Small Group Discussion Notes

Esther- Week 6
Expect the Unexpected
May 31, 2026
David Miles

Warm Up

Share a time when God did something unexpected in your life.

Digging Deeper

If you haven't yet, consider using Inductive Bible Study this week as you study Esther 7:1-10.

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 7:1-10

In what ways did Esther's delay in her request prepare King Xerxes to receive what she was asking for? Or to put it another way, what events transpired that made King Xerxes more receptive to what Esther was asking for?

Consider all of the unexpected revelations in this chapter. Which revelations do you think were most shocking to Xerxes or Haman?

God does some unexpected things in chapter 7. What is most surprising to you about how God has been at work?

Think through all that has happened thus far in the story of Esther and try to map out the ways in which some of the initial negative actions have been undone in the last couple of chapters.

What do we learn about God's character in chapter 7?

Next Steps

Reflect on your own life and consider when it is most challenging to trust that God can work in unexpected ways in your circumstances?

How would trusting that God can do the unexpected change the way you live your life?

What is a story from scripture that demonstrates God's ability to work in unexpected ways that you can come back to when you begin to doubt God's ability to work unexpectedly?

Final Thoughts

Take time to pray together for God to work in unexpected ways in your life this week.