

# Life Group Guide

Connect

Grow

Share

Practice

Esther: Intro & Overview

Aug 29 & Sept 1, 2024

## Connect

Welcome back to Life Group! Spend week 1 connecting and catching up with a shared meal. Have everyone bring a favorite dish from their childhood to share. Go around the table to check in (if it's been a while since the whole group has been together), share about the meal and the memory connected to it. Share what this fall semester is like for them (schedule, season of life, big changes, or anything else)

Review the [Life Group Commitment](#) and expectations for the group and have everyone recommit (if they haven't already). Share any specific details for your group (when you'll meet, group norms, etc.).

## Grow

1. How has time with the Lord been lately?
2. What are some ways you are hoping to grow with the Lord this semester?
  - Any habits/rhythms you want to begin or continue?
  - What do you need to say no to or cut back on to prioritize time with God?

## Share

3. Have someone recap the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What was a significant takeaway you had from the message or passage last week?
4. Share about a time in your life when in the moment you didn't see God working but looking back, you can now trace his hand through that circumstance/season.
5. As we study the book of Esther we will see times of great fear and anxiety and times of great hope and joy. What is the thing bringing you the most fear/anxiety in life currently? What is something bringing you great hope/joy?
6. The opening scene/chapter displays the type of political and moral values of the kingdom at that time. What do we learn about the values of their culture? What similarities do you see in our culture today?
7. In what ways is it a struggle to keep a Kingdom perspective in an ungodly culture? How do you find refuge or hope in the Lord when it seems that life circumstances or the culture around you make it difficult?

## Practice: Embracing the Gospel Overtime

Spend time as you start this new semester writing down 3 things you can use prayer for personally or in your spiritual life. These could be from life circumstances, ways you want to grow (Question #2), character traits to cultivate, pain or suffering you need comfort or wisdom for, etc. Go around the group and read these out loud. End group time in groups of 2-3 praying through the things you wrote down. Until we meet again, spend 5 minutes a day praying for the things you wrote down.