Small Group Discussion Notes
Esther- Week 1
Unexpected Impact
April 26, 2026
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Warm Up

Share about a time when God was at work in your life, but you didn't see it right away.

Digging Deeper

One helpful way to explore the book of Esther is through inductive Bible study. As we study the book of Esther, consider this method as a tool for your group. Inductive Bible study includes three parts:

1. Observe – What do you notice in the text…What is the context? What is happening? Who are the characters? What ideas or words are being repeated? Spend time asking these types of questions
2. Interpret – What is being said in the text…What is being communicated? Why is this passage important? What is the meaning of this passage? Take time to ask questions that go beyond observation and dig deeper into the text.
3. Apply – What do I do with this information…How does this impact my life? How does this impact my understanding of who God is? What can I take from this text and apply to my daily circumstances? Ask questions that get personal and help you to apply what you have learned.

Before diving into this week's text, consider the first two weeks of the sermon series.

- What are your thoughts regarding God's presence in the book of Esther, even though he is not mentioned by name?
- How do the complex dynamics and ambiguities of motivation behind Mordecai and Esther's silence about their heritage sit with you? Can you relate to having to make difficult choices that might feel like, or even result in, difficult compromises? If so, how?
- Do you ever struggle with your motivations for doing things, and at times find yourself making decisions with less than God-honoring motives? If so, in what contexts?

Read Esther 2:19-23 (If time allows, read all of chapter 2)

As we read this account, how can we in retrospect, see God at work through Mordecai and Esther?

What thoughts might be going through Mordecai's mind as he hears Bigthana and Teresh discuss a plot to kill King Xerxes? Do you think he might have been conflicted on what steps to take after hearing this information?

Do you think Mordecai was fairly rewarded for his thwarting of the plan to kill the King?

Next Steps

Mordecai was in the right place, at the right time, to do something significant. When you find yourself in such places and at such times, are you typically willing to step up, or are you hesitant to get involved? If you are hesitant, what is the source of your hesitation?

How do you feel about the idea that God, in this season, might very well be positioning you to make a significant impact for his kingdom?

Are you willing to do the right thing, even if it does not come with an immediate reward? Why or why not?

Final Thoughts

Take time as a group to pray for God to work in your lives as you study the book of Esther.