**Series Overview:** In this series, Supporting Cast, we are looking at the lesser known yet vitally important characters in the Bible. We believe that every single person has a specific role to play in the story of God and it is only when we all follow God’s call that He can accomplish His work in the world.

**Week Overview:** This week we look at Mordecai. He was an influencer to an influencer of the main influencer. Meaning he was really behind the scenes. We are all often behind the scenes and have the opportunity to influence others.

Outline

Hook: Story of being the assist/support/backstage

Body: Story of Mordacai in Esther

1. Who he is
2. What he did.
3. How he was an influence

Illustration with Magnets to show influence

Scripture: Esther 4:14 “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Application: How can we be an influence to make a difference even when we are not the people in charge

Key

**THP,** Personal Story, Example, Scripture

(Story of being the assist)

My main sport was always soccer. I never stood out while I was playing. I was always average, skill wise, I was at the middle of the team I played every position on the field but my main position was striker. Strikers are the ones who finish the push and get the ball into the goal.

One practice the coach had us do a shootout. Every person on the team was doing penalty shots against the starting goalie and if you missed you were out. The line kept cycling and more and more people got out. Through every rotation of the line everyone was more surprised I was still in. It came down to me and the team captain, the best player on the team. In the end I came out on top as the best shooter. Everyone was pumped for me and impressed by what I did.

After this I still did not become our top scorer in games. What I loved doing was being the assist. All eyes on me, defenders thinking I'm going to shoot, goalie moving over to block the shot, and at the last second I cross the ball over the field to my teammate who has a wide open shot. Everyone crowds around him and cheers as the game winning shot is made including me. To me, it does not matter who made the final shot, in the end we were victorious.

Often we end up being characters on the sidelines. We support the people that make the goal. It is noble to be a support. That’s why there is an entire sport based around it. Cheerleaders literally do nothing for the game except support players. Most of us will probably never have our name up in lights or be the most famous and powerful people. However, we might have the opportunity to influence people who can influence that famous person with all the power, and then the powerful person can make the change that we want. **You have influence.**

This is the exact situation that Mordecai was in in the book of Esther. The book of Esther has the first ever episode of the bachelor. In these episodes there are 4 main characters. Our first character of importance is King Xerxes. King Xerxes is married and his wife doesn’t want to come to the his party. Xerxes decides he’s done with her and decides to host the bachelor and have all the most attractive women come and have a contest to see which ones he liked most.

The next character we meet is Mordecai. Mordecai has two important titles at the beginning of the story, Jew and Uncle. Mordecai is a jew living in captivity. All of the jews had been taken captive by Persia ruled by King Xerxes at the moment. Mordecai is a very kind man as well. although he is just Esther’s uncle, he took her in to his home when she was orphaned. We are going to hear about how Mordecai took the position of court official, foilded an assassination plan, and saved all of the Jews.

Esther was the niece of Mordecai. She was a very beautiful Jewish woman who was orphaned. Esther got to participate in the very first bachelor that the king hosted. In Ester 2:15-17 we see what happens during Esther’s turn with the king. It says, “Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her. **16** And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, **17** the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther%202&version=ESV#fen-ESV-12742b)] on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.”

So basically Esther had some real pretty privilege. She was so attractive she instantly won the crown and the first ever the bachelor.

Our last character is Hamman. Every story needs its villain, and for Mordecai, it’s Haaman. Haaman is the guy who only looks after himself. He will step on anyone to get where he wants. And thats a nice way to say hes willing to murder thousands.

 Now that we have our main characters in play lets pick up the story a bit of time after the king held the first bachelor. Mordecai was out at the front gate doing his job. Mordechai did not have a special carreer. He was not the king, he was not the advisor, he was not anything to notice. He watched the gate. That is exactly what he was doing when he discovered a plot to kill the king.

Mordecai, like most of us, has no way to contact the king directly. We are not the influencers with 10 million followers, we are not the movie stars, we are not the starting lineup for the NFL, we are fairly normal people, like Mordecai. If you do end up being famous, give me a shoutout. But most of us won't be famous. However, we will have access to people with influence, or access to people who can influence the influencers. Mordecai saw that he had this. He communicated the murder plot to Esther and Esther communicated the plot to the king, the man with the real influence.

The king acted and his life was saved. Later in the story Haman was promoted and every person was supposed to bow, but Mordecai did not. Haman noticed and got so ticked off he decided to kill not just Mordecai but his entire race, the Jews. Haman brought this plot to the king and the king agreed to do it, not knowing that his dear Esther was also a Jew. The plan to kill the Jews was set to happen months in the future. Mordecai learns of this plan and realized that he does not have the power to fix what is coming.

