

# CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 04

# GLIMPSSES OF GOD

## Let's Talk

When have you 'cried your eyes out'? Over what issue, hurt or loss? How do you feel about public expressions of grief?

## Let's Study

Read Esther 4:1-3.

Was Mordecai's weeping and wailing culturally accepted? What does sackcloth and ashes represent?

Read Esther 4:4-8.

What does Mordecai bring to have shown to Esther? Why would that have been necessary?

Read Esther 4:9-12.

What is Esther's initial response to Mordecai's call to action? What do you think she is feeling?

Read Esther 4:13-17.

Mordecai tells Esther that if she attempts to save her life through disobedience, she will lose it. Similarly, Jesus states, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it (Mark 8:35)". What did Jesus mean by this?

Why do you think Esther gained confidence the moment she chose to identify herself as one of God's chosen people?

One comforting theme of the book of Esther is the providence of God. How do you see this in chapter 4? Give specific examples from the text.

# CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 04

# GLIMPSSES OF GOD

## Lets Apply

What would you say to someone who might be having an identity crisis (they feel lost and unclear about who they are)? Discuss ways that could help develop a better sense of self.

In what ways can you see that the Lord has placed you exactly where He wants you?

When have you put your life (your reputation, your relationships, your comfort etc.) on the line for the sake of the Gospel? Is there anything you would struggle to give up?

What is the purpose of fasting?

Pastor Angela listed various reasons why people fasted and prayed throughout Scripture. As a group, is there a reason for which you will fast and pray together?

## Let's Pray

Lord, You have placed us on this earth for such a time as this. Right now. Right here. I am here for a purpose. Help us to point others to You, Jesus, every single day. Help us to look around us and see that You have given us relationships, circumstances and places to share You with others.  
Amen