

## THE BIG IDEA

- We serve a KING that is WAY better than any King in this world!

## GET STARTED

- What is the BEST party you have ever been to? Build the scene.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*How deep do you want to take your Group? Choose from these questions to lead your discussion. HAVE DIFFERENT PEOPLE READ- Get them involved!*

1. Take turns reading Esther 1:1-9. What types of things did he do during this six-month celebration? What is the most impressive?
2. Ben mentioned that the reasoning for this party was selfish. Have you ever witnessed someone doing something seemingly charitable out of selfishness? Share.
3. Xerxes lived for his possessions, passions, and pride. How does 1 John 2:15–17 warn about the danger of living for this world and what it has to offer? What warning is also found about prideful people in Proverbs 16:18–19?
4. Ben mentioned that Xerxes wanted to be like King Jesus. How did he show this through his resources? Ben also said by condemning Xerxes we are condemning ourselves. How are we like Xerxes? BE HONEST
5. We need to ask ourselves whether we are living for the things of this world, or are we living for God's kingdom? What does Mark 8:36–37 and Luke 16:13 warn us about this? What should we be pursuing instead (Ephesians 1:18-20)?
6. Leaders read Esther 1:9 why do you think there was a separate feast for women?
7. There has been no mention of God or his acting in this story. Where in your life does it seem like God isn't present at all?
8. What does the story of KING Xerxes make you appreciate about KING Jesus?
9. Ben ended the message by asking, "Can you celebrate Jesus? Why?" how would you answer that honestly?
10. Ben announced Sunday the possibility of another church joining our Guide Church family. We are beginning 21 Days of prayer on September 21. When can you make daily consistent prayer possible in your life for 21 days? Share your plan

## FOR FURTHER READING

- In preparation of reading QUEEN Vashti's stand against Xerxes read the disciples stand against the religious leaders in Acts 4:19–20; 5:29
- Memory verse: Luke 16:13 - "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."
- Read it together and challenge the group to memorize, post up somewhere, etc.
- Follow up the next week to see if they did!