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Is God There?

Esther is the only book in the Bible that doesn't mention God's name. So it would be easy to assume it's not a story about God. But that's not true at all! You can see God's plan all through Esther, even though His name isn't mentioned.

Why do you think God would want to tell a story that doesn't have His name in it?

Do you ever wonder if God is present in your life? Do you ever wonder if your voice matters or if God has a plan and a purpose just for you? Well, He does, and without a doubt He's working out a beautiful design for your life. Not convinced? Go read the book of Esther.

Seriously. Go do it.

Right now. The whole thing. It won't take long, but it will prove that God cares about every detail, and He's weaving a story together for your life that's perfect for you!

God In the Details

How do we see God in the book of Esther if His name isn't mentioned?

1. King Xerxes was searching for a beautiful young virgin to be a queen. Esther, the girl God used to save His people, was a beautiful young virgin. Esther 2:2, Esther 2:7.
2. On the night that Haman was building the gallows, God kept the king awake. God is involved in even the smallest details of our lives—even not being able to sleep! Esther 6:1-14.

Look up the verses below and then list the way God was involved in what was happening.

3. Esther 2:19-22

4. Esther 4:14

Have you been placed somewhere for a special purpose? How can God use your circumstances to bless or help someone else?

Test Your God Vision



1

You are standing in line at lunch and the person in front of you takes the last chocolate milk. You've been looking forward to chocolate milk all day. Do you think:

- a. That figures. Nothing ever works out for me.
- b. Well, maybe that person needed it more than I did today.
- c. I can't count on anybody to have what I need. Next time I'm bringing my own milk.

2

You just found out that you won a \$500 gift certificate in a random drawing. Do you think:

- a. Thank You, God!
- b. I must be really lucky today!
- c. I must have filled in the contest entry better than anyone else!

3

You didn't get in the same class as your best friend. You are very disappointed. Do you think:

- a. The teachers are probably against me and did it on purpose.
- b. God must have reasons for us being apart. I can pray and ask Him to show me what they are.
- c. I'm SO angry! I can't wait until I am an adult and can make my own decisions.

4

Your parents force you to go to a community event. You really don't want to go (it sounds super boring). When you get there you run into an old friend from first grade. You spend the entire evening together and have a great time. You think:

- a. That was such a great coincidence. I'm glad I went.
- b. God must have wanted us to reconnect. Thank You, God!
- c. That was fun, but it would have been more fun to stay at home.

SCORE:

Give yourself points for the following answers:

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| 1 | a. 3 | 2 | a. 1 | 3 | a. 3 | 4 | a. 2 |
| | b. 1 | | b. 2 | | b. 1 | | b. 1 |
| | c. 2 | | c. 3 | | c. 2 | | c. 3 |

4-5 Super Vision

You have an attitude of seeing God in everything. Even when things are rough, you look to God for a purpose. You know God is taking care of you. Start telling other people about how you see God in your life. You might inspire them to see God, too!

6-9 Need Glasses

Sometimes it's easy for you to see God working in your life. But other times you see the things that happen to you as coincidence or luck. When you start to feel negative about your life or circumstances—remember Esther. God was in control of every detail of her life. He loves you and is in control of every detail of your life, too.

10-12 Eyes Shut

It is really hard for you to see God in your life. You tend to see things negatively and feel like you have to take care of yourself. This is a really hard way to live. God loves you and wants to take care of you. He's in control even when things seem impossible and hard. Accept that love and start looking for God in your daily life. He loves you!



True Beauty:

T rue beauty isn't just what you look like on the outside. True beauty comes when you follow

God and when you decide to live your life for Him. True beauty means understanding that every piece of who you are, both inside and out, is God's beautiful creation. True beauty means choosing to use your gifts, talents, body, and life to honor God.

How does seeing God in your life make you more inwardly beautiful?



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Is God Really There?

Let's face it, when life gets rough it can be hard to believe God is there or that He is in control. How can you find Him when things are hard?

1. Slow Down

Have you ever put an earring in and accidentally dropped the earring back? You won't find it by running through your bedroom. Instead, you need to slow down, scan your dresser, and run your fingers through the carpet until you find it. If you want to see God, you need to slow down and focus on the search.

2. Pray

It's okay if you can't always see God. The Bible is full of people calling out to God to show up (check out Psalm 13). Be honest with God. Pray, *I can't see You right now, God. Will You help me see You?*

3. Examine Your Day

Look for God in every activity and conversation you have. At the end of the day ask: Where did I see God? What were the signs that He was present? Were there moments I missed?

4. Write It Down

Start a God-sightings journal. Journaling helps you see God at work and when things get tough it helps to go back and read how God has shown up in your life in the past.

I Need Advice

Dear Friend,

I don't have any friends. I keep praying that God will give me a best friend, but so far nothing. Where is He? Why isn't He answering?

Love,

Lonely

Have you ever had a similar experience? Think about Esther's life. Think about the things you've discovered about seeing God in your story and then write a response to *Lonely*.

Life Bracelet

WHAT YOU NEED:

Various beads

Clear elastic beading string

WHAT YOU DO:

Look through the assortment of beads. Choose beads to represent the details and memories of your life. Perhaps you want to choose a bead to represent your birth, your family, and your friends. But also choose beads to represent the good and bad moments in your life.

Once you have chosen beads, string them onto your beading string. When finished, tie the ends together to create a bracelet.



Invisible String

You can't see the string once the bracelet is completed, but it's there holding all the pieces together. Without the string, the bracelet would fall apart.

Sometimes it is hard to see God in your life, but remember: He is always there, holding all of the pieces of your life together. That means God is there on the good days and God is there on the bad days. Even when you can't see Him, He is holding your life together.