



Week 3 -- Esther

Announcements

- **Starting Point** – Sunday, October 7th , 5:00 pm at all campuses. Starting Point is the first step toward getting involved at Church of the King by learning about the vision and mission of the church. Register at www.churchoftheking.com/register

Warm-up

If you could press the “pause button” on your life and do anything you wanted for a year, what would you do? Why?

There isn't a “pause button” in life, but we can begin to discover our purpose in life right now. When we do this we will feel like we are finally fitting into God's plan for our lives.

Today, as we look at the story of Queen Esther, we are going to learn how to find our god-given purpose.

Word & Application

Read Esther 2:10. Esther found herself in a foreign land, out of place and unsure about her future.

What do you think were some of the thoughts and feelings Esther was having during this time in her life? Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you questioned if God had a plan and purpose for your life?

Read Psalm 33:11 and Jeremiah 29:11. How can these verses encourage you as you look for your purpose with God?

We are going to look at three keys we learn from Queen Esther, which will help us discover our place in life and our god-given purpose.

1) Finding your place requires Faith and Trust.

There's always going to be ambiguity and uncertainty in our lives. We must determine how we will respond in uncertainty.

When you face uncertainty in your life, what is your natural response?

Read Esther 2:17-20. Esther had become queen in a foreign land and had no idea why God had given her this promotion. It took faith for her to continue to trust God and know he was in control and had a purpose and plan for her.

Read Psalm 31:14-15. How would God want you to respond in difficult times? What can you do to respond this way?

2) Finding your place requires Courage

Courage is not the absence of fear; courage is what you do in spite of the fear.

Read Esther 4:13-14. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, warned her that if she didn't step out in courage then all of the Jews (her family) would be destroyed. It was in this moment Esther discovered God's plan for her life and she had to make a courageous decision to walk in obedience to God.

Just like Queen Esther, finding your purpose in life is going to take courage. Why do you think stepping into our purpose in life takes such courage? Why is this often challenging?

Read Isaiah 41:10, Joshua 1:6-7 and 2 Timothy 1:7 in order to discover God's promise to give us courage when we need it.

Fear is often a sign we are stepping into new territory God has for us. We must be sure to face these fears with courage in order to fulfill our purpose.

3) Finding your place requires great Initiative.

Once you face your fears you will have to be determined to trust God and take action.

Read Esther 4:16. Esther stepped out even though the outcome was uncertain. What is holding you back from doing what you believe God is calling you to do? Why?

Read Philippians 4:6-7. We must put aside all worry/anxiety in order to step out in faith.

Each of us has a purpose and place. One of the greatest ways to find your place at Church of the King is to begin the **Pathway** (*Small Group Leaders: This is a great opportunity to encourage those in your small group to complete the Pathway as a way to experience Growth*).

- **101 Starting Point** will help you discover the vision and mission of Church of the King so you can determine if this is your home.
- **201 Dream Team Orientation** will help you discover where you can find your place to serve and make a difference.
- **301 Biblical Foundations** gives you a solid foundation, which you can build your life and relationship with Jesus upon.
- **401 Small Group Training** prepares you to reach out to people in our church and community and help them grow in their relationship with Jesus.

What steps in the Pathway do you need to complete? What is your plan to complete these steps as a way to help discover your place and purpose?

Trust God, be courageous and take the initiative. When you do these things you will find your place and purpose in life.

What is your biggest take-away from our discussion today?

Prayer

Pray for each person in the group to be able to find their god-given place and purpose in life. Also, take time to ask for specific prayer requests from those in your small group.