

## For Just Such a Time as This

“Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?” Esther 4:14 (NLT)

### 1. God has purposely placed us at this time and place in human history.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

“...when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep...” Acts 13:36 (NIV)

**Note:** Sometimes we ask God to spare us from the very circumstances for which he has been shaping us.

“Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.’ But Moses again pleaded, ‘Lord, please! Send anyone else.’” Exodus 4:12-13 (NLT)

**Life Application:** God will show us His purposes for us and give us the power to accomplish them.

“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.” 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NLT)

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5 (NLT)

### 2. Difficult circumstances only clarify God purposes for placing us here.

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.” Philippians 2:13-15 (NLT)

“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.”

1 John 3:18-19 (NLT)

**Note:** Just because we aren’t able to gather together in person for worship services right now, it doesn’t mean God’s purposes for us are on hold.

“...the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.” John 4:23 (NLT)

### 3. God uses difficult times to test our faith.

“If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!” Proverbs 24:10 (NIV)

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test you [that is, to test the quality of your faith], as though something strange or unusual were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12 AMP)

“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.”

James 1:2-4 (MSG)

Two things we can do to strengthen our trust in God:

#### a. We can spend time daily with God in prayer and reading His Word.

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2 (NLT)

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#### b. We can do whatever God prompts us to do.

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.”

Psalms 32:8 (NIV)

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## Connect Group Questions

1. Read Esther 4. Describe a time in your life when you felt like God placed you in a certain circumstance for a specific reason.
2. Discuss the following quotation from Matthew Henry's Commentary on Esther 4:14. "We should every one of us consider for what end God has put us in the place where we are, and study to answer that (question)."
3. In John 4:23, Jesus said, "...true worshipers... worship the Father in spirit and in truth." How do you think we can do that while everyone is staying home due to coronavirus?
4. Read Proverbs 24:10 & 1 Peter 4:12. What have you learned about your faith during the past two weeks? What have you observed about the level of faith in our nation?
5. Share one insight God has given you recently during your devotional time.
6. Spend some time as a group praying for each other and our nation. Please use the following article from Christianity Today as a guide. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/march-web-only/covid-19-coronavirus-20-prayers-to-pray-during-pandemic.html>