

Esther 6:1-14 October 10/13, 2024

**Connect:** Share a meal. Play a game. Ask an icebreaker question. Follow up on the past week's events or prayer requests.

## Grow

- Last week we had the foundational practice of: *Intentionally Pursuing Community*. Biblical Community is a reciprocal relationship, meaning we are both needy and needed. Which is harder for you and why? How can you grow in loving others and letting others love you? (see our resources <u>page</u> for more on Community)
- 2. How has time with the Lord been this last week? How was time in His Word? How was time in Prayer?

## Share

- 3. Read Esther 6:1-14. Have someone recap the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What was most meaningful or significant from last week's sermon?
- 4. In verses 1-9, how many "coincidental" circumstances had to line up in this chapter for the climax of the book to take place? Think of a time when you were quick to credit happenstance and/or coincidence instead of God's Hidden Hand. How has your perspective changed regarding coincidence versus providence?
- 5. Read Proverbs 27:2. Mordecai was overlooked at the time of his heroic act to foil the assassination plot against the King, yet we don't see him trying to laud himself for credit. How do you work through circumstances when you are overlooked or unseen?
- 6. Haman is a cautionary example of pride and its ultimate demise. Read Proverbs 29:23 and Philippians 2:3-8. Pride was considered a virtue in the ancient Near East while humility was an anathema to avoid. How did Jesus flip the script to elevate humility to become a virtue? How would others say you are living out the virtue of humility?
- 7. Why is the providence of God in world affairs, other people's lives, or in our daily lives hard to accept? Why do we want life on Earth to work out so earnestly when God never promised His providence would be confined to this?

## Practice

8. Take 3-5 minutes to reflect on the hidden hand of God over the course of your life. Share how you have experienced the hidden hand of God in your life with your group.