Small Group Discussion Notes
Esther- Week 8
A Sort of Homecoming
June 14, 2026
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Warm Up

Think about a conflict, disagreement, or difficult relationship you've experienced. What made it difficult to find peace in that situation?

Digging Deeper

Read Esther 9:1; 16-22.
Relief From Our Enemies (Feel free to choose one of the following to discuss)

- The phrase "relief from their enemies" appears repeatedly in Esther 9.
- Throughout Esther, we see conflict at every level- political, relational, ethnic, and personal. Where do you see evidence of that same brokenness in our world today?
- Why do our attempts to defeat or get even with our enemies often create even more hostility rather than true peace?
- Jesus tells His followers to love their enemies. Why is that teaching so difficult to put into practice?

The Enemy Within (Feel free to choose one of the following to discuss)

- The Bible suggests that our greatest problem is not merely the enemies around us, but the enmity and sin within us.
- What are your reactions to the statement, "There are no little sinners and big sinners. There are only big sinners"?
- Why is it often easier to recognize sin in others than in ourselves?
- How does acknowledging our own sinfulness change the way we view people who have wronged us?

Read Ephesians 2:13-16.
According to this passage, what did Jesus accomplish on the cross regarding hostility and division?
How is Jesus' solution to enmity different from the way the world typically tries to solve conflict?

A Place With No Enemies (Feel free to choose one of the following to discuss)
The sermon emphasized two Gospel truths:

1. Understanding what our sin cost God.
2. Understanding how much we mean to God.

- Why do both of these truths need to be held together?
- How does remembering the cost of the cross protect us from self-righteousness?
- How does knowing that you are deeply loved and treasured by God change the way you respond to criticism, rejection, or hostility?
- The sermon said, "Our enemies can no longer make us hate them." What do you think that looks like in practical everyday life?

Next Steps

- Is there someone in your life that you currently view primarily as an enemy, opponent, or source of frustration? How might the Gospel reshape the way you see them?
- Which of the two Gospel truths do you need to meditate on more this week:
    - What it cost God to save you?
    - How much you mean to God?
- Is there a relationship where God may be calling you to extend forgiveness, grace, or reconciliation?

Final Thoughts

Spend a few moments in prayer reflecting on these two truths:

- Jesus loved us enough to die for us while we were still His enemies.
- Jesus loved us enough to make us His friends.

Let's thank God both for His grace toward sinners and for His deep love for His children. Pray that the Gospel would remove hostility from our hearts and make us people who bring peace wherever God places us.