GROUP MODE · LEADER GUIDE

For Such a Time

Esther · a four-week walk for women's groups

עֵת

ET · THE APPOINTED TIME

"...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

ESTHER 4:14 · KJV

HEREPH
Be still and know

A ministry tool for group study
hereph.app

How Group Mode Works

Group Mode lets a group walk a Hereph path together while every member still walks it personally, at her own pace, on her own phone. You bring the room together. The app carries each person's walk. This guide gives you everything to lead it, so the only thing you ever have to ask us is a question about how the app works.

THE RHYTHM

For Such a Time walks the book of Esther in 28 days: four weeks of seven Hebrew words. The group meets once to launch, then weekly for four weeks, five gatherings of 45 to 60 minutes. Between gatherings, each member walks that week's seven days on her own in the app.

KICKOFF
Launch together, walk Day 1 as a group, set the covenant.

WEEKS 1–4
Members walk 7 days solo, then the group gathers to share.

CLOSE
The final gathering lands on the hidden Hand and ends like a feast.

IF SOMEONE FALLS BEHIND

No one is behind. The app holds each person's place, and the walk is personal, not a race. A member can share from whatever day she is on. Missing a day never locks anyone out of the conversation.

FREE DAYS AND SUPPORTER DAYS

Week 1 (Days 1 to 7) is always free. Days 8 through 28 are supporter-backed ($4.99 a month or $39.99 a year) to cover what it costs to run Hereph, especially the AI Companion. There is no pressure and no countdown. A member who stays in the free days is fully part of the group and the conversation.

> **Your Role, In One Line**
>
> You are the shepherd of the room, not a counselor. You set the pace, open and close each gathering, and keep the space safe and kind. Hereph provides the structure and the word studies. Pastoral care comes from you, your pastor, and the group's care for one another.

WHEN A HEAVY MOMENT COMES UP

Esther's story touches tender ground: being taken into a system you did not choose, hiding who you are, and the cost of speaking up. Some women may carry real history here. Honor a heavy share; do not fix it, and never ask for the story behind an answer. If someone is carrying something beyond the group, gently point her to her pastor or a professional. Crisis lines are on every emotional screen in the app and on the last page of this guide.

WHAT YOU NEED, AND WHERE TO GET HELP

- This guide, a member handout for each woman (hereph.app/groups), the app on each phone, and a room or a video link.
- Members open the walk in the app under Paths: For Such a Time (in the Women lane), and begin Day 1 when you launch.
- For app questions only (something will not load, an account issue), email **support@hereph.app**. For anything about leading the study, this guide is your source.

Leading For Such a Time

A short orientation to the walk your group is about to take, so you can lead it with confidence from the first gathering.

What it is. For Such a Time is a four-week walk through the book of Esther for the woman holding a position she did not ask for and a decision she cannot dodge. Each day pairs one Hebrew word from her story with its plain-language meaning and one small reflective exercise drawn from evidence-based practice, so the group is never studying trivia. They are walking with a woman who found her voice.

Why Esther. God is never named in the Hebrew text of Esther, and He is never absent from it. The whole walk turns on that: the appointed time, **עֵת** (*et*), and the hand that works underneath what looks like coincidence. Your group will learn to read their own stories the same way.

The four-week arc.

- **Week 1 · Hidden** (free). Exile, being taken, the masking years, favor in a place she did not choose, the crown that solved nothing, Vashti's warning, and Day 7: you were not misplaced.
- **Week 2 · The Decree.** A real enemy named without panic, comfort that keeps the news out, grief made visible, the illusion of exemption, the hard word from someone who loves you, and "who knows."
- **Week 3 · If I Perish.** Gathering support before the hard thing, the fast, "if I perish, I perish," the unsummoned approach, wise timing, naming the wrong out loud, and the fear of people versus the fear of the LORD.
- **Week 4 · The Hidden Hand.** The sleepless night, the reversal, joy remembered on purpose, Esther writing with full authority, and the face that was hidden but never gone.

> **A tender day, handled on purpose**
>
> Day 2, **Laqach** ("she was taken"), names honestly that the gathering of young women in Esther 2 was coercion, not a pageant. The app handles it with care and without detail. In the room, keep that conversation at the level of the principle (blame that was never yours to carry) and never invite personal accounts.

