Small Group Discussion Notes

Esther- Week 4
Aligned with the Lord
May 17, 2026
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Warm Up

Share a time when you did something that required courage.

Digging Deeper

Inductive Bible study could be helpful tool this week as you study Esther 5:1-14.

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 5:1-14

In what ways do you observe the story of Esther shifting (consider the overall narrative as well as what might be taking place in Esther personally)?

Why do you think King Xerxes was so receptive to Esther's unexpected visit and willing to grant her request?

Esther could have presented her request for mercy for the Jewish people upon her arrival before the king, but instead she invites Xerxes and Haman to a banquet…and then another banquet. What do you think is the significance of this series of events prior to Esther's request?

What do you learn about Haman in this chapter? What do you learn about his wife and friends?

Next Steps

Esther aligns herself with the Lord and the Jewish people as she courageously approaches Xerxes. How have you experienced the Lord work in your life when you have been in alignment with him?

Who is someone that you admire for the way they align themselves with the Lord? Share a little bit about this person.

When do you feel like you strongly identify with the Lord, and when do you find yourself distancing yourself from him? Are there circumstances or contexts that lead you to distance yourself?

Final Thoughts

What can you do this week to be intentional about aligning or more intentionally identifying yourself with the Lord?