



Today, we're beginning a new series called Life on Purpose. One of the things that every one of us desires in life is a purpose bigger than ourselves. Maybe you're wondering, "What is my purpose?" or asking, "Does the Bible have anything to say about how I should live my life?" The answer is "yes," and God has given us a great example in Esther. She was thrown into quite a predicament. Nevertheless, her life shone through as a woman of God who lived with a purpose bigger than herself.

SCRIPTURE: Esther 1-3

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most? How would you summarize the theme or big idea of the sermon?
2. Take some time to reflect on your last 5-10 years. Could you have imagined then that you'd be where you are today? Why does it take time to see and understand God's activity in our lives? Do you think Esther understood the "why" behind what was happening in her life in chapters 1-3?
3. Read Acts 17:26, Romans 8:28, and Ephesians 1:11. What do these verses say about God's sovereignty? How can they help give us a sense of purpose in life, whether it's exciting, mundane, or challenging?
4. In these opening chapters, we see Esther exercise discernment and take advice from others. Why is it important to exercise discernment regarding the voices in your life? How has God used people (good or bad) to help mold you into who you are today?
5. Throughout the Bible, we see women honored – even when the culture of their day disregarded them. How do we see this take place in Scripture? Which woman in the Bible inspires you the most?
6. Read Esther 1:10-12 and 2:1-4. In what ways is our culture like that of Esther's day when it comes to the treatment and value of women? Read Proverbs 31:10 and 30. What do these verses have to say to both women and men?
7. What's one personal takeaway from this study you can focus on applying in your life this week?