

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 31-November 6, 2021

## “LIVING THE CALL”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Imagine a hostage situation. You are there with some people you know, some friends but no family. Would you be willing to be taken as hostage, tortured or executed in their behalf? Rate your courage from 1-10 with 1 = coward and 10 = hero.

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Esther 3-4. (It is suggested that you read the chapters before the small group session.)

1. When you read the conversation between the king and Haman, what were the questions that he did NOT ask? Why do you think that's the case? Why do you think Haman was so enraged with what Mordecai did? If you were Mordecai and Esther hearing this news for the first time, what would you be thinking and feeling?
2. Compare Esther 4:3 and 4:4-5. How do these verses point out that Esther was insulated from the real world? Compare Esther 2:10 with Esther 4:8. Why the sudden shift in Mordecai's instructions? How would you have felt if you were Esther listening to Mordecai's request?
3. In Esther 4:9-11, what was Esther really saying to Mordecai? Describe what Esther's options are and the probable outcomes for each option. What other possible reasons do you think Esther might have had for her hesitation?
4. The Amplified Version puts the beginning of Mordecai's reply in 4:13-14 as, "Do not flatter yourself." What do you think was the feeling of Mordecai as he wrote these words to Esther? What theological truths do you see in Mordecai's words?
5. One important application for us in this passage revolves around Mordecai's challenge to Esther, as to whether we personally realize that God has providentially put us into the experiences and places he has, for such a time as this! Where has God placed you today that you feel he is speaking to you that resonates this reality?

6. Esther's response (4:15-17) is a courageous one even though we see her hesitate at first. How would you define