

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

WELCOME / OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTIONS: Share the topic & takeaway this week from above

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK:

Did you have an opportunity to practice humility this past week?

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

WEEK #2

TOPIC: Cooperating with God can be hard. But it's worth it.

TAKEAWAY: Good guys or bad guys, God's purpose will prevail.

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



ASK A THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTION TO GET THE GROUP FOCUSED

Were you a rule follower or rule breaker in school?

SHARE BACKGROUND AND PROVIDE CONTEXT TO THE BIBLE STORY.

The main plot of the book of Esther begins to unfold in chapter 3. More than four years have passed since Esther became queen, and at this point, Esther has complied with everything asked of her. Meanwhile, Mordecai refuses to comply and runs into trouble. This critical section of the story introduces the protagonist (Haman) and the conflict that now dominates the narrative (threat to the Jews). The initial incident that sparked the conflict was Mordecai's refusal to bow to Haman. A Jewish person was not forbidden by Scripture or cultural custom to bow down to a person in authority. Still, Mordecai, who presumably bowed to the king and other officials, repeatedly refused to bow to Haman. Through the actions of the good guy, Mordecai, and the bad guy, Haman, God moves his plans forward.

VOLUNTEER FROM LAST WEEK SHARES THE STORY (Esther 3:1-15)

INVITE EVERYONE TO ENGAGE BY BUILDING THE STORY.

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



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How does God use Mordecai's and Haman's actions to keep His plans moving forward?
- 2) How do you find hope in knowing God's sovereign, eternal plans will be accomplished, regardless of evil in our world?
- 3) How might your ego get in the way of the work God wants to do through you?
- 4) Where in your life does standing up for Christ leave you standing alone? How do you see God at work in that area of your life?

ASSIGN NEXT WEEKS STORY: No Curriculum Thanksgiving Week

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO CLOSE IN PRAYER.