



## A World Where God Seems Absent

### Small Group Questions

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#### Memory Verse

*Whoever is patient has great understanding,  
but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.*

– Proverbs 14:29, NIV

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#### Connect

Think of one person whom you respect. What are some characteristics of this person? How did he or she gain your respect?

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#### Commit

Read Esther 1

1. Try to imagine yourself at this banquet. What would you be experiencing? Describe the sights, sounds, smells, etc.
2. Why does King Xerxes ask Queen Vashti to come to him (v.10-11)? What factors do you think weighed into her decision to refuse the king's request?

3. The author probably wanted us to evaluate King Xerxes' character with the teachings of the Old Testament. Contrast how well did Xerxes do in light of these Proverbs:
  - a. Proverbs 11:4
  - b. Proverbs 14:29
  - c. Proverbs 31:4-9
4. How do each of the characters in this chapter view gaining and maintaining respect? How might you have handled these matters differently?
5. What parallels do you see between our current culture and that found in Esther 1? : What are some ways we can live for God in a world that has denied God?
6. Does this chapter in Esther 1 make you want to change any of your habits, priorities, methods or decisions? If so, what would you like to change or do differently? How can the group pray for you or your situation?