Small Group Discussion Notes
Esther- Week 2
A Tipping Point
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David Miles

Warm Up

Life is filled with tipping point moments when we have to make a decision to do one thing or another. Share about a time when you reached a "tipping point" that led you to make a hard decision.

Digging Deeper

Once again this week, consider inductive Bible study as a tool for exploring Esther 3:1-15.

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 apply what you have learned.

Read Esther 3:1-15

Why do you think Mordecai thought it was worth revealing his heritage at this point after trying for so long to keep it a secret?

Why do you think Haman was vague in his description of who was breaking the law, rather than coming out to say it was Mordecai?

What historical factors (reflect on the sermon) might have led Haman to escalate this situation so significantly?

What reflections do you have about King Xerxes and his leadership, in light of what you have read about him in the first three chapters?

What reflections do you have on v. 15 and the way King Xerxes, Haman and the people of Susa respond to the edict?

Next Steps

How does Mordecai's refusal to bow to Haman inspire, challenge, or otherwise impact you?

How do you typically respond in tipping point moments when difficult decisions need to be made? Are you courageous, or do you find yourself shying away from making hard decisions?

What passages of scripture remind us of God's faithfulness even when we are in the midst of trials or hard circumstances?

What would it look like for you to more fully trust God when difficult, perhaps even risky, decisions need to be made?

Final Thoughts

Take time to pray for one another and the potentially significant tipping point moments currently unfolding in your lives.