



## UNCOMFORTABLE: Scared Stiff Discussion Points

*Esther*

May 6, 2018

1. **READ** the story of *Esther* in one sitting, if you can. The book of Esther is a dramatic story which gives us insight into God's special and purposeful plan in our lives. The story calls us to walk forward into uncomfortable situations, shows us divine timing, and it shows us God's incredible power, interaction in our lives and His amazing care and love for his people.

**Question:** Even though God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, did you feel his presence in the story?

2. **READ:** No part of our lives is untouched. God is in control of every aspect, whether we want him to be or not, and there is nothing that is not subject to him ([Hebrews 2:8](#) NIV). And, the best thing we can do for our lives is to search for and surrender to his will.

**Question:** Is God limited or is he unlimited in what and who can he use to accomplish his will? How does this reality affect your will?

3. **READ:** As believers, there are no such things as accidents or coincidences. God's timing is providential. Esther's divine moment of providence came by accepting her responsibility to go to the king. However, Mordecai was clear when he said to Esther that she could be the one who saved the people, or not. God will use you only if you're ready—or he will find someone else.

**Question:** Have you ever been given a divine moment that end up altering circumstances?

4. **READ:** Mordecai nailed it when he said, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to the royal palace for such a time as this" ([Esther 4:14](#) NIV). God loved the Jewish people. And, he didn't create Esther's beauty and finesse for her and her alone. Esther was placed in a royal position to assist in the delivery of God's divine plan.

**Question:** Do you think God has a plan for your life?

**Question:** Describe a time you took on more risk for God than you were comfortable with. What prompted you to take that risk? What happened?

5. **READ:** “I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish” ([Esther 4:16](#) NIV). Esther was willing to die to save her people. Sometimes we must walk forward into uncomfortable situations, even when it is not popular to do so, and risk it all.

**Question:** How will you tell if you are in a situation where God is calling you to walk forward even though it is uncomfortable?

**Question:** Think about the position you’re in, the relationships you have, the talents, gifts, and resources available to you. What do you think God might be doing in and through those things?

6. **READ:** Esther’s obedience saved God’s people from genocide. The reality is that Esther didn’t know what would happen when she approached the king. She acted in obedience and by doing so she saved a nation and received the best. We don’t get a pass on this one.

**Question:** What is obedience to God like for you in your life? Is it a once in while occurrence or does it happen more frequently?

**Question:** How do you tend to view God’s activity in your life? For example, is he active in orchestrating events and relationships, or do you see him as more of a hands-off character in the background who occasionally shows up from time to time?

#### **PRAY:**

- What situation are you in or is someone you know in that requires special prayer and fasting (Esther 4:16)?
- How would you like prayer from the others?