



# 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 5**

- What was happening in today's verse? What context clues are you aware of that might help give you insight into Esther 5?
- What does this passage tell you about Esther's faith and her character?
- Why would Esther invite the king to a banquet instead of just asking him outright to save her people? Why would she also invite Haman to the banquet?

- What was Haman's emotional response to Mordecai? What made him respond in such a way?

## GETTING PRACTICAL

Sometimes, when we read about historical events in scriptures, we overlook that the people living those stories didn't know how things would unfold. Mordecai followed God's commands by refusing to bow down to Haman. Esther bravely spoke out for her people, despite the risk to her life. We face similar challenges and opportunities: trusting God even when the future is uncertain.

1. Do you see courage or boldness as something necessary to be faithful followers of Jesus, why or why not?
2. How can prayer help us be better leaders, make better decisions and recognize God's purpose and plans?
3. How does Esther's story in Esther 5 highlight God's preference for using humble leaders?
4. How can you exercise boldness and humility this coming week?