> **Every word is Hebrew, and four reach beyond Esther**
>
> Esther is a Hebrew book, so every anchor word is Hebrew. Most are anchored in Esther itself; four reach to the passages where the word lives: **Sha'anan** (Amos 6:1), **Yare** (Proverbs 29:25), and **Panim** and **Satar** (Deuteronomy 31:18, the hidden face). If a member notices, that is the answer. No one is off track.

How each day is shaped in the app. A member opens the day, meets the word and its meaning, hears it spoken, walks a short reflective exercise drawn from evidence-based practices (told in plain language, never clinical), and writes in a private journal. Your gatherings do not repeat the app. They give the group a place to say out loud what the week stirred.

GATHERING 1 · THE LAUNCH

Kickoff: For Such a Time

Before this gathering: nothing required. You launch the walk here.

OPEN (5 MIN)

Welcome everyone and read aloud together. Suggested: Esther 4:13–14 (the heart of the book) and Psalm 46:10. Then a short opening prayer in your own words, asking that over these four weeks each woman would see where God has placed her, and why.

SET THE FRAME (10 MIN)

- Explain the walk: twenty-eight Hebrew words from Esther's story, one a day, four weeks. Each week they walk seven days on their own, then the group gathers to share.
- Teach the one idea that carries the whole path: God is never named in Esther's book and never absent from it. **עֵת** (*et*) is the appointed time. Nobody in this room is misplaced.
- Walk the group through opening For Such a Time in the app and starting Day 1. Confirm everyone can get in.
- Name the rhythm honestly: Week 1 is free for everyone; continuing into Weeks 2 through 4 is supporter-backed, and no one is pressured either way.

WALK DAY 1 TOGETHER (15 MIN)

Taste the walk as a group. Day 1 is **Galah**, **גָּלָה**, "to be exiled; the orphan carried far from home" (Esther 2:5–7). Read the word and its meaning aloud. Then one round, each person answers lightly:

1. What is one place, role, or season you are in right now that you **did not choose**?

Keep it light here. One sentence each is plenty. This is a taste, not the deep end. The depth comes as they walk it.

SET THE COVENANT (5 MIN)

- What is shared here stays here.
- We do not fix each other. We listen, and we honor what is said.
- No one has to share, and no one is asked for the story behind her answer. Presence is enough.

Send them out

This week, walk Days 1 through 7 in the app, one word a day. Next time we gather, we will share what the hidden years stirred. Close in prayer.

GATHERING 2 · WEEK 1

Hidden

Before this gathering: members have walked Days 1–7.

OPEN (5 MIN)

A short prayer, then read Esther 2:5–7 aloud together (how the book introduces her). Ask: which of this week's seven words is closest to the surface for you?

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

DAY	WORD	HEBREW	MEANING	ANCHOR
1	**Galah**	גָּלָה	Exiled: the orphan carried far from home	Esth 2:5–7
2	**Laqach**	לָקַח	Taken: the passive verb that names it honestly	Esth 2:8
3	**Nagad**	נָגַד	To tell: the identity kept hidden, and its cost	Esth 2:10
4	**Chen**	חֵן	Favor: grace that landed in a place she did not choose	Esth 2:15–17
5	**Keter**	כֶּתֶר	Crown: the arrival that did not fix the ache	Esth 2:17
6	**Ma'en**	מָאֵן	To refuse: Vashti, the fear that has evidence	Esth 1:12
7	**Et**	עֵת	Time: the appointed hour; you were not misplaced	Esth 4:14

SHARE AND DISCUSS (30 MIN)

1. Esther is introduced as an orphan in exile, **Galah**, before she is ever called beautiful or chosen. Why do you think the book starts there? What did your own starting place teach you to expect about home and belonging?
2. **Laqach** names what happened to her honestly: she was taken. Speaking generally, not personally: why do women so often carry blame for things that were never theirs to decide? What did it feel like to hand that weight back on Day 2?
3. Mordecai told her to keep her people a secret, **Nagad**. What does hiding protect, and what does it quietly cost? Where are you managing a room instead of being fully in it?
4. The week lands on **Et**, the appointed time. If you were not set down here by accident, what has your exact road made you able to do for someone else?

