

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT • GROW • SHARE • PRACTICE

Esther 4:1-17

September 26/29, 2024

Connect

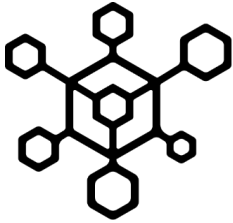
Consider sharing a meal each week together. As you eat together, catch up on the week. Follow up on any prayer requests or life events from last week. If needed, more icebreaker questions are available [here](#).

Grow

1. Are there areas in your life where you currently feel stuck or going through the motions with God? How can we pray for you?

Share

2. Read Esther 4:1-17. 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?
3. The title for this week's sermon is "The Hidden Hand of God in Life or Death". In other words "if I perish, I perish". Has there been a time in your life where you know you've needed to stand up for the things of God and hesitated, or out of fear of what others might think, you didn't? Share about that below.
4. What ways are you growing in this area to live more out of fear of God rather than fear of man?
5. Describe Mordecai's response in Esther 4:1-3. How does his response compare or contrast with how you respond to pain, loss, or difficult circumstances?
6. Read Galatians 6:2. When others are suffering or grieving, do you find it easy or difficult to enter into the pain of others? Have you experienced a time when someone has done this well for you? If so, share with the group.
7. What threads of Esther's life do you see that lead up to this moment? How can you look back on your life to discover your heritage, history, personality, etc. and see how all of those threads are tied together for "such a time as this" in your own life?



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Practice

INVITATION: PRACTICE FASTING IN LIGHT OF LIVING ON PURPOSE

As we enter into the season of Serve Fresno, let's consider a collective response to the brokenness and injustice we see in our community through a 24-hour fast. We see throughout Scripture that fasting was a practice in both the Old Testament and in the New Testament. It was an intentional time set aside to seek, petition, lament, and experience the power and presence of God. Consider for one day abstaining from physical food as a reminder to go to the Lord to both grieve the injustice we see around us and ask for Him to move in power, showing us how we are to respond to injustice according to our unique design.

For more on why and how we fast as followers of Jesus, you can read this article (<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/fasting-for-beginners>).

- Consider taking 24 hours to fast one day next week and pray individually.
- Is there an issue that grieves your heart or a people group you feel passionate about defending?
- How does seeing your uniqueness and how God has made you on purpose, for a purpose, help you discover ways you can move in action toward the brokenness and injustice in our city?
- Read Ephesians 2:10. When you consider what good works you are created for at "such a time as this," what might be a next step you can take? As a Life Group, discuss next steps for serving in the coming weeks to help fight causes of injustice, poverty, or pain during this Serve Fresno season.