

# Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Scripture: Esther 2:5-18



## THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Jesus is our sacrifice and the basis for our cleanliness before God, not our righteous works.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

1. Briefly describe the events unfolding in this passage.
2. How do you try to honor or please those in your life? How can this mindset lead to either good or bad choices?
3. What does the name Mordecai mean, and what does it demonstrate about the state of the Jewish people at the time? Like the Jewish people at the time, can you identify with the struggle for identity (i.e., living in a pagan/secular culture as a follower of Christ)?
4. What do we know about Esther? Contrast the story with Daniel's experience in Babylonian exile (Daniel 1).
5. What should we make of this passage's morally ambiguous description of events? Can you relate to the difficulty of choosing right from wrong in a fallen world? Why is it unhelpful to speculate on human motives where the Bible is silent?
6. Where do you see glimpses of God's sovereignty in this passage?
7. How did the King and his court perceive the young women? Do you see any similarities in our contemporary culture?
8. What's the difference between the world's understanding of beauty and godly beauty (1 Peter 3:3-4)? How can we teach or model godly beauty to our children?
9. Are there ways you have acted as King Ahasuerus (i.e., curating ungodly desires or distractions or demanding perfection from others)?
10. How is King Jesus different from King Ahasuerus? Discuss how Jesus' sacrificial, atoning work cleanses us from our sin and shame.