

It's show week! Can you feel the energy in the building as volunteers, student leadership, and staff come together to create a production that honors God? It is a busy time, but it's so much fun to laugh, praise, and pray together. I can't wait for each of you to experience your final two weeks...especially if it is your first year with us. You are in for a huge blessing.

**Esther**, our TTA/Staff leadership show, is a production that you don't want to miss! It is high-energy, filled with humor, great choreography, and fun music. You are likely to laugh until you cry, as you see your favorite TTAs acting in their crazy roles that highlight the worldliness of ancient Persia. Thanks to Barbara Long, director; William Trautman, assistant director; Josh Lyman & Steve Granger, musical directors; Cana Park & Karenn Willson, choreographers; and Meg Hanna, Becky Passner, & Sarah Sherman, stage managers for bringing this story to life.

In this creative re-telling of the Biblical story of **Esther**, written by Martin and Janice Landry, there are unusual twists and turns, but God and His provision over the Jewish people is woven through the story. While Esther wants to explore more of worldly Persian life, she is reminded by Mordecai that her life belongs to God and that she must be willing to stand for Him. Mordecai prayerfully releases her, and Esther soon learns that palace life isn't all that she had hoped it would be.

As the story goes along, we see Esther faced with a huge choice...to reveal her Jewish identity and go before King Xerxes begging for their lives, or to deny her Jewish roots and allow her people to be killed. To go before the King was unheard of and would surely result in her death, but could God have a bigger plan in mind?

When we think of Queen Esther, we often think of the phrase, "chosen for such a time as this." When we think about Esther, we often relate it to the big decisions in our lives, or moments where we are walking through hard things. "Chosen for such a time as this" seems like it covers all the major life changes.

May I suggest that "chosen for such a time as this," applies to the everyday, ordinary day moments also? God has placed a calling on each of our lives...a call to love and serve Him as faithful witnesses every day. We are chosen for such at time as this to do simple things: love our families, encourage someone who has lost hope, be a friend to someone who is alone, take the time to do a chore without being asked, create a spirit of unity by following directions cheerfully – the list goes on and on. Our days are filled with opportunities to honor God by setting ourselves aside and honoring others as we serve them in love.

That's what Esther did. Her example was large scale, but when you simplify it, what did she do? She loved others by putting them above her own selfish desires. Her choice was big, but God cares about the little choices that we make everyday just as much as He cared about Esther's choice. Every kind word and thoughtful gesture is seen by God and brings Him honor. When we unite to accomplish a task together, praying and working alongside one another, we can honor God. Let's look for the "chosen for such a time as this" moments every day and watch how God can use us to impact His kingdom!

Table Talk: Did you make a choice today that honored God? Was it hard? What kind of impact did your choice make?

For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. *And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?* Esther 4:14

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