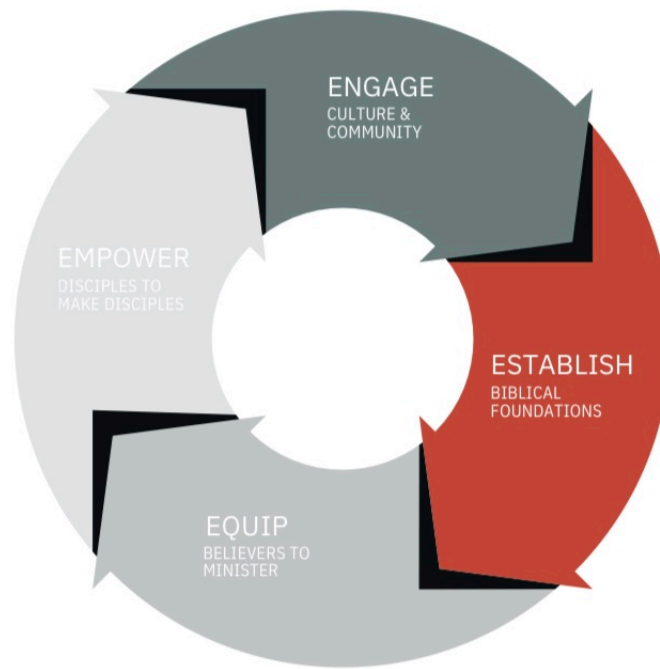


The mission of Rise Up Church is to raise disciples, empower families, and revitalize neighborhoods by the transformational power of the gospel. At Rise Up Church, our discipleship rhythm shapes how we live and expressed in four key movements that we call the 4E's. It is all about following Jesus and helping others do the same.



The purpose of our Koinonia Gatherings is to establish people in biblical foundations by building Christ-centered connections. We believe the Scriptures teaches that life change happens best in community, as we grow together in God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Below, you'll find a sermon-based guide from the most recent sermon to help lead a Rise Up Church Koinonia Gathering, along with a five day devotional designed to help you apply the sermon throughout the week.

# Koinonia Gathering Leader Guide – Isaiah 6

## In-Depth Sermon Summary

In Esther 3:8–4:3, Mordecai and the Jewish people face a life-threatening crisis. Haman’s plot to annihilate the Jews reveals what happens when a culture refuses to acknowledge God. Initially, Mordecai hides his Jewish identity to gain favor and avoid conflict, but his compromise cannot save him or his people. When disaster strikes, Mordecai finally embraces his true identity, fasting and crying out to God, choosing faith over fear.

This passage reminds us that denying our spiritual identity weakens us, but acknowledging God anchors us. Like Mordecai, we often face pressures—workplace politics, cultural trends, or fear of rejection—that tempt us to “tone down” our faith. Yet, it’s in crisis that God calls us to stand firm. The good news is that even when we waver, God is already at work. Mordecai’s story proves that God’s deliverance does not depend on our perfection but on His sovereignty. By embracing our identity as God’s children, we gain confidence that He will work all things for His glory and our good.

Leader Guide Notes:

- Begin with a moment of silence and invite the Holy Spirit into the space.
- Read Esther 3:8–4:3 aloud together before discussing.
- Encourage vulnerability and active listening. Avoid correcting—just listen.
- Allow pauses for the Spirit to speak to individuals. Silence is sacred.
- After each section, take time to reflect before moving into discussion questions.
- End the gathering with a time of open prayer. Invite group members to respond to God's call.

## When Faith Feels Costly

We all experience moments when we feel pressure to fit in or hide parts of who we are. For Mordecai, this meant concealing his identity as one of God’s people in a culture that didn’t acknowledge Him. But when crisis came, he could no longer stay silent—he had to stand in his true identity and turn to God.

Where have you felt pressure to “tone down” your faith or hide who you are in Christ?  
How did you respond, and what did you learn from it?

## **Discussion Questions:**

### **Identity and Compromise**

Where in your life do you feel pressured to “tone down” your faith?

How do cultural or workplace expectations challenge your identity in Christ?

### **Fear and Faith**

When fear hits, what is your natural response—freeze, fix, or faith?

Can you share a time when you turned to God first and saw Him work?

### **Acknowledging God**

How do you practically “acknowledge God” in your daily life?

What might change if you fully leaned into your identity in Christ this week?

### **Bold Obedience**

What would it look like for you to step boldly into your identity as God’s child?

Who in your circle might be impacted by you living your faith more openly?

### **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

We confess the ways we’ve hidden or compromised our identity in You. Thank You that even when we fail, You remain faithful. Like Mordecai, we turn to You first. Strengthen our faith, remove our fear, and remind us that we are Your beloved children. Empower us to stand boldly and live fully for You.

We declare, “Here we are, Lord—send us.”

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## 5-Day Devotional Reading Plan

### Day 1 – The Pressure to Hide

*Read: Esther 2:10–11*

Mordecai instructed Esther not to reveal her identity. Fear often tempts us to hide who we are in Christ, but hidden faith weakens our witness.

**Reflect: Where do you feel the most pressure to hide your faith? How can you invite God into that space?**

### Day 2 – The Cost of Compromise

*Read: Esther 3:8–11*

Haman's plot exposes that compromise doesn't ultimately protect us. Only God can.

**Reflect: What compromises have you made in order to "fit in"? What is God calling you to surrender to Him today?**

### Day 3 – Turning to God First

*Read: Esther 4:1–3*

Instead of running to the king, Mordecai put on sackcloth and fasted, seeking God first.

**Reflect: When fear strikes, do you run to God or to other solutions first? What would it look like to fast or pray over a current challenge?**

### Day 4 – Anchored in Identity

*Read: Romans 8:15–17*

We are children of God, heirs with Christ. Our identity in Him gives us boldness to stand firm.

**Reflect: What part of your identity in Christ do you need to believe more deeply this week?**

### Day 5 – God's Sovereign Deliverance

*Read: Esther 6:1–13*

Even while Mordecai mourned, God was already working behind the scenes for deliverance.

**Reflect: Where do you need to trust that God is already at work, even when you can't see it?**