

January 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

## **Kings & Queens part 2: The Queen who Changed Everything**

In this lesson you will learn about the three main characters in the Book of Esther.

**Intro:** The book of Esther is one of the most powerful and intriguing books of the Bible. It is a story that is extremely compelling and emotional. Interestingly enough, the book does not mention the name of God at all within it, but if you think God is missing then you are not paying attention. God's power and his fingerprints are found throughout this book as He orchestrates the events from start to finish. What do you see in front of you? God is looking for people who will see differently than everyone else this year. See with the eyes of faith, hope, creativity and courage so you can take ground.

### **I. Mordecai: The Leader Behind the Scenes**

- A. Mordecai takes his cousin Esther under his care and raises her as his own (Es 2:7). He instructs her and gives her Godly advice and wisdom as she grows into an adult. He knew exactly what to tell her to do in order for her to campaign to be the next queen. As an official of the palace, he was watching over her every day and caring for her. He informed Esther when he uncovered a plot to assassinate the king, and foiled the plans. He told Esther that she was in her position as queen for such a time as this. He inspired Esther to take action on behalf of her people.

### **II. Haman: The Insecure Evil Leader**

- A. Haman was an elevated palace official who had favor with the king (Es 3:1). When Haman found out that Mordecai did not bow down to him, he was filled with rage. He determined to take out his vengeance not just on Mordecai, but to wipe out all the Jews in the kingdom. Haman secretly persuaded the king to enact a law that would wipe out the Jews and he paid money into the King's treasury for the deed. Then he built special gallows to hang his number one enemy Mordecai on at a set time.

### **III. Esther: The Leader Under Control**

- A. Esther submits to the authority of her cousin Mordecai and obeys him in all the instruction and wisdom he gives her during her campaign to be queen. She informs Mordecai to have the Jews in Susa to pray for her as she prepares to go before the King. She fasts and prays and puts her own life at risk to go before the King to plead for the lives of her people. Esther points out to the King that Haman is the man behind the law to wipe out the Jews. She also uses her favor to have the King write another law so the Jews can take vengeance against their enemies throughout the kingdom (Es 8:7-8).

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Which leader do you identify most with in the book of Esther?
2. Have you used the favor on your life to serve other people?
3. What has God turned around in your life from evil intention to good results?