



# MISSION CITY

## BIBLE CHURCH

**DATE:** Sunday, May 21, 2023

**TITLE:** Life Lessons from An Exile

**SERIES:** The Book of Esther

**PASSAGE:** Esther 2:1-18

### **INTRO:**

The gap between chapters 1 and 2

'Exile': someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ from their true home or country

cf., 1 Peter 2:11; Philippians 3:20

How do we live as Christians in a world that is not our own?

### **3 LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF AN EXILE:**

1. I must decide which kingdom will \_\_\_\_\_ me

2. Obedience to God is \_\_\_\_\_ an option

cf., Daniel 1: Daniel and Old Testament dietary laws

cf., Daniel 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into fiery furnace

cf., Daniel 6: Daniel thrown into lion's den

3. God offers hope for my \_\_\_\_\_ despite the bad choices of my \_\_\_\_\_



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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Esther 2:1-18.
2. 'Exile' means "someone who is separated from their true home or country." Have you ever felt like that, or have you been an exile living in a foreign land? Explain.

**I must decide which kingdom will define me**

3. Read 1 Peter 2:11 and Philippians 3:20. What do you learn about yourself and your citizenship?
4. Have you ever said or had thoughts like, "I am going to compromise with the world just this once, or twice, and use whatever I get for God later"?
  - a. What is the problem with that statement?

**Obedience to God is always an option**

5. Why do you think Mordecai and Esther kept their Jewish identity hidden while living in the Persian kingdom?
6. Read Daniel 1. Why did Daniel and his friends refuse to eat the king's food?
7. Read Daniel 3. Why did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to bow down and worship the golden idol?
8. Read Daniel 6. Why did Daniel pray to God instead of the king?
9. What was the outcome of the decisions made in questions 6, 7, and 8?
10. When you have a chance to stand and be obedient to God, do you?

**God offers hope for my future despite the bad choices of my past**

11. What choice from your past have you not let go of and are still filled with regret?
  - a. Can you see God's plan in that poor choice that was made?
  - b. How can you overcome that memory in the past and be filled with hope for today, and for the future?