



LIFEGROUPS

Sermon title: The Three Wise
Women Who Saved Christmas

Scripture: Esther 1-10

Date: Dec. 12 & 13, 2015

—[LET'S TALK]—

- God's creation declares His glory. What are things about winter that point to our creator God?

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- How has God used other people to shape, protect, or bless your life?
- Why might the author of *Esther* purposefully leave out references to God?
- Why and how highly does our culture value experiential evidence?
- Talk about a time when you had difficulty knowing if God is really there.

—[LET'S DIG | CHOOSE 1]—

- Read Esther 4:6-14 and talk about God's providence.
 - a. What is at stake for Esther in the choice she faces?
 - b. What are some assumptions Mordecai makes?
 - c. Given his assumptions, how does Mordecai see these circumstances?
 - d. In verse 14, what does Mordecai mean with the phrase "...from another place?"
- Read Esther 4:15-17, 5:1-8, 7:1-4 and talk about how God used Esther.
 - a. In 4:16, how does Esther respond to Mordecai's reasoning? Be specific.
 - b. Again in 4:16, why does Esther choose to wait for a few days before acting?
 - c. What do you notice about Esther's behavior, strategy and plans in 5:1-8 and 7:1-4?
 - d. How is God involved in Esther's actions?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Practice finding God's hidden presence in the world around you. This week, as you go about life, remind yourself to search for how God is moving in the world, and how He is setting you up to do His work. Use an everyday household object as your reminder, such as a clock that strikes on the hour, or set some alarms on your phone. When the clock strikes, or the alarm goes off, let it interrupt your day and make you pause to search for God's presence moving and leading you to display His *hesed* to others.

—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Mordecai and Esther chose to conceal Esther’s Jewishness, and by extension, her connection to the one true God.
- But, when the opportunity came to use her power to help God’s people, Esther chooses to risk her life and reveal her identity for the sake of others.
- God, although never mentioned explicitly, is clearly at work in the movements of this account in *Esther*.
- God saved Christmas through Esther because she held on to God’s goodness in the face of grave danger, thus allowing the story to unfold as one of deliverance.

—[**NOTES**]—
