



MARCH 2022

LIFEHOUSE
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

monthly devotional

to encourage you in your walk with Jesus

Written by Emily Eppert

Have you ever thought to yourself "God, where are you?"

Maybe you're in or have been in a situation where you feel overwhelmed by something much bigger than yourself like war, cancer, or even world hunger. Or maybe it is a simple thing in your day that happened, and you asked God where are you? I think this is normal, well who am I to say it's not. Here's a time when I felt this way:

When I was in 9th grade my younger brother Jake was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The cancer had spread thorough his whole body and that was so terrifying to me, but after 10 rounds of chemo and radiation, he was finally healthy, and life was back to normal again. After about 6 months of remission, he was developing more cancer. My family had high hopes that going in with a positive attitude would help the second time go much smoother, however the treatment was much more aggressive than the first time. When Jakes symptoms were at its worst, that is when I asked God the question, where are you? Why are you doing this to my sweet brother, he doesn't deserve this....

I only received an answer to this question about 5 months ago when I was speaking on this topic at MaxLife and let me show you how God helped make this clear to me through Esther's story!

Before we dive into Esther, I have some helpful context:

The story begins when Esther, a young girl, was chosen to become Queen of Persia. Esther was a Jew, but most people didn't know that. The king of Persia certainly didn't when he chose her to be his wife. One of the king's key advisors was a man named Haman.

Haman was a political leader plotting a mass execution of every Jew in the kingdom. Pretty scary. But what's even scarier is that he got the king to agree to it. Esther's cousin Mordecai learned about the plan and knew he had to act. He urged Esther to speak with the king, stop the execution, and rescue the Jewish people. No one (not even Queen Esther) was allowed to speak to the king without his permission or invitation. Going straight to the king without his permission could have resulted in Esther's death, followed by the death of her people. Once Esther decided to act, here's what she did: She approached the king carefully, inviting him to a big banquet where she would make her request. At the feast, instead of making her request, she invited the king to a second feast and promised she'd make her request then. The next day, the king went to Esther's second banquet, ready to hear her request.

Read Esther 7:1-10.

I think this is one of the most interesting things about the book of Esther. In this entire book of the Bible, God is never mentioned. Not even once.

So where was God when the Jewish people were hurting and in danger?

GOD WAS PRESENT- He was present in this story helping Esther and guiding her, he was present in mine, and he's present in your life too!

GOD WAS WORKING- He was working in Esther's life helping her, leading her and giving her the ideas, and tools she needed. I received this scripture a few months ago with the theme attached to it "I have questions" and I was speaking to the MaxLife student ministries about this subject. During that time was when I finally understood how God was consistently pouring into me while my brother was sick. Not only was he working he was working through me just like he did with Esther in this story. He was consistently giving me peace, energy, patience and a determined heart to love God's people even when my life seemed a little bit crazy, not as crazy as Esther's though;) God showed up for me in big ways during my brother's illness, he helped me find passions in raising money for organizations like destiny rescue, million meal movement, and LLS (Lymphoma Leukemia Society). All of these opportunities to take my mind off of the painful reality, weren't my ideas at all, they were small moments where God was working in my life to help me look more like Esther.