**HIDDEN FIGURES | Esther | Week 2 | July 13/14, 2019**

Esther 1-10 • 1 Peter 2:9-10

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening: The Bible is full of stories women who used their influence and took great personal risks to confront the injustices of their time. They knew the dangers of doing what they did yet their love for God propelled them to a different way of life that ran counter to cultural and social norms. Through this series we will explore these hidden figures of the scriptures allowing them to lead, teach and challenge us to become who God is calling us to become by the grace and love of Jesus.

Reflect: Suanne Camfield shared about, “A six word story.” In reference to you personally or if you are using this study guide with a small group, come up with a six word story that reflects your life as a follower of Jesus.

Watch: During their messages, Suanne Camfield and Pastor Lisa Capozzoli, gave us some background and overviewed the story of Esther. To review [The Book of Esther](#) use this link* and it will take you to a very helpful video from [The Bible Project](#).

- Journal or share what especially intrigued, challenged, encouraged, warmed, helped, or surprised you from the video?
- Pastor Lisa describes Esther as, “The story of a young woman whose courage to save her people helps her to become fully who God has called her to be. Having watched this video or from listening to one of the messages this past weekend, how would you summarize this story?”

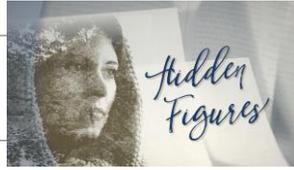
*Can be accessed at [ChristChurch.us/Study](#) also

Mordecai: Both Suanne and Pastor Lisa shared from Esther 4, Mordecai’s strong encouragement to Esther, “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”

- When have you had to make a choice to live into who God is calling you to be or to compromise really who you are as a follower of Jesus?
- What would happen in the story of Esther with no Mordecai?
- Whom do you have in your life to encourage you in such a way?

Suanne shared, “Sometimes we need someone to look us in the eye and say, “I see this in you – gift, talent, passion, call...You were created for this...You can do this.”

- To whom are you or can you be a Mordecai?



Fasting: Pastor Lisa shared, “Esther demonstrates maturity and wisdom in declaring a fast. She didn’t operate on her own power and presumption. She knew this was a situation beyond her control and she needed to be listening for God’s words and direction. For three days Esther waited in the presence of God to receive revelation from Him for the best course of action.”

- Journal or share your experience with fasting?
- Have you ever fasted? Do you do so on a regular basis? Why or why not?
- What questions do you have about the spiritual practice of fasting that you can seek answers?

Live Esther: Pastor Lisa lead us to consider [1 Peter 2:9-10](#). (Using this link will take you to [BibleGateway.com](#) where you can explore this passage through three preselected translations of the scripture.)

- Journal or share what especially intrigued, challenged, encouraged, warmed, helped, or surprised you from the passage?
- How does it relate to us living after God as Esther did?
- With a story as big as Esther there is much to reflect upon. Wrap up your time by journaling or sharing what other comments, thoughts, questions, applications are flowing through your heart and mind.

Practice of the Week: Practice encouragement. Take some time to write a note to someone who has been your Mordecai. Tell them what their encouragement has meant to you, how it has shaped your life. Also consider to whom is God leading you to be a Mordecai? Write them a note of encouragement helping them to live into who you see God growing them to become.

Additional Resources: We introduced you to [The Bible Project](#) earlier in this study guide. Through captivating and informative videos, The Bible Project inspires us to experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. Take some time this week to explore this very helpful resource for your own spiritual formation.

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.
Roger Peer: contact through Eric * Eric Haskins: ehaskins@christchurch.us