



Esther #2: Summoned to Seek & Scrutinize

August 10 & 11, 2024
Esther Chapter 2 & 3

Opener:

When was the last time you played Hide and Seek? What are your memories of this game?

Go Deeper:

1. **Hidden God:** We describe God's actions as being "hidden" in Esther because His name is not mentioned, but what are some examples of God's presence in the events of Esther Chapters 2-3?
 2. **Beauty Pageant:** The Book of Esther is sometimes explained to children as Esther participating in a beauty pageant, while others attempt to explain the moral ambiguity of the girls being forced into sexual slavery. What aspects of the selection of the young virgins is most unsettling to you?
 3. **Haman:** Haman holds a deep seated grudge against the Jewish people that goes all the way back to Exodus 17. How does this parallel some of the deep seated hatred we see against the Jews today?
 4. **No Coincidences:** There are no coincidences with God. How do Chapters 2 and 3 of Esther highlight this truth?
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Live It:

1. Esther had someone in her corner who would alter his plans daily because he was so deeply concerned about her (her Uncle Mordecai). Do you have someone in your life like this? If yes, thank God for them. If not, pray God sends someone like Mordecai to be in your life. Also pray about how you could be this person for someone in need.
2. **God's Plans:** Reflect on how does knowing that God's plans are not thwarted by human events make you feel?
3. **Seeking God's presence:** In what ways has the story of Esther enabled you to see God's presence in the good and the bad things that happen in your life?



GOD TIME:

Daily Bible Readings (August 11-17)

Sun:	Luke 11:2-4	The Lord's Prayer
Mon:	Matthew 4:1-11	Jesus is Tempted
Tues:	Matthew 4:12-17	God's Kingdom Is Near
Wed:	Matthew 11:1-8	Freedom From Affliction
Thurs:	John 18:33-40	Not of This World
Fri:	John 19:13-22	A Crucified King
Sat:	Romans 14:13-19	Righteousness & Peace

*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.

