



# Summer Study Discussion Guide #4

**Sermon Title:** Responding to God's Calling

**Biblical Reference:** Esther 4:1-17

**Date Preached:** Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 @ 11am

**Summer Study Date:** Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Sermon Summary

Sixty years prior to the revival under Ezra after the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, a Jewish queen has been chosen by Persian King Ahaseurus or Xerxes through a miraculous series of events and is faced with a decision of risking her life to plead with the king to change a law that would see the complete genocide of all the Jews in the kingdom, or do nothing and potentially save her own life based on her royal position and the fact that she has kept knowledge of her being a Jew as a secret.

Here in Esther 4, we see God though he is not mentioned directly calling Esther to risk everything and use her position of queen to deliver her people.

## Quick Review

How we respond to the call of God in our lives is determined by how we view God's calling.

## My Story

1. Optional Ice Breaker- Have you ever been asked to do something that seemed overwhelming or even scary, but you knew it was the right thing to do? Share a little about that experience, and what helped you in taking the action that was necessary but difficult.
2. With the theme of responding to the call of God to action in our lives; is there anything in your life you believe the Lord is calling you to step out in faith in, or obey Him in a greater way?

## Digging Deeper

### 1. Recognizing the Call

*Ask a volunteer to read: Esther 4:1-8*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- In Esther 4:1-8 how would you characterize how God called Esther in this passage? What stands out to you in this passage regarding the Lord's calling, and why do you think that was significant?

- How can we overcome the temptation of becoming self-centered and instead use our giftings and positionings for God?
- Can you think of any examples where you were able to use your gifts and positionings to do something for the Lord you would not have otherwise been able to do?
- Why is it sometimes difficult for us to take instruction from people who God has put in our life as a loving authority figure? How can we make sure we do not miss this, if it is the Lord calling us to action?

## 2. Responding to the Call

*Ask a volunteer to read: Esther 4:9-17*

### Discussion Questions:

- In Esther 4:9-17 how would you characterize the challenges Esther had to overcome? What stands out to you with her mindset, and why do you think that was significant?
- Why do you think God allowed Esther (vs 11) to see herself as inadequate? How does this relate to our lives when we are called to step out in faith for the Lord, and how can we like Esther overcome this?
- According to verses 13-14 how would you characterize the warnings Mordecai gave to Esther? Do you feel like these warnings could apply to us living as Christians today, and if so, how?
- In verse 17 Esther turns her worst-case fear into a strong and courageous faith. Has anyone here experienced something similar, and what helped you or what were some of the things that led you to that?

## Taking It Home

**How we respond to the call of God in our lives is determined by how we view God's calling.**

1. What in all of what was discussed seemed to speak to you most in a practical way in helping you properly view and act on what God is calling you to do?
2. How can you put this into practice to help answer God's call?

***Additional Questions (if times allows):***

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they can do because of hearing the message:

1. What point in this message was most impactful for you?
2. How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you've learned today?