

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT • GROW • SHARE • PRACTICE

Esther 5:1-14

October 3/6, 2024

Connect

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

Grow

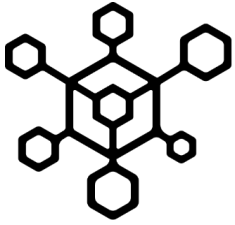
1. In regard to last week's practice of Fasting in Light of Living on Purpose, we were challenged to fast for 24 hours with intentional prayer over injustice and to seek Him asking him to move. If you were able to practice fasting this last week, how was your experience? What did you notice? How did the Lord meet you?

Share

2. Read Esther 5:1-14. Have someone recap the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What was most meaningful or significant from last week's sermon?

The theme of this week's passage is "The Hidden Hand of God in Waiting". While we don't know if Esther's waiting was wisdom or hesitancy, we see God's goodness covering the whole situation.

3. Share about a time you sensed God was telling you to wait in a certain situation and you weren't sure why, but can now see His hand was at work. Or, share about a time you responded or acted in a situation in which you should have waited and looking back can see how it would have been wise to wait?
4. Esther is in fear as she makes her request to King Xerxes. Read Hebrews 4:16. How does this invitation to come to the Lord in prayer contrast with Esther's fear and hesitation in this passage? In what ways does this verse encourage you to come to the Lord in prayer?
5. Notice in vs 9-13 how Haman's pride is so easily undermined by one person's (Mordecai) disapproval. Read Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:1-19 contrasted with Matthew 11:29 and Philipians 2:3-8 for more on pride and humility. What are the differences you see between the pseudo-strength pride creates and the inner strength humility provides?



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Practice: Intentionally Pursuing Community

Who you go to for counsel can lead to life and flourishing or further sin and destruction. This passage in Esther shows us the danger of soliciting advice from someone who furthers one's arrogance. Let this serve as a caution to us about where we seek counsel and the counsel we give to others.

- Is there a situation in which you need counsel or wisdom?
- Who are the people you can go to for advice who will not just tell you what you want to hear, but point you to Jesus and help you seek wisdom for God's way of living?
- As you consider your voice and counsel to others, read Ephesians 4:29. In what ways can you use your words, insight, and discernment to build others up? How does the gospel counsel you to build others up and keep you from tearing them down?

Consider this week practicing bringing a need to your group, a trusted friend, or a wise mentor and share next week how that went.