

Discussion Questions for Ohana Groups  
Week of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
“Winning the King’s Favor” Esther 2:8-18

**OVERVIEW**

The coronation of a young Jewish girl named Esther as queen of Persia begins to show God’s sovereign power to oversee the protection of His people who had been taken into exile from Israel. This story of Esther depicts remarkable faith and endurance, as she meets the king to win his favor.

**ICEBREAKER**

If invited for a private audience with somebody famous (politician, celebrity, athlete, theologian, scientist), what questions would you pose? How would you dress and prepare yourself?

**BIBLE: Read Esther 2:8-18**

1. What process did King Xerxes of Persia employ in order to decide on a wife?
2. Why did Mordecai forbid Esther to reveal her Jewish background (v. 10)?
3. What kind of “preparation” did Esther have to undertake to present herself to the king? How long did this preparation take?
4. How did Esther show patience and prudence in her decisions? What did she do that allowed her to win the king’s favor?

**APPLICATION**

1. How do you relate to this story (like Mordecai, like Esther)?
2. Like Esther, how does winning God’s favor cultivate your intimacy with God?
3. What do you need to do in order to “prepare” yourself when meeting the King of kings?
4. In what way does winning the king’s favor clarify my identity?
5. Discuss the tension between seeking the heart of the king over the splendor of his kingdom. What changes need to be made to seek His presence over His “presents”?
6. What you do not eradicate when you are strong will come back to attack you when you are weak. If you don’t deal with your enemy now your children will have to face your enemy tomorrow. What specific things do we need to do on our watch today to confront and defeat the enemy through Christ to grant our children and grandchildren a better future.
7. “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies” (Psa. 23:5). When the enemy is sitting at our table what should our response be?

**PRAY**

1. Pray that we may seek the “heart” of God, and not the “splendor” or “presents” of God’s Kingdom.
2. Pray that we may present ourselves to the King as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Him.

Got questions or need help? Call or Email John Barrow  
(808)-841-7022 or john.barrow@kalihionion.org

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