

*It comes back to story*

# Esther

*Week 3*  
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

## *Guys Are Crazy (Esther 1:10-22)*

### INTRODUCTION

The same issues that plagued men in Esther's day still plague men today. True masculinity is not found in how well you play sports, how well you can fight, or how many beers a man drink before passing out, it is seen in how they love those around them and how they love and honor their God.

### DISCUSSION

Pick a current commercial on TV today. How are men depicted? According to that commercial, what IS a man?

### EXPLANATION

Why is it so hard for us to accept roles of masculinity?

What is it about responsibility that causes men to not want to grow up?

What are your reactions to men who are really boys?

How do you differ from those boys (or ladies, how do your boyfriends/husbands differ)?

### APPLICATION

How can men stop abusing their masculinity and realize the difference between force and true strength?

How do you see men avoiding their responsibility today?

How do you see men abandon their commitments today?

What change do you think would come upon men if they understood their roles as cultivator, warrior, and sage?

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Ephesians 5:25

Ezra 7:14

1 Samuel 15:28

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:5-8,15

Genesis 3:16b, 17-19

Genesis 3:1-15

Proverbs 31:8-9

2 Corinthians 10:4

Ephesians 6:10-18

1 Timothy 1:18

Genesis 2:9, 16-18

Proverbs 4:1-4, 1-9

1 Corinthians 14:33-15

Ephesians 6:4

1 John 2:14

Proverbs 1:10

Proverbs 3:29

Proverbs 11:16-17

Proverbs 16:29

Proverbs 19:26

Proverbs 20:29

Proverbs 24:1-2

Proverbs 28:15

Proverbs 29:10

1 Corinthians 11

Proverbs 3:27

Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 14:23

Proverbs 23:20-21

Proverbs 24:30-34

Proverbs 29:3

Proverbs 29:21

Proverbs 2:12-17

Proverbs 11:3

Proverbs 24:10

Proverbs 27:8

## *Guys Are Crazy (Esther 1:10-22)*

### *Week 3 Notes*

#### & SCRIPTURE VERSES



## *Guys Are Crazy (Esther 1:10-22)*

***Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her***

God has called men to a very high standard, but through many factors of our culture men have not understood their high calling. Today, men are allowed to run around acting like little boys while still having the title of “men.” Lowering expectations on men has actually led to the devaluing of women. So, we must always look to scripture to understand God’s call on men.

### **Esther 1:10-11 Xerxes’ bad call**

We are called to be a people of sober judgment and not think too highly of ourselves (Rom 12:3). When our lives become wrapped up in ourselves we lose sight of seeing the world and other people as God calls us to see it.

### **Esther 1:12 Vashti’s refusal**

Sometimes spouses fail to honor their mates for sheer stubbornness, other times it is for noble purposes. Historically we do know why Vashti refused the king’s command (we would hope it was for noble reasons because his request is simply deplorable). In conflict in our own marriages we must ask ourselves if we are being noble or stubborn as well.

### **Esther 1:13-22 Bad advice, crazy friends**

Xerxes, as the king and husband, is angry that his wife would not do something degrading to her character. His anger and embarrassment does not lead him to repentance but to ask his (ungodly) friends for advice. In the end Xerxes decrees an unenforceable law. Because respect is earned not forced and men, if they crave respect, must be respectable.

### **Men were meant to be Cultivators**

God created men to cultivate untamed land into a garden after the prototype of Eden (Genesis 2:5-8, 15). Men are created for work, challenge, competition, and the pioneering of new frontiers. Masculinity is cultivated as men create and cultivate things to their optimal abilities.

### **Men were meant to be Warriors**

God created men to rule on His behalf and therefore God’s enemies are to be man’s enemies. Men are created for battle, competition, suffering and even death like their King Jesus as they fight evil, defend truth and justice, and protect the weak and vulnerable, especially women and children (Proverbs 31:8-9; 2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Timothy 1:18).

### **Men were meant to be sages**

God created men to receive knowledge and wisdom and teach that to others (especially their wives and children - Genesis 2:9, 2:16-18; Proverbs 4:1-4, 1-9; 1 Corinthians 14:33b-15; Ephesians 6:4).

