

WEEK 3: THE CHALLENGER



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SCRIPTURE: SELECTIONS FROM ESTHER 4

11 *“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death.*

12 *When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, 13 Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” 15 Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 16 “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf. I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.”*

GETTING STARTED

Welcome to week 3 of "Indispensable." This week, we're exploring the importance of having relationships that challenge us. To get started, talk about these questions:

- Have you ever had to take on the role of being a challenger? What was difficult about doing that?
- On the other hand, recall a time when you've been challenged by someone. What happened? How did you respond?
- Pray together: God, help us both recognize and value the challengers in our lives. Make us open to the things you would teach us through them, and give us the humility to grow when we need to. Thank you for your grace that makes this possible. Amen.

INDISPENSABLE

The Relationships You Can't Do Without

SERMON & SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Read this week's Scripture together, then discuss:

- Esther experiences a radical shift in her social status, which gives her new opportunity to use her position to make a positive impact. Share about a time you've found yourself in a similar situation.
- What are some of the unique differences between a challenger and a critic? Which role do you find yourself taking on most frequently?
- Consider Esther and Mordecai- what was the impact of him challenging her? What would have happened if she had not had that type of voice in her life?
- Who in your life is living into the role of the challenger? If you don't have someone who is, why do you think that is? What would it take to be open to more relationships that provide you with a challenging voice?

"Challengers don't make us comfortable, but they do make us better."

Rev. Mindie Moore

PRAYER REQUESTS