



ESTHER

THREADS OF SOVEREIGNTY & SACRIFICE

GETTING STARTED: POWER OF STORY

Stories are powerful; they can inspire, challenge, encourage, teach, and connect. The Book of Esther is a story that has stirred the mind and soul every year since it was written. This semester let's use our own stories to challenge and encourage each other to grow.

1. Each week, choose someone to share a 5-minute story at your next gathering.
2. Consider having them follow one of these prompts:
 - When did you choose to follow Christ for the first time?
 - Describe a time of hardship when you experience God's provision.
 - When was a moment you vividly remember celebrating God's goodness?
 - Has God answered a big prayer for you, or answered a prayer in a big way?

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **Esther 4**

- What was happening in today's verse? What context clues are you aware of that might help give you insight into Esther 4?
- How would you describe Mordecai's role in today's passage?
- What was the purpose of fasting, prayer, and grieving in this passage?
- Why was Esther hesitant to ask the king for help? What eventually changed her initial response?

GETTING PRACTICAL

1. Today's passage begins and ends with fasting and prayer.
 - a. How would you describe your prayer life?
 - b. How would you like your prayer life to grow or mature?
 - c. What are some things that may have hindered your prayer life from being fuller in the past?
 - d. Will you participate in the 30-Day Prayer Challenge?
 - e. Have you practiced fasting before? How do you think your faith can be impacted by fasting?

2. You can't read this passage and not think about your purpose. How would you describe God's purpose for your life?

3. How are prayer and purpose connected?