

YOU WERE MEANT FOR

THIS

LESSON 5

LEGACY

For the last time in this study, here's the thesis: God has a very specific call on your life, a role to play or a job to do or a task to accomplish that only *you* can do. It isn't just *something* or *a* thing to be done, but rather a very specific thing you are called to do in **THIS** time, **THIS** place, with **THIS** group of people, for **THIS** reason. You weren't meant for just *any* thing. You were meant for **THIS**.

Here's your summary: We began by talking about *time*, the specific moment in history in which you were born, and those things about you that you have no control over that make you who you are. We then discussed *place*, the geographic locations where you have influence in the world around you. In week 3, we put those three things together, and you prayed for God to open a door for you to be able to reach out to a specific *person*. And last time we looked at the *reason*, how God often orchestrates our lives in ways we could never plan. Let's start with a fun question:

Question 1: What's your favorite holiday and why? (You'll see why this question is relevant in a minute... just roll with it.)

Read Chapters 9 and 10 from the book of Esther in the Bible. (If you're in a group, this can again be homework. There *will* be a quiz next week. Oh wait...)

We left Esther last time having "eliminated" one problem (that is, Haman got kabobbed on his own gallows meant for Mordecai,) but still working on the bigger issue. She and Mordecai had petitioned the king to allow them to write a counteracting edict stating the Jews could defend themselves on the day

Haman's edict to kill them all was to be carried out. The King approves, and when March 7th arrives, the Jews gather to defend themselves. The plan works. The Jewish people were saved! So, she and Mordecai (who is now prime minister, second in command of all the kingdom), call on their people to begin an annual festival in remembrance of the day they were saved from annihilation.

So because of Mordecai's letter and because of what they had experienced, ²⁷ the Jews throughout the realm agreed to inaugurate this tradition and to pass it on to their descendants and to all who became Jews. They declared they would never fail to celebrate these two prescribed days at the appointed time each year. ²⁸ These days would be remembered and kept from generation to generation and celebrated by every family throughout the provinces and cities of the empire. This Festival of Purim would never cease to be celebrated among the Jews, nor would the memory of what happened ever die out among their descendants.

Esther 9:26b-28 NLT

When Esther's THIS began to unfold, I'm sure she never imagined that her time, place, person, and reason would all come together to result in the salvation of her people and in a festival that would be celebrated for generations to come. Jews even today observe the Festival of Purim every March, where gifts of food are given to family and friends, carnivals and parades are held with people in costume. And when the story of Esther is read in Synagogue, people stamp their feet and wield noise makers every time Haman's name is read. Sounds like a lot of fun! Saying yes to what God called her to do, Esther's THIS had far-reaching influence in the lives of those around her and for generations to come.

Question 2: God speaks to us through what we read in the Bible, and it's vital to reflect on what God might be trying to say to us. So, now that we've completed the book, what strikes you most about the story of Esther? What part do you identify with most? What stands out as a message God has specifically for you from what you read?

You exist in a specific *time*, in a specific *place*, with a specific *person* or people, for a specific *reason* that God will use to achieve a very specific purpose. We'll close this study by writing and sharing what you think God has in mind for you. Put together everything we've discussed over these five weeks. What has God been leading you toward? What have you realized about the *time* in which you were born and the things about your life that you can't control that make you who you are? What is it about the *place* in which you live and the geographic locations in which you find yourself that tugs at your heart strings? We are called to reach out to *people* around us, so who are the ones God has kept in the forefront of your thoughts? And what's the desired outcome? What can be achieved by what God has planned for you? What is the ultimate *reason* God has for you to act?

Now, for some, your primary THIS is still being revealed. You may not have any idea what the answers to these questions are. So, for you, think smaller scale. Maybe your THIS (for now) is simply reaching out to a friend who has been struggling. Maybe your THIS is donating to a colleague's fundraiser 5K or

volunteering at a local charity or committing to smiling more throughout your day. If your big, life THIS isn't clear yet, do some smaller "These" until God unfolds what you're ultimately meant to do. Perhaps God is, indeed, leading you to something big in your life. Maybe you're already living it out. Either way, write your THIS below.

I WAS MEANT FOR THIS...



Whether it's an everyday THIS or a big-picture, life-sized THIS, it often comes with some struggle. Esther's story is filled with difficulty and peril for the heroes. But ultimately, her THIS led to a legacy that is still felt to this day. We may never see the outcome of doing what God has asked us to do. But we do it anyway, trusting in God's ability to change lives when we say, "Yes." We leave a legacy of lives changed for the better when we live into our purpose. Say, "Yes." Go do what God has planned for you. Who knows? Maybe a thousand years from now, someone will be celebrating a festival because of what *you* started. (Just make sure it includes giving gifts of food... that's awesome.) You never know what legacy you might leave and the lives you might change. You weren't meant to do just *any* thing. You were meant for THIS.