

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

WELCOME / OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTIONS: Share the topic & takeaway this week from above

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK:

How did you experience Revival in your life over the last 8 weeks.

GOD-STORIES: A God-story is an undeniable encounter or experience with God that creates an impact or breakthrough in a person's day-to-day life.

REVIEW THE GUIDELINES: Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time

SAFE ENVIRONMENT | CONFIDENTIALITY | LISTEN | PAUSE | SILENCE | NO "CROSS TALK" | NO FIXING | NO RESCUING | SHARING | SELF AWARE | "I" STATEMENTS | CONFLICT

WEEK #1

TOPIC: Walking In God's Favor

TAKEAWAY: God is always at work - in history and in my story.



ASK A THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTION TO GET THE GROUP FOCUSED

Describe a time when God carried you through a terrible decision you made.

SHARE BACKGROUND AND PROVIDE CONTEXT TO THE BIBLE STORY.

The book of Esther takes place over 100 years after the Babylonian exile of the Israelites from their land. While some Jews returned, like Ezra and Nehemiah, many did not. The book of Esther is about Mordecai and his cousin Esther both Jews living in a Jewish community in the capital city of Susa, part of the Persian Empire. There is also the drunken king of Persia, Xerxes, and the Persian official Haman, the antagonist. Esther is the one of two books in the Bible that does not mention God. Undoubtedly, Esther was composed to encourage the Israelites that God was always working on their behalf, even though some refused to return to the land. Esther shows us that God's favor promotes you to the right position at the right time. But it's not for your prosperity. His favor serves his purposes.

VOLUNTEER FROM LAST WEEK SHARES THE STORY (Esther 2:1-20)

INVITE EVERYONE TO ENGAGE BY BUILDING THE STORY.

READ SCRIPTURE OUT LOUD TO SEE IF ANYTHING WAS ADDED OR OMITTED



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How did Esther show that she was teachable?
- 2) Do you allow God to humble your heart in circumstances that are challenging?
- 3) What can you learn from how Esther exhibited trust and authenticity?
- 4) Do you struggle with trying to impress others? What can you do to trust in being who God made you to be?

ASSIGN NEXT WEEKS STORY: Esther 3:1-15

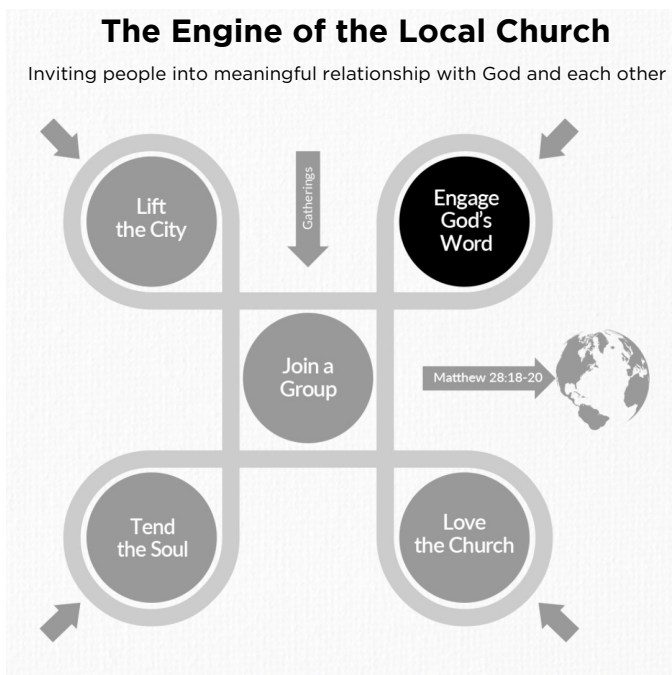
ASK A VOLUNTEER TO CLOSE IN PRAYER.

Leader Page

WEEK #1 - TAKEAWAY: God is always at work - in history and in my story.

Because God is in control of history, he is never frustrated by any turn of events or human action. He is able to save us from the evil of this world and deliver us from sin and death. Because we trust God, we are not to fear what people may do to us; instead, we are to be confident in God's control and his sovereignty.

COLOSSIANS 1:16-17 "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."



Engage God's Word

- Pray for God to reveal an area in your life that he is calling you to be humble. Seek his direction in Proverbs 3:34 and Proverbs 11:2.
- Memorize and recite Psalm 23 each day (prepare your mind knowing that God is with you in all things, through all things always)
- In your small group, pick a reading plan you can go through together this week.
- Set aside 15-20min each day to write down what God reveals to you through His word. (work on making journaling a part of your time in the word)

7 Essentials as a Disciple Maker

Abiding in Christ

Reaching the Lost

Connecting the Unconnected Chasing the Strays

Intentionally Shepherding People Towards Spiritual Maturity

Identifying Equipping and Releasing Leaders

Functioning as a Team

5 Key Components of a Disciple Making Church

Biblical Foundation for Relationship

Intentional Leader

Relational Environment

Reproducible Disciple-Making Process

Church Alignment