

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Esther 3-4

For Such a Time as This

Getting Started

When have you seen someone act with noteworthy courage?

Digging In

1. **Read Est 3:1-6.** Why was Haman so angry at Mordecai?
2. What did he decide to do about it?
3. **Read Est 3:7-15.** How did Haman plan to get his revenge?
4. How did he manipulate King Xerxes to get him to go along with his plot?
5. **Read Est 4:1-11.** How did Esther learn about Haman's plot?
6. What instructions did Mordecai give to Esther?
7. Why was Esther hesitant to obey her foster father?
8. **Read 4:12-14.** How did Mordecai press upon Esther her responsibility to intercede on behalf of the Jews?
9. Write a paraphrase of v. 14.
10. How are human responsibility and divine sovereignty both seen in v. 14?
11. **Read 4:15-17.** How does Esther demonstrate the cost of commitment?



Getting Personal

- What are some ways in which we might be tempted to compromise in order to avoid conflict or persecution today?
- Is there a particular area in which you are tempted to hide your faith in Christ – at work, with a friend, with a neighbor?
- In God's sovereign plan, it is his will that we be alive now – at this time and in this place. What does it look like for us to be faithful in *such a time as this*?
- How do you think God is calling you to stand strong for him?
- How can Esther's example help us to be people of faithfulness and courage?