is often revealed only in hindsight.

We are called to live with courage, foresight and faith.



## Next Steps

One of the most practical ways to keep yourself under the guidance and protection of God's sovereign hand is to gather with others for biblical teaching and group interaction. That's why CTK offers many groups and classes throughout the year. Fall classes start soon; pick up a copy of the *Fall Quarter Class* flyer in the Commons.

- *Recovery Classes and Support Groups*
- *Alpha: A Practical Introduction to Christianity Bible*
- *Studies for Men and Women*
- *Financial Classes*

## Small Group Questions

- 1) The story of Esther is inspiring. What other stories of courage have been inspiring to you? (Think Olympics, current events, or history)
- 2) Even though he's never mentioned by name, where do you see God moving in the story of Esther? Where can you see him moving in your own life?
- 3) Has God ever given you courage to confront an injustice? What happened?
- 4) It's easy to trust in God's sovereignty (his supreme power and authority) when life is going well. How do you reconcile God's sovereignty when life is a challenge?
- 5) Esther was placed in a specific place and role to save her people. Can you see situations where God has placed you "for such a time as this?" Share that with the group.
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?

## OUR MISSION

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.