

GROUP GUIDES IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE



Sentence

Combining faith and film to help everyone see and believe in the true meaning of Christmas.



Story

Share a time when someone's small act of kindness made your day.

"Someone paid for my food in a drive through..."

"One compliment a stranger gave me..."

"A loved one got me a meaningful gift for no reason..."



Set-up

Esther

A story of political intrigue and espionage, the book of Esther highlights the roles of many different characters who contribute to the salvation of the Jews in Persia. In God's plan, every life plays an important role. God's story is intricately woven, and He has chosen you to add to the pages He designs.

Read Esther 7:15-17

It took both Mordecai and Esther to move the king to have mercy on the Jews. Have you ever felt like your efforts—your life—was unimportant?



Search

Read Esther 4:12-16



Verses 12-13

Esther stood to lose her life if she went before the king, yet her people stood to lose their lives if she did not.

How can the life of one person be as important as (or more than) the lives of many?

Why do you think Esther was so special among the Jews and the other concubines?



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Esther is one of few books in the Bible wherein there is no mention of God. Where can you find God in this story?



➤ Verse 14

Mordecai suggests that even if Esther does not act, the Jews will be saved some other way.

If that is the case, why is Esther even important?

What role is Mordecai playing in these verses? Uncle? Guardian? Father? Prophet?

Verse 14 is quoted often in church. What is your interpretation of its meaning?

What does verse 14 indicate about the "why" behind Esther's importance?



Verses 15-16

Remember, Esther's true identity is still a mystery to the king.

What has been your experience with fasting?

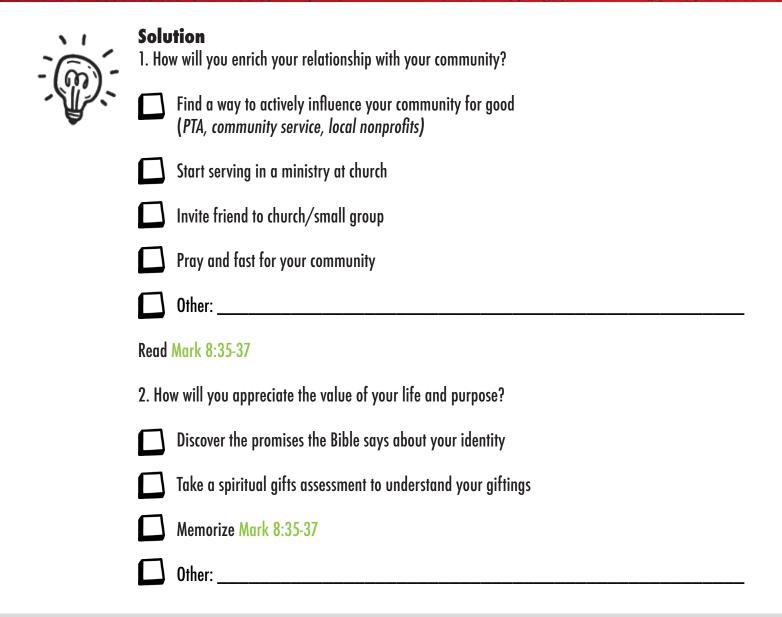
Have you ever fasted with a group?

How have you experienced the tension between individuality and community?

What does the Bible say about that?



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Send Out

Break into groups of 2-3 (same gender if a coed group), discuss ways you can make a difference in your community and the lives of others. Plan to connect with each other in-person, call, or text this week.

Pray together.