

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR ESTHER

WARM UP

Have you ever had someone that you sensed did not like you and yet you couldn't figure out why that was the case? What did you do about it? In that circumstance, what does Jesus instruct us to do with our enemies that runs counter to our instincts and our culture?

EXPLORATION

- 1) In the book of Esther there are four main characters. Who are they and how do their values determine their choices?
- 2) Part of the irony of the story told in this book is that those who seem to have the power (Xerxes and Haman) are not truly the ones with the power. God Almighty is at work to save a remnant of His people and it's His power that is displayed at the end of the day. How does God use Esther to accomplish that plan? Where do you see His hand in this account?
- 3) What character traits did Esther have that made her such a good instrument for God's purposes? (Read 4:13-16, 3:2, 4:1, 5:1-7, 7:1-6, 8:1-6)
- 4) How did God use Mordecai in this story? How is his character revealed? (2:5-7, 4:21-22, 9:3-4 and 20-22)
- 5) One of the great things about this story is how the tables get turned against Haman (chapter 6 & 7). How is Haman's end used to encourage God's people? When it seems that evil people are getting away with injustice, what do we know about the character and promises of God that can bring us hope?

APPLICATION

In our own lives, God is often working behind the scenes in ways we can't see or sense in the moment. In those times, what does he require of us? How can we help one another live so that God can use us when the moment of God's design comes?