Go deeper (if time): Keter, the crown that solved nothing. What arrival have you been telling yourself you must reach before you are allowed to feel at peace?

Send them out

This week, walk Days 8 through 14: The Decree. Close in prayer, each woman naming one place or season she did not choose and asking God to show His hand there.

GATHERING 3 · WEEK 2

The Decree

Before this gathering: members have walked Days 8–14.

OPEN (5 MIN)

Prayer, then read Esther 4:12–14 aloud. Ask for one word on how the week went.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

DAY	WORD	HEBREW	MEANING	ANCHOR
8	**Tsorer**	צֹרֵר	Adversary: a real threat, named without panic	Esth 3:5–6
9	**Sha'anan**	שַׁאֲנָן	At ease: comfort as anesthesia	Amos 6:1
10	**Saq**	שַׂק	Sackcloth: grief made visible at the gate	Esth 4:1–2
11	**Malat**	מָלַט	To escape: the illusion of exemption	Esth 4:13
12	**Davar**	דָּבָר	Word: the hard truth a loved one sends	Esth 4:8–12
13	**Yada**	יָדַע	To know: acting before you can see the end	Esth 4:14
14	**Revach**	רֶוַח	Relief: it was coming; the question was through whom	Esth 4:14

SHARE AND DISCUSS (30 MIN)

1. Haman was a real adversary, **Tsorer**, and Scripture names him without exaggeration. How do you tell the difference between a real threat that needs a plan and a fear your mind keeps rehearsing as if it were already true?
2. **Sha'anan**: the palace kept the bad news out. Comfort can work like anesthesia. What news, or what calling, might your comfort be keeping outside the gate?
3. “Do not imagine you will escape” (**Malat**) was a hard word from someone who loved her (**Davar**). When someone who loves you tells you something hard, what is your first move: defend, obey, or actually listen?
4. **Yada** and **Revach**: “who knows,” and relief will rise from another place. If deliverance does not finally depend on you, what changes about how you carry your part?

Go deeper (if time): Saq, sackcloth at the gate. Who, or which unspoken rule, taught you to keep your grief presentable instead of letting it be seen?

Send them out

This week, walk Days 15 through 21: If I Perish. Close in prayer for courage that is prepared, not just felt.

GATHERING 4 · WEEK 3

If I Perish

Before this gathering: members have walked Days 15–21.

OPEN (5 MIN)

Prayer, then read Esther 4:15–16 aloud. Ask: what did this week ask of you that you did not expect?

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

DAY	WORD	HEBREW	MEANING	ANCHOR
15	**Kanas**	כָּנַס	To gather: support recruited before the hard thing	Esth 4:16
16	**Tsum**	צוּם	To fast: courage is prepared, not felt	Esth 4:16
17	**Avad**	אָבַד	To perish: acceptance and action in one breath	Esth 4:16
18	**Sharvit**	שַׁרְבִּיט	Scepter: the feared outcome tested against the real one	Esth 5:1–2
19	**Mishteh**	מִשְׁתֶּה	Banquet: wise timing over impulsive confrontation	Esth 5:4–8
20	**Ra**	רַע	Evil: the fear that finally got a name out loud	Esth 7:6
21	**Yare**	יָרֵא	To fear, to revere: dread of people or trust in the LORD	Prov 29:25

SHARE AND DISCUSS (30 MIN)

1. Before the brave thing, Esther gathered the people and asked them to fast for her (**Kanas**, **Tsum**). Why do we so often try to do the hard thing alone? Who have you kept in the dark about the very thing you most need help carrying?
2. “If I perish, I perish” (**Avad**) holds acceptance and action in the same breath. What would you attempt this week if you accepted the worst outcome instead of fighting to prevent it?
3. She walked in unsummoned and the scepter was held out (**Sharvit**); then she waited for the second banquet (**Mishteh**). Where is the wise move to speak now, and where is it to wait for the right table?
4. Day 21 asks whose fear sits on the throne: the fear of people or the fear of the LORD (Proverbs 29:25). Whose disapproval have you been treating as a life sentence, when it was only passing weather?

Go deeper (if time): Ra: “this wicked Haman.” What have you been calling “just stressful” that, named honestly, is actually wrong?

