Small Group Discussion Notes
Esther- Week 7
Life Between Two Kingdoms
June 7, 2026
Deron Bauer

Read Esther 8 aloud

Digging Deeper
If you haven't yet, consider using Inductive Bible Study this week as you study Esther 8.

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.

Respond to Esther 8 and Sunday's sermon

Be shrewd in this kingdom
What surprises or interests you about how Mordecai and Esther worked "within the system" to save the Jews?

(def.) shrewd: showing sharp powers of judgment; astute, sharp-witted, clever, wise, crafty, savvy

Consider Jesus' words in Luke 16:8-9 and Matthew 10:16, both of which discuss being shrewd for God's purposes. Do you usually think of shrewdness as a positive attribute?

Which of the following are ways you are (or want to) be shrewd in this kingdom for God's purposes?

- Vote–or don't for reasons of conscience
- Take political action
- Make money and give it away
- Do good through your job
- Other: _____

Be skeptical of this kingdom
Note the similarities in how the edicts of Esther 3 and Esther 8 are described. What might the author be attempting to show us about earthly kings and kingdoms? Consider also the behavior of the king throughout Esther.

Read Jesus' words in Matthew 20:25-27 and John 18:36. Talk with your group about the contrast between earthly kingdoms and the Kingdom of God.

In our world and country, do you think some people put too much hope and confidence in political or social action? How might this dilute the church's mission or compromise Christian witness?

Be secure in the true king

"Esther points us to Jesus because in the story of Esther and Mordecai we see a small picture of salvation that points to the complete salvation Jesus Christ provides." Respond to this statement as a group.

- Temporary reprieve / Salvation for eternity
- Some are saved / All are welcome
- Heroes who risked death / Hero who willingly died for us

Can you think of other places where Old Testament stories point to realities Christ fulfills?

Final Thoughts

Pray in pairs, responding to the specific areas you feel challenged to live differently in this kingdom. Thank God that we are fully secure with Jesus as our king.