

The Sovereign: Episode 6

Discussion Guide



This week we're worshipping from our homes instead of gathering together at our church building. We've also asked discipleship communities to adapt and find new ways to be in community with one another in a season where it's recommended that we limit physical gatherings. For more information and other updates, visit www.bellevuechristian.church/coronavirus.

You can use this discussion guide on your own, with your family, or virtually with your discipleship community. For audio or video of the sermon, visit www.bellevuechristian.church/sermons or subscribe to the Bellevue Christian Church on your favorite podcast provider.

Read

We're in a series called *The Sovereign: An 8-Episode Series on God, Esther, and the Rest of Us*. It's the story of 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 genocide.

- Can someone recap the story so far in less than two minutes?
 - Episode 1: "The Refusal" (Esther 1:1-22)
 - Episode 2: "The Contest" (Esther 2:1-18)
 - Episode 3: "The Letter" (Esther 2:19-3:15)
 - Episode 4: "The Plea" (Esther 4:1-5:8)
 - Episode 5: "The Fall" (Esther 5:9-7:10)

This week, we're in Episode 6: "The Reversal" (Esther 8:1-17).

- **Can someone read this week's episode for us?**
- **When we're finished, can some recap (or paraphrase) the episode in your own words?**

Reflect

It's okay if you don't get through all the questions. These questions are nothing more than a launching point for moving toward everyday life like Jesus. Feel free to add additional questions of your own. If you're with kids, feel free to rephrase some of the questions or add questions of your own that might be more suitable for them.

- **What is something that struck you from an initial reading of the text?**
- We've called Episode 6 "The Reversal." A few of the things that happen in this episode are the opposite of what happened in previous episodes. **What are some the reversals you notice in this week's text?**
- Esther pleads with the king to do something about the situation, but the way she pleads with the king is different from the way we approach our King in prayer. **What are some differences between how we approach God (the King) in prayer and how Esther approaches King Xerxes in this episode?**
- Instead of revoking the original decree, the king gives Mordecai and Esther permission to write a new one alongside the old one. **What are some reasons why King Xerxes doesn't just revoke the original decree?**
- On Sunday, Austin said, "What Esther did to save the Jews is an echo of what God has done to save the rest of us." **What are some ways this episode is similar to the story of the gospel (what God has done for us in Jesus Christ)?**
 - Think especially about the two decrees—the original decree of death and the counter-decree of life and salvation.
- In this episode, we see how God can take something terrible and weave it into his plan of redemption. **How have you experienced something like that in your life?**
- At the end of this episode, Mordecai sends "mounted couriers" (8:10) with a sense of urgency across the Persian Empire to deliver the news of a new decree of salvation. **Why don't we always have the same sense of urgency about taking the good news of the gospel to our friends and family?**
 - **How could we get a sense of urgency about it?**
- The story of Esther is one story among many stories that makes the one big Story of the whole Bible. **Why do we need the story of Esther in order to make sense of the whole story of the Bible?**
- **What is the main thing you feel like God wants you to take away from this week?**

Respond

Take some time to write down or say one thing you want to think, feel, or do differently this week and spend some time responding in prayer.