



# PORTRAITS

## Group Guide



### Esther 2:5-11

**5** Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, **6** who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. **7** Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

**8** When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. **9** She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem.

**10** Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. **11** Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her

## Mordecai // August 4, 2024

1. What about Mordecai's life that was preached on this past Sunday stands out the most to you? *Think about how you can apply one key area to your life this coming week from the three main points below.*
  - a. Compassion - Esther 2:5-11
  - b. Humility - Esther 2:19-23
  - c. Faith - Esther 3:1-5; 4:12-14
2. It might surprise us that God's name is never mentioned in the entire book of Esther! Yet, he is clearly at work in all things and is faithful to his covenant.
  - a. Do you often feel as though God is not at work, whether in your personal life or in the world around you?
  - b. How can we regularly refocus ourselves to remember that God is at work behind-the-scenes even when we don't see or feel it, such as we learn through the reversal of events in Mordecai's life from evil to good?
3. Discuss the statement, "Mordecai was someone whose fruit grew on someone else's tree."
  - a. From what you understand of "bearing fruit" mentioned throughout the Bible, does this make sense?
  - b. What does it look like for us to not only bear our own fruit but also to grow fruit "on someone else's tree"?
4. Share an example about someone in your life who has been a sort of "Mordecai" for you, or how you have been a "Mordecai" to someone else.
  - a. What key traits/actions most stand out?
  - b. How can you be that person to others more?
5. Some examples were given to inspire us to serve as a Mordecai somewhere, acting behind-the-scenes for the sake of others. Are you already doing that? If not, what might be the next step for you to serve as a Mordecai somewhere?
  - a. At Central Heights (e.g., Kids, Youth, Women's, Worship/Tech, Community Groups, Central Cafe, Prayer Teams, Nikkel Hall)
  - b. Beyond Central Heights (e.g., visiting seniors, serving at a food bank or soup kitchen, giving food/clothes to those you see in need, hiring someone to a position in your company to help rebuild their life)



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## [LEADERS NOTES]

### RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- [centralheights.ca/followjesus](https://centralheights.ca/followjesus)

### STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing [stories@centralheights.ca](mailto:stories@centralheights.ca)

### MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>