



**Sermon Series:** “Story”

**Series Description:** As we set out to examine the theme of ‘story’ over these twelve weeks, we’ll be zooming in on twelve well-known Old Testament characters. In these real life, historical stories, we will see the way God takes lives filled with small successes and great failures and, as a master craftsman, turns them into a grand masterpiece of divine origin. We will also see that all of our stories and all the stories that make up our city are no less a part of God’s story than any other.

**Story of the Week: Esther**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Sermon Summary:** Esther lived in a foreign country under the absolute rule of a brutal dictator. The circumstances that brought her into the palace of the king (Xerxes) and eventually become his wife are eye-raising, problematic, and difficult to swallow. And yet God, who though not mentioned by name in the Biblical text, is clearly at work to save His people and proclaim His glory. What we learn from the story of Esther is that God is work in our lives, He wants to use our lives, and He’s calling us to trust Him by taking risks for Him.

**1 – Sermon response**

How did God speak to you through the sermon and the story of Esther? Was there anything new that you learned about her life, story, and how God used her?

**2 – Seeing the tension of the passage.**

Read Esther 4:9-16. Though God is not mentioned in the Biblical text, He’s clearly at work behind the scenes. Recall what were some of the ways God was at work in the story of Esther (what was He doing)? In what ways (if at all) are you able to see yourself in the person of Esther?

**3 – Seeing the tension in our lives**

- What keeps you from seeing God at work in your life?
- What keeps you from believing that God wants to use your life for His glory?

**4 – How does the Gospel relieve the tension?**

If God is at work in your life right now (**He is!**), what do you think He wants you to see? What does He want you to believe about *coincidences* and *just happened to be’s*? If there is **CERTAINTY** of Jesus’ victory over sin and death, then what does that say about the *risks* He calls us to take on His behalf?

**5 – What are our takeaways?**

Esther is a woman who we can respect and celebrate. Though she saw herself as risking everything (her life) to save her people, God was **actually** the one at work behind the scenes. Since God is at work in your life and He wants to use you right now, then what risks can you be taking to share His salvation and glory with others?

**PRAYER**

### All Church Announcements

- **YOUR STORY:** We're coming up on the last week of our STORIES series. We'll still be collecting stories at [www.resonatemovement.org/story](http://www.resonatemovement.org/story) as well as on the iPads outside of the Hayward and Fremont auditoriums. Be sure to stop by before this series come to an end.
- **NIGHT OF THANKS:** Resonate's Night of Giving Thanks is going to be a church-wide evening of musical worship! Stop by to join together in worship with song after song led by Resonate's Worship Team, all to give glory and praise to our God. This event will be hosted at Resonate Fremont's campus at 7:00PM on Friday, November 19th. No reservations required.
- **Christmas On the Street:** Resonate is here for our city, to show God's love through us. This season we have an opportunity to let our unhoused friends on the streets know that they are seen and loved by God. You can fulfill their Christmas wish-list and/or come together to sort the gifts or make Winter Kits! It's a great way for MCs to serve as a group! Here are the details: [www.resonatemovement.org/christmasonthestreet](http://www.resonatemovement.org/christmasonthestreet)