Send them out

This week, walk Days 22 through 28: The Hidden Hand, the last week of the walk. Close in prayer.

GATHERING 5 · WEEK 4 · THE CLOSE

The Hidden Hand

Before this gathering: members have walked Days 22–28 and finished the walk.

OPEN (5 MIN)

Prayer, then read Esther 9:1 and Esther 9:22 aloud. This is the last gathering. Let it feel like a feast.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

DAY	WORD	HEBREW	MEANING	ANCHOR
22	**Zikaron**	זִכָּרוֹן	Record: the “coincidence” reread as providence	Esth 6:1
23	**Ets**	עֵץ	Tree, gallows: the trap turned on the one who built it	Esth 7:9–10
24	**Hafak**	הָפַךְ	To overturn: it was turned around	Esth 9:1
25	**Simchah**	שִׂמְחָה	Joy: deliverance remembered on purpose	Esth 9:22
26	**Katav**	כָּתַב	To write: the hidden girl now writing the law	Esth 9:29
27	**Panim**	פָּנִים	Face: the hidden face, felt absence named	Deut 31:18
28	**Satar**	סָתַר	To hide: the Hand hidden in her book, never absent	Deut 31:18

SHARE AND DISCUSS (30 MIN)

1. On the night everything turned, a king could not sleep and a forgotten record was read aloud (**Zikaron**). Looking back, what “coincidence” in your own story would you now reread as His hand?
2. **Hafak**: it was turned around. What has grown in you during a hard season that you would not trade back, even though you never would have chosen the cost?
3. Esther, the hidden girl, ends her book writing with full authority (**Katav**). What is one thing the woman you are becoming is ready to put her name to?
4. God is never named in the Hebrew text of Esther, and never absent from it (**Panim**, **Satar**). Look back over all twenty-eight words: where did a season that felt like His absence turn out to be His hidden hand?

Go deeper (if time): Simchah, joy commanded. What real good has come to you that you have never stopped to mark? How could this group mark it together?

Close the walk

Go around once: each woman names the one word from all twenty-eight that she will carry out of these four weeks. Read Esther 4:14 together, then close in prayer. If your group can, mark the end the way Purim was kept (Esther 9:22): share a simple meal, and give something to someone in need. The walk ends here; the words go with them.

All 28 Words

The whole walk at a glance. Anchors are starting points for reading aloud.

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Care, Boundaries, and Support

Crisis Resources (always available in the app)

If anyone in your group is in crisis or thinking about self-harm, encourage her to reach out right away. **Call or text 988** (Suicide and Crisis Lifeline). **Text HOME to 741741** (Crisis Text Line). These are on every emotional screen inside Hereph. In an emergency, call 911.

If someone is not safe at home

Esther's story can bring up control, coercion, or abuse. If a woman shares that she is not safe, do not try to fix it in the room. Thank her privately, tell her she is not to blame, and help her reach the **National Domestic Violence Hotline: call 1-800-799-7233 or text START to 88788**, or 911 if she is in danger now. Involve your pastor, with her permission.

The Leader's Boundary

You are a shepherd, not a counselor. Your job is to keep the room safe and kind and to walk alongside people, not to diagnose or treat. Hereph provides the structure and the word studies. When something surfaces that is bigger than the group, point the person gently toward her pastor or a licensed professional. That is not failing her; it is caring for her well.

ABOUT HEREPH

Hereph (formerly Selah) is a free, mobile Bible-based reflection app that pairs the wisdom of Scripture, in the original Hebrew and Greek, with evidence-based reflective practices. It is a ministry tool. The first seven days of every walk are always free. The extended days are supporter-backed so the app can stay free at the door for everyone.

SUPPORTING THE WALK

If your group wants to continue past Week 1 together, becoming a supporter ($4.99 a month or $39.99 a year) unlocks Days 8 through 28 and helps cover what it costs to run Hereph, especially the AI Companion. There is no pressure. Support is a way to help keep the door open for the next person, not a toll for walking through it.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APP

For anything technical, an account issue, or something not loading, email **support@hereph.app**. For leading this study, this guide is your companion. Everything you need is here.

Hereph · “Be still and know” · Psalm 46:10 · hereph.app
Scripture references are for reading aloud; members read full text in the app or their own Bible.