



LIFE GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT • GROW • SHARE • PRACTICE

Esther 2:1-18

September 12/15, 2024

Connect

Consider sharing a meal each week together. As you eat together, catch up on the week. Follow up on any prayer requests or life events from last week. If needed, more icebreaker questions are available [here](#).

Grow

1. What has God been stirring in your life this last week?
2. How was time in the Word this last week? Share one thing you're learning about currently.

Share

3. Read Esther 2:1-18. Have someone recap the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What was most meaningful or significant to you from this passage or last week's sermon?
4. The title for this week's message is "The Hidden Hand of God in Unlikely Favor". In what ways does this passage show Esther receiving favor? What are some reasons this favor seems unlikely?

We see in Esther 2:1-4 the king receives advice from those around him. They offer him counsel that appeals to his pride and to find a way to make him feel better.

5. Read Proverbs 12:15 and 27:5-6. How does biblical counsel differ from the counsel King Xerxes receives from his attendants after queen Vashti's disobedience?
6. How are you prone to seek counsel in difficult circumstances? In what ways is it difficult to let people into your pain or conflict? Or how do you struggle to hear what you need to hear instead of what you want to hear?

As you consider what is happening in this part of the story and see that Esther continues to rise in favor with those around her. We see the greater example of one who rises in wisdom and favor with all in Jesus as mentioned Luke 2:40.

7. What are some ways you can grow in cultivating inner wisdom and favor with both God and man? Why is this significant in light of what is happening in the world around us as it relates to our mission to love God and make disciples?

Practice

This week, we see the backstory of Esther and how her circumstances, both past and present, lead her to this moment. Sharing our stories can feel vulnerable and yet also bring great comfort and worship as we look across the threads of our life and see God's redemptive purposes. Spend some time in group sharing some of your **heritage, heroes, high points, and hard times** and how you've experienced the **hand of God** both through your past and currently. If you are using the Esther study, see page 26. Another option is to hand out



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this chart and have your group members spend some time reflecting on these questions. Start your life group each week with one or 2 people sharing their life map below:

<p>Heritage: How have your family relationships, ethnic, or geographical influences shaped your life?</p>	
<p>Heroes: What relationships influenced your character/shaped your direction (positively/negatively) How? Why?</p>	
<p>High Points: What experiences have you especially enjoyed? Why?</p>	
<p>Hard Times: What experiences were especially difficult or painful? Why?</p>	
<p>Hand of God: When/how have you seen God's hand at work in your life? List specific events that illustrate His work in your life.</p>	