



### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION** Pg1

(Group leaders pick 4-5 questions to discuss as time permits)

Have someone from the group give a 3 minute bio on Xerxes and Vashti.  
(Have them Google it prior and prepare)

Or, have someone research Purim and how the book of Esther plays into that celebration.

Who is the most famous person you have ever been photographed with?

Describe the most extravagant party you have ever been to. Does it compare to the gala Xerxes is throwing?

Before this series started, what did you know about Esther?

In what ways does the fact that the book of Esther has a woman as a central character affect your perspective on studying this book?

The first chapter of Esther describes the timing and political climate Esther is living in. In your words how would you describe the context she is living in? What are some unique challenges Esther would face because of the situation she is living in? In what ways are our times and challenges similar?



### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION Pg2

Read Esther 1:11-12. Why do you think Queen Vashti refused to appear before the king? Do you think she had any idea of the consequences of that refusal? Would you say her situation could be described as “lose-lose?” What lose-lose situations have you been confronted with and how did you deal with them?

In what ways do you think absolute power or alcohol contributed to Xerxes’ request and/or response to Vashti’s refusal? What affect do you see power and alcohol contributing to poor decisions today in Christians?

Read 1:16-19. What advice about how to respond does Xerxes receive?

The title of the message this week is “This is happening.” In what ways have events occurred in your life that are out of your control?

What promise does Romans 8:28, offer that helps you to process the things that are happening in your life right now?

What does redemption mean to you and how does it affect your perspective on life’s challenges?

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### **Guide – ESTHER 1: *This is happening***

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Esther is beautiful, wise, and gutsy. Her beauty will prove irresistible to the most powerful king in the world. With wisdom she will outmaneuver a cunning manipulator. With guts, she will take her place in history and save the Hebrew people from sure annihilation.

#### **OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES**

##### **This is happening.**

Esther Chapter 1

##### **A promise to remember:**

*Ro 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

1. God doesn't promise that life will be perfect, but he does promise to make something good from it.
2. "The good" God is working is sometimes "in us" and sometimes "through us."  
Phil 2:13
3. There is no situation that this promise does not apply to.