

"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

- ▶ To think about time is to think about life!
 - Psalm 31:14, 15a; 90:12
 - Esther 4:14b -- "Who knows but that you have come to the kingdom *for such a time as this?*" (NKJV)- *emphasis added*

TODAY'S QUESTION: What time is it?

SERIES QUESTION: Why me?

SERIES THEME: To discover, understand, and be confident in our God-given purpose for life

- ▶ Review: We've looked at two young people, David and Daniel.
Question → Did you dare to be a Daniel this last week?

- ▶ Today is Mother's Day, and we are celebrating all of the beautiful Kingsway ladies!
 - > In their honour let's look at a beautiful, blessed young woman, _____, who discovered and dared to live her God-given purpose.

- ▶ To understand Esther we need to know about her times.
 - > It was the time of the Persian Empire.
 - > The book opens with a _____ dispute.
 - > The Miss Persia contest will crown the next queen.
 - > Esther won the beauty contest!
 - > _____ is Esther older cousin or uncle.
 - > Haman (the Prime Minister) hated Mordecai and all Jews.

TODAY'S TEXT: Esther 4:1, 5, 12 – 17

TODAY'S THEME: My God-given purpose means it is time to _____ who I am, to _____ about why I am here and to _____ what I must do

IF I HAVE A GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE THEN

I. IT IS TIME TO REMEMBER WHO I AM!

UNCLE MORDIE SAYS,

A. HEY GIRL! IT IS TIME TO REMEMBER! WHO ARE YOU?

- > Esther was a Jew.
 - One of the people that God had _____ to reveal his purpose of salvation in the world.

- > But her identity had been kept secret. • 2:10
 - The Persian world was very hostile to the Jewish people.
 - A Jewish identity was a _____.
 - But Jews were living all over the Empire.
 - Many were very successful and served at the highest levels.
 - Esther had been living in these successful times.
 - Esther was living the Persian life in the Persian palace.

- ▶ The times had been very _____ for Esther!

> BUT THE TIMES WERE CHANGING!

- It was a time of _____.
- It was time for her to remember her _____ identity.
- It was time for her to remember her God-given _____.

TODAY'S QUESTION: What time is it? Is it time for you to start living for your God-given purpose? What is God saying?

B. HEY _____! IT'S TIME TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!

- > You are in the world but you are not of this world. • See John 17
- > You have been blessed but you do not _____ to this world.
 - Remember I Peter 2:9,10
- > You have a God-given _____ and purpose in this world.
 - II Corinthians 5:17, 19b, 20, 6:1,2

TODAY'S QUESTION: What time is it? Is it time for you and me to remember our God-given purpose?

IF I HAVE A GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE THEN

II. IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHY I AM HERE!

UNCLE MORDIE SAYS,

A. HEY GIRL! IT IS TIME TO THINK! WHY YOU ARE HERE?

- ▶ Esther was living in a _____!
 - > She was isolated from the real world.
- ▶ The city was in turmoil but the palace was having a party. • 3:15
- ▶ God's people were suffering all over the world and Esther didn't have a _____.
 - > Mordecai had to get her attention! • 4:1
 - But at first she didn't get it. • 4:4
 - > Mordecai challenges her to wake up and think! • 4:6ff
 - It finally dawns on her. • 4:11
 - > Mordecai tells her the truth and hits her with the _____ question.
 - 4:13,14

TODAY'S QUESTION: **What time is it?** *Is it time for you to think about your God-given purpose? Why are you here? What is God saying?*

B. HEY _____! IT'S TIME TO THINK! WHY ARE YOU HERE?
Questions → *Are you paying attention to reality? Have you been lulled to sleep? Are you thinking about what time it is?*
> It's time to _____ and think about your life!
• Ephesians 5:14-17

Questions → *What is the purpose of all that you've been through? Is there a good purpose in all of this?*
> Everything in your life is _____ for a God-given purpose!
• Romans 8:28

IF I HAVE A GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE THEN

III. IT IS TIME TO _____ WHAT I AM GOING TO DO!

UNCLE MORDIE SAYS,
A. HEY GIRL! IT IS TIME TO DECIDE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
▶ It was Esther time of _____! She had two options:
1. _____ the call.
- Just keep on living the comfortable life.
- Forget about a God-given purpose.
2. Say, _____! This is my time to act.
- I came to the kingdom for such a time as this!
- I will do something!

TODAY'S QUESTION: **What time is it?** *Is this a time that you can ignore? Or is this your time to act? Did you come to God's kingdom for such a time as this? What is God saying?*

B. HEY _____! IT IS YOUR TIME TO DECIDE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

My God-given purpose is _____!

It is my time to _____!

CONCLUDING QUESTION: **What time is it?**

KINGSWAY LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

****NOTE:** *Prepare for your LifeGroup by reading the whole book of Esther before you come.***

- Start your discussion by taking turns telling Esther's story.
- Discuss the status and conditions women lived in during Esther's time.
 - > What has changed today?
 - > What is still the same?
- ▶ Esther was chosen and given her identity in the Persian world because of her physical attributes.
 - > Does this happen in our world?
 - > How does this affect women and girls?
- ▶ Esther was able to live out her God-given purpose when she understood and responded to her God-given identity.
 - > What did Mordecai say and do to help Esther find her true identity? (Hint: See **Esther 4:12-17.**)
 - > What can we do to encourage and help women and girls in our Church find their true identity in Christ?
- Read **II Corinthians 5:16-21** and discuss the difference between seeing ourselves and each other from "a worldly point of view" or an "in Christ" point of view.
 - > How might this change the way we look at others? (Men and women!)
 - > What does it mean to be "reconciled to God"?
 - > How does this affect our identity?
 - > What is our "message of reconciliation"?
- Talk about times when you felt like you were really living out an "I was born `for such a time as this'" moment in your Christian life.
- Close in prayer, and especially remember to pray for the women in your group and the girls in your families.