

## For Class Interaction and Discussion

### *Lesson Outline*

#### 1. The Story:

#### 2. What's in This for Us?

- God's providence
- Courage in adversity
- Faithful friends
- The danger of pride
- God uses ordinary people

#### **Esther 4.14**

**14** If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this."

### *Thought Questions for Discussion*

1. How do you see the theme of divine providence at play in the story of Esther, and how does it encourage you to look for God's hand in your own life?
2. In what ways does the character of Esther inspire you to act courageously in your personal life, especially when faced with difficult decisions?
3. Mordecai's guidance to Esther was pivotal. How important is it to have mentors like Mordecai in our lives, and how can we be that for others?
4. The Book of Esther never explicitly mentions God, yet His presence is felt throughout. How does this shape your understanding of how God can work through circumstances, even when He seems silent?
5. Haman's downfall was a result of his pride. Can you think of a time when pride led to negative consequences in your life or the life of someone you know?
6. Esther's story involved significant risk for the greater good. Discuss a time when you had to take a risk for what you believed was right. What was the outcome?
7. Reflect on the cultural and societal barriers Esther faced. How can her story empower us to overcome similar challenges in our own society today?

8. The festival of Purim was established to remember the Jews' deliverance. Why is it important to commemorate and remember the ways in which we have seen deliverance and victory in our lives or community?

### ***Group Activities***

**Character Study:** Have each group focus on a character from the Book of Esther (e.g., Esther, Mordecai, Haman, King Ahasuerus) and prepare a short presentation on their character's role, motivations, and lessons that can be learned from their actions.

**Providence Mapping:** Have participants reflect on their own lives and identify moments of providence or 'hidden guidance.' They can map these out on paper, creating a visual representation of how they see God's hand at work in their own story.

### ***Walking with God Today***

You have been placed in your current positions for a divine purpose. Like Esther, you may feel ordinary, but within you lies the potential for extraordinary impact. You are called for such a time as this, equipped and empowered to act boldly for the good of others, guided by wisdom and supported by faith. Remember, the same God who orchestrated Esther's life is active in your life, weaving together a narrative of grace, redemption, and purpose.