

INTRODUCTION: 2020 was an unprecedented time. A “once in a lifetime” series of events that turned our entire world and current way of life upside down. Through all the chaos, we might wonder if God is at work and what our proper response should be. The book of Esther echoes many of these current cultural themes, and that is why it is the focus of our summer sermon series. By studying Esther, we want to ask hard questions, to be inspired when we find ourselves in places or positions we didn’t seek, and to feel encouraged when we aren’t sure we have what it takes to succeed. And we want to be reminded that God is still at work in the cultural chaos, accomplishing His good purposes today.

CENTERING: Take a moment to center yourself for communion with God.

READING: Book of Esther (Character focus: Queen Esther)

REFLECTING ON SERMON & SCRIPTURE:

- Throughout the story of Esther, though not mentioned, we see God is at work. We are each invited to participate in God’s work. What feelings are stirred up within you as you think about being an active participant in God’s work here on Earth? What barriers come up for you and how do you imagine overcoming those barriers?
- “And who knows but that you have come to [this position] for such a time as this?” What drives your response to opportunities to engage in and/or respond to injustices around you? Feelings or Fortitude? Discomfort or Discernment?
- What would the world be like if we all put aside discomforts and submitted to God? What would the world be like if we all submitted to fear and resisted doing God’s work?
- What are the practical ways as a group you can lean more into what God is calling you to do for such a time as this?

PRAYING:

The song says, “even when I don’t see it, you’re working, even when I don’t feel it, you’re working, you never stop working.” This is from “Waymaker” by Nigerian singer Sinach. As you go to prayer, take time to listen to [this song by Sinach](#) via YouTube.

Spend time in prayer submitting your fears, worries, doubts, and any other emotions that tend to create barriers that may hinder your ability to see your “for such a time as this moment.” Remember, God is a way-maker and will go before you and will be with you. Blessings!