

## GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

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**Pray** the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

**Share with the Group** about a time you attended a memorable celebration or party. What was the occasion? What was impressive or what stood out to you?

### Read Esther Chapter 1

How would you split the chapter into smaller sections? What would you title each of the sections?

How would you summarize the big idea(s) of this chapter?

Where do you see God in this chapter?

The point of the big party is to demonstrate the wealth and power of King Xerxes (Ahasuerus). What signs and symbols of wealth and power do you see in ch 1?

What do we learn about King Xerxes from this chapter?

What do we learn about the Bible's attitude toward Xerxes from this chapter?

### Read Dt 17:14-20; Pr 31:1-9; Is 58:1-10; Mtt 20:25-30

How does King Xerxes, and his kingdom, compare to what you just read?

Now consider our world and society. Does it tend to uphold and admire pictures of power more like the court of Xerxes, or more like the way of scripture?

How should all this influence how we view and relate to human "kings" and powers? How should it influence how we ourselves use whatever power we have?

### Read Isaiah 55:1-3 & Matthew 11:28-30

Why is Jesus a king who is actually worth following and trusting?

**Close** by reading Psalm 2

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