



# 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, encourage each other to grow.

1. Each week choose someone that will share a 5-minute story at your next gathering.
2. Consider answering one of these questions:
  - When did you choose to follow Christ for the first time?
  - Describe 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 2**

- Who are the key characters introduced in this passage?
- What do we learn about Mordecai's character from these verses?
- Do you see evidence of God's providence or intervention in the events described in Esther 2:1-18? Why or why not?
- What does this section tell you about the values of Persia? How might these be similar or different than the values of our culture today?

## GETTING PRACTICAL

1. How can we trust God's plans, especially when we find ourselves in morally challenging situations beyond our control?
2. Paul encourages the readers of Romans 12:18, "As far as it is up to you, live at peace with all men," How have you found this passage helpful or even difficult? Is there a difficult situation you find yourself in now that this passage applies to?
3. Discuss practical ways we can trust God with the actions of others while maintaining our integrity and striving to live according to God's principles.