

HIDDEN: A Journey Through Esther: The Cast
The Book of Esther, Psalm 124
January 03, 2021

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. What word(s) capture how 2020 was for you? What are the word(s) that you hope for this year?
2. What is your favorite musical or play? What drew you into the story and plot? Who was your favorite character?
3. What comes to mind when you think of a “close call” (personal, historical or even in a fictional narrative?) What was at stake? How did things turn out?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. If you have not read the book of Esther, take time to read through it several times. Each time you will pick up a few more details and get a more full sense of the plot and drama. According to Pastor Jason, it was intended to be read over and over again to extract a variety of lessons and insights. You can also find a 10 minute overview from the [Bible Project](#) here. What are your first impressions of this biblical story?
2. Scholars say that the book of Esther is often read in conjunction with Psalm 124, which talks about God saving his people by the skin of their teeth. Why would this theme be applicable to the story of Esther and its lessons?
3. There are several key individuals in this book. What role do each contribute to this national crisis - Vashti, Mordecai, Esther, Haman, Xerxes?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. As you begin 2021, how have you felt God’s hiddenness in your life, within our community, and in our world? What kind of prayer would you express on behalf of yourself and others?
2. An initial takeaway from the book of Esther is that God’s response to trouble and adversity does not always result in overwhelming victory, but that his grace and work is also shown in the narrow escapes. Can we still trust God knowing that God allows casualties or collateral damage? Is surviving by the skin of our teeth enough of a reassurance? What about the ones who don’t escape?
3. Is there value in knowing that God won’t always sweep in and blow out our problems? Is it good news?