



# MOST LIKELY TO Shadow Mission

#npmostlikelyto

Week 3

3 of 5

July 8, 2018

**Bottom Line:** When you are uncertain about your purpose . . . God has a place for you.

**Icebreaker:** Have everyone share their high and their low from the past week. Whenever participation is lagging, this is generally a good way to up participation.

**Key Verse:** *"If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"* Esther 4:14 NLT

Esther was a quiet, beautiful Jewish girl who had experienced plenty of misfortune in her life, leaving her to the care of an uncle. They were both were part of a captive nation; a misplaced people in a kingdom where they were overlooked and chosen last. They had to "mind their p's and q's" in order to keep life working. Esther had become an expert at not being seen at a young age. Suddenly, because of her uncle's relationship with God, his connection to the king, and his wisdom, Esther was unexpectedly thrust into a situation where anonymity was no longer possible. She was very visible to the world as queen, and everything she did was noticed and mattered.

There came a moment in her life when she had to choose: The safe way or the right way. Her way or God's way. Her mission or God's mission. Would she choose to remain in her comfort, respectability, and status, or would she risk all of that to realize her God-given mission? The need was big. The resources were only hers. But would they be enough? The reason the risk was so huge was that word **perhaps**. "Who knows if perhaps . . . ?" There was no guarantee—just a need and a calling and a choice.

God gives all of us distinctive opportunities to risk our own security, mission, and direction to follow His. There is always risk. God guarantees that He will be with us, and that following Him will be the fullest, most satisfying life possible. But He generally gives the details one step at a time. We don't have a clearly laid path with all the obstacles and dangers identified and a strategy devised. We have the opportunity to obey, to drop our mission for His, and step into the once-in-a-lifetime adventure that is His calling to us.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

"You can't realize God's mission for your life unless you risk YOUR mission for your life." Discuss. How have you seen this to be true/untrue?

How do you see yourself as strategically placed?

How do you see a mission arising from where God has allowed you to be placed today?

Have you ever had a mission and lost it? What are the personal differences between you with a mission and you without a mission?

"It's hard to get motivated every day when you don't know how you fit into the big picture." Discuss.

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

"If you don't embrace your true mission, you will by default pursue a shadow mission." How would you define a shadow mission?

John Ortberg describes it this way: "A mission is the highest purpose to which God calls us; a shadow mission is an authentic mission that has been derailed, often in imperceptible ways." Discuss.

How can you distinguish between an authentic mission and a shadow mission? What is so deceptive about a shadow mission, in Esther's case and in yours?

"God has a plan for your life that is better than your plan for yourself." How do you find that hard to believe? How have you found it to be true?

How do you need to pray about mission? About risking? About no guarantees?

## NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Share with the group what might possibly be your “shadow mission”—a good thing, but not God’s thing for this time of your life.
2. Share any personal prayer requests about your calling.
3. Report back next week.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** When you are uncertain about your purpose . . . God has a place for you.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Esther 4:10-12

Tuesday: Esther 4:13-14

Wednesday: Esther 4:15-17

Thursday: Acts 20:24

Friday: Jeremiah 1:5

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*