



# ORDINARY.



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Esther 4:6-17 | July 20, 2025

Prepared by DJ Severin  
DJ@gspc.org | 562/493.2553 x115

## I. Introduction to this Study

This week in our *Ordinary* series, we explore the story of **Esther**—an unlikely hero in the biblical narrative. Esther is a young Jewish woman who wins a royal beauty contest and becomes queen of Persia. She's not a military leader or prophet, yet God uses her courage and position to deliver His people from destruction. In Esther 4, we encounter the pivotal moment where Esther chooses to risk everything to advocate for her people. Though the book of Esther never mentions God by name, His presence and providence are unmistakable—and Esther's self-sacrificing courage points us forward to Jesus, the one who gave up His throne to save us.

## II. Connecting with One Another

What's the riskiest thing you've done—or a recent risk you took, big or small? What made it feel like a risk?

## III. Study the Text

*Read Esther 4:6–11*

- What does this passage reveal about Esther's situation and the risk she would face by approaching the king?
- Why is Esther hesitant to act? How do her words reflect real fear and wisdom?

*Read Esther 4:12–14*

- What does Mordecai believe about Esther's role in this moment? How do you interpret his famous line in verse 14: "Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"
- Even though God's name is not mentioned, what does this verse suggest about God's involvement?

*Read Esther 4:15–17*

- How does Esther respond to Mordecai's challenge? What stands out to you about her response?



- What does her decision reveal about her character and priorities?
- What do you make of her phrase, “If I perish, I perish”? What kind of faith or courage does that require?

### *Reflect and Respond*

- Esther wasn’t an obvious choice for a hero. How does her story challenge your assumptions about who God uses?
- When have you felt like an “unlikely choice” in God’s plan?
- What are you holding onto (security, comfort, approval) that might prevent you from stepping into a calling or risk for God?
- How do you see God working behind the scenes in your life right now, even if His name doesn’t seem obvious?
- How does Esther’s willingness to give up the throne point us to Jesus? What difference does His sacrifice make in how we respond to God’s call?
- How does Esther’s story help you appreciate Jesus’ willingness to give up His throne for us?

## IV. Prayer

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Thank God that He works through unlikely people for His purposes.
- Ask for courage to obey God’s call, even when it’s risky or unclear.
- Pray for trust in God’s providence, especially when His hand is hidden.
- Invite God to help you see your current position or influence as a tool for His Kingdom.

## V. Digging Deeper

*For additional reflection:*

- **Romans 8:28** — How does this verse connect with the theme of God’s hidden providence in Esther?
- **Philippians 2:5–11** — How does Jesus model what it means to give up a throne for the sake of others?
- **1 Corinthians 1:26–29** — How does God’s choice of the “lowly” challenge our ideas of power and usefulness?
- **Esther 2:17** — What does this early verse reveal about how God positions Esther even before the crisis arises?
- **Isaiah 30:21** — What encouragement does this verse offer about God’s guidance in decision-making?

