

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

### Esther 1-2

#### A Rising Star

#### Getting Started

Describe a time in your life when God seemed distant.

#### Digging In

1. **Read Esther ch. 1.** Jot down your first impressions.
2. Look up the location of Susa on a map in the back of your Bible. How extensive was the Persian Empire?
3. What did King Xerxes (aka Ahasuerus) do to show off his wealth and importance?
4. How did the king respond when Queen Vashti refused to be paraded before his guests?
5. What did his *wise men* advise King Xerxes to do?
6. **Read Esther 2:1-18.** What steps were taken to find a replacement for Queen Vashti?
7. What do we learn about Mordecai in ch. 2?
8. What do we learn about Esther?
9. How did Esther become queen?
10. **Read 2:19-23.** What plot did Mordecai discover? What did he do with the information?



#### Getting Personal

- How many times is God mentioned in chs. 1-2?
- Looking closely, in what ways can you see God's hand at work in chs. 1-2, orchestrating events to accomplish his purposes?
- Have you ever had a time in your life when you couldn't see God at work? How can Romans 8:28 be a comfort at times like these?
- How can we learn to trust God during the times when he seems to be distant?
- Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-13. Use it as the basis for a prayer of trust and thanksgiving.