

## **Women 2017**

### **LESSON PLAN: WOMEN OF GOD**

#### **IS IT YOUR TIME? / ESTER 4 11-17, 8, 8-12**

Pastor Miles McPherson / May 21, 2017

**THIS WEEK:** Pastor Miles provided the second in a series focused on women, but noted the message was to the men as well. He began by sharing that he woke up with an unspecific burden weighing on his heart. He asked what burdens we are facing. He challenged the women to be different after today and to take their relationship with God to a new level.

This message centered on Ester, and how she, when faced with a key moment in her life chose to follow God instead of man. Two definitions were:

CHRONOS: A chronological duration of time; it can be measured with a clock.

KAIROS: A moment in time; a key or critical moment for this study.

Pastor Miles also gave an update on some of the successes experienced last year - more than 40 million views of the Gospel messages and over 500,000 people accepted Christ as their savior. However, while the ministries have grown, tithing has remained the same. He asked for God to open the heavens and our hearts for more giving in the coming months so the church can continue to bless many.

#### **Opening Discussion - Study Questions:**

1. Pastor Miles talked about his mentor challenging him to recite memory verses in front of teammates (including non-believers) on elevators and in the locker rooms. Do you typically share evidence of your faith at every opportunity or only when it is 'safe'?
2. Was there a time in your life when you made the choice to please "man" instead of pleasing God? How will you do things differently now?
3. Do you get praise from God? How often and in what way?
4. Name a critical or key moment (KAIROS) in your life where you had to make a decision that was life changing. Was God or man at the forefront?
5. What is a moment or times you worried about what others thought of you?
6. To what extent do try to please others? How do you balance pleasing God with personal responsibilities?

7. How often do you find yourself going through a list of concerns, worries, and risks versus having faith to take big steps towards your purpose?

**Suggest getting into groups of 2 or 3 for these questions**

1. What is a burden you are experiencing?

2. Share what would it take to make a change. Specifically, what part of you needs to die? And what part of you needs to be encouraged?

3. How much do you need praise of others?

### **Group Activity - Putting Knowledge into Action:**

What is in the bag? This is a decision-making game. Ahead of time, the leader will need four bags - lunch bag or even socks work fine. Place a small treat or prize inside each bag. (One of the bags can even have a joker or a 'zonk' item - if you have a zonk item, try to make sure it has some weight to it to give it apparent value).

Ask for three volunteers from the group. One at a time, each volunteer chooses a bag based on how it looks. Then, each volunteer gets to hold their chosen bag at the top (but NOT feel the contents!) In order of how they volunteered, they can decide to keep their bag, trade it with someone else (trades must have mutual agreement) or they can trade it for the extra (unclaimed) fourth bag. Next, each volunteer feels the object inside the bag without looking. In the same order, they have the option to trade again. Finally, each person opens their bag and sees what is inside.

\*The leader should ask why they decided to volunteer in the first place,

\*Why certain bags were chosen and

\* What changed their desire for that bag.

\*Ask participants if they felt confident in the decision made or if there were moments of doubt.

\* Don't forget to reveal the item in the fourth bag!

### **Going Deeper - Personal Challenge:**

1. What is one thing you will commit to in this season in order to show a step of faith, take a risk or walk in your purpose?

2. What would it take to have the new you to be better than the natural version of you?

### **Taking it Home - Application:**

Pray for Spiritual guidance on making this a KAIROS moment that is dramatic and life changing. Pray for today, to be a KAIROS moment. Ask God to be able to step into moment, and make this day different, something special.

**BONUS VIDEO:** [Summary of Ester](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGQ3oSJ_xbc) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGQ3oSJ\\_xbc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGQ3oSJ_xbc)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

**TRIVIA:** Pastor Miles talked about the power women have. Military fighter onboard computers use women's voices to communicate critical/emergency information to a pilot because research indicated under stress, a pilot is more likely to listen to a woman's voice. Smartphone's with Siri on them also use a woman's voice. The name Siri is from the Norse meaning "beautiful woman who leads you to victory".

**QUOTE:** Is your Identity and purpose in life dependant on man?  
Ladies: If you want to get a good man, move out and 'close up the shop'.

**LIFE GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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