



### Session 3

Esther

week starting February 16

Many familiar “classic” Bible stories are sanitized and simplified for younger audiences—a choice that’s understandable but can strip these stories of their depth. As a result, these “PG” versions can seem like clean, fairytale-like narratives. What if these stories were meant to convey more? We’ll examine five well-known Bible stories, uncover their richer meanings, and live out a deeper faith.

*Leaders, feel free to choose the questions that best fit your group. No pressure to answer every question!*

### OPENER

- What’s one thing in your life that has turned out differently than you expected?
- Does your family have any ‘family secrets’, and why were they kept undercover?

### MESSAGE

- What stood out to you from Esther’s story this week?
- Jeremy highlighted that the book of Esther never mentions God and yet God’s actions are all over the story. What can this teach us about how we view our world around us?
- Describe a time that God was moving in your life but you didn’t realize it until later.

### SCRIPTURE

- It will be helpful to read the book of Esther ahead of your group meeting, or view the summary at [bibleproject.com/explore/video/esther](https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/esther).
- In Esther 4, what do you see that points to Jesus? How do we understand that as Christians?
- What differences do you note between Haman and Mordecai in Esther 5:11–6:11?
- This story is about the reversal of honor and shame at the hand of God. Thinking about the great reversal of the Gospel in our lives, how have you experienced God’s favor over you in the place of shame?

### APPLICATION

- In what ways does this story change or grow your picture of God?
- Where have you seen God at work around you? Has God put you in a situation “for such a time as this”?
- Esther and Mordecai were imperfect people who acted in faith at a key moment of crisis. Talk about a time when you have had to act in faith in a time of struggle.

### CLOSE

- Share prayer and praise requests, then pray together.

### THIS WEEK

This week, read the article *Esther: Secular or Sacred*, and note the beautiful way the Bible reveals God in narrative structure. Visit [bibleproject.com/articles/esther-secular-sacred](https://bibleproject.com/articles/esther-secular-sacred) to find the article.