

The Sovereign: Episode 1 Discussion Guide



Read Together

We're starting a new series called *The Sovereign: An 8-Episode Series on God, Esther, and the Rest of Us*. We think it's as binge worthy as any Netflix drama. It's the story of a young Jew, exiled from her homeland, wrestling with her identity as she rises from orphan nobody to Persian royalty—just in time to save her people from certain genocide. There's drama, sex, violence, conspiracy, and redemption, and it feels like *The Crown*, *Game of Thrones*, and really twisted version of *The Bachelor* all rolled into one.

Instead of just reading through the sermon text this week (Esther 1:1-22), we want you to read through *the entire book of Esther*. It's meant to be binged rather than broken up into lots of little parts, and it only takes about thirty minutes to read out loud. It might feel like *too much* for one night (that's okay!), but it will help you get a sense of the whole story. We'll spend the next seven weeks breaking it down.

Read in the NIV (New International Version) if you have one available.

If you have time, you can also watch an excellent summary of Esther from The Bible Project by using this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JydNSlufRIs>) or just searching "Esther" and "The Bible Project" on Youtube. It's only about nine minutes long.

Discuss Together

Just two questions for tonight:

- What are some things that *stood out* to you as you were listening to *Esther*?
- What were some things in *Esther* that were *strange* or *confusing* to you—or left you with some follow-up questions?

Pray Together

Pray that God helps us each to see why we need this story during this season of our lives.