



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 29th January 2023

Esther Chapter 1  
The king, the queen and the poor advice



### Warm Up

Today, the Western nations claim that they promote equality and treat people fairly. Are there examples of the truth of this claim? Where has it yet to become truth?

### Background and context

Xerxes was known as the King of Kings across the Persian empire. He ruled over one of the most powerful empires of the ancient world. His word was law, he controlled life and death by the movement of his sceptre. He was volatile, cruel and ultimately weak.

### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

#### Read Esther Ch. 1

1. How does this chapter contrast what the king **has** with what the king **is**?
2. Why do you think Queen Vashti refused him?
3. What do you think of the 'wise men's' advice?
4. Where do we see this kind of approach today?
5. Why, when men and women are equally made in the image of God, is there such an imbalance of power between the sexes?
6. How does the Gospel portray the new relationship between men and women? What is the new ingredient that brings about this transformation? (Ephesians 5:21-33)

### Growing in discipleship: Practical application

7. In our own Christian walk, how can we demonstrate the model of Ephesians 5 :21-33 in all our relationships ?
8. How should we respond when we see examples of sexism, misogyny and poor leadership?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.