Mordecai, sees that he is not the famous one, he is not the one with power, he is the guy who passes the ball across the field , he is the assist, he is the supporting cast, he is the influencer to the influencer, or the guy with all the power to make a change. So he goes to Esther with what he learns and tells her everything. Mordecai was supporting Esther in saving the Jews. He wanted her to use her position to make a difference just like he was trying to do.

I want you to take a look at these magnets <https://www.teachersource.com/product/floating-ring-magnet-set?gclid=CjwKCAiA1eKBBhBZEiwAX3gqlxxzDIMy9uVVgqsBOpBM1hTx0SEKgYL9h3OZfxWQnqPZKbPeneeXUhoCkQsQAvD_BwE>

The Red one can only be up so high because of the influence of the others. The king would be the red. Esther would be yellow, and Mordecai would be green. Mordecai desperately wants Ester to use her position, but she does not have to. She could try to leave and get out. Esther would lose her influence if she did this. She would not be able to save all of the Jews. However this does not concern Mordecai. Esther was never the last hope. Even if all the magnets to influence the king were removed, Mordecai had faith where it mattered most, and that is in the control of God. He believed God could move the heart of the king wherever he wants, or even more all of the Jews.

He communicated this to Esther in the famous verse from Ethser4:14 “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Mordecai sees something I want all of us to recognize. you have influence, but the greatest influence is God. **You have influence** but the greatest influence is God.

Every single one of us has opportunities to make a difference, to stand up for someone when people are talking behind their back, to encourage someone when they do good work, to speak up when we see something wrong. We are able to have that influence.

Not only this, but we also have the opportunities to influence our friends when they encounter situations. Maybe our friends are the main influencers of people. We can show them what the right thing to do is. Encourage them to do what is right, and influence the influencers.

Maybe we are even farther removed. Maybe we are not the green magnet like Mordecai but the blue one. It doesn’t matter. As long as we use our influence for good we have won. Just like when I was playing soccer, it doesn’t matter if you’re the person who shoots the goal, passes the assist, crossed it to the assister, or stole the ball from the opposing team last play. What matters is that there is victory at the end.

The story ends happily ever after. Esther does listen to Mordecai and uses her influence for Good. She convinces the king to make a counter document to his previous one that would kill all the Jews. The king learns that this was all a plot by Hamon who he then executes and promotes Mordecai for his upstanding character.

We might not get the recognition from a king like Mordecai did for doing the right thing, but we will get recognition from the only King that matters, God our King. He wants us to be like Mordecai and use our influence for good. We have such an opportunity in our time to be an influence for God, but even if we don’t,… God will accomplish his purposes.

Because **you have influence**, but the greatest influence is God.

Kylee: This message ties in really well with the overall message of the Supporting Cast series! I feel like this would be a good message to set the stage, the vision for what this series is. The one thing that I felt was missing was more Scripture. I think you did a great job summarizing the story of Mordecai. I just wonder if there are places where we could insert the actual Scripture you are referring to? Also, would love for you to expand more on the idea of God being the greatest influence.

Kent - I think the THP should change to “You Have Influence”, more direct! I think this is good, straight forward… using influence for the Kingdom could be developed in this message. There is an opportunity to cast vision for purpose… tie in our students' purpose in life to the influence they can have for the Kingdom of God.

Ryan- I second Kent’s suggestion with the THP. Maybe you can follow that up with “that influence comes from God” instead of the greatest influence is God. This is in reference to your section immediately under the Esther 4:14 verse.

Scott - I’d love to hear some ideas or stories of what it looks like to use your influence. Standing out is scary and figuring out our own giftings and opportunities is tough. Can we do something to make it a little more practical? I think this could be a good week 1 teaching.

Micah - This feels a little on the shorter side compared to the other scripts. I think more meat could be added to this script. Vision cast at the beginning or end, add in some more tension at the end. What are some situations students are going to step into where they can be influencers? What does this look like on a practical level? Show them how being an influencer matters and why it’s important. How being an influencer will save them from some hurt/pain but they’ll have to risk embarrassment/isolation/etc…

Aaron: Because this story is pretty complicated, and I don’t want to assume most students know it by heart, it may be helpful to do a “character list” before you start telling the story. That way, the students have a better idea of who everyone is and the role they play in the story beforehand. I noticed this because when you mention that Haman was promoted, I want to say this was the first time Haman’s name was even brought up. For students hearing the story for the first time, this would probably be confusing.

I would also love to dig a little deeper into the details of the story. This script is fairly short, so I feel like we have room to do that.

At the end, lets really challenge students to think about how they are going to use their influence. Let’s list some practical examples. Also, I think would could encourage them to never discount their influence. So many of us think that what we do day-to-day doesn’t really matter, but nothing could be further from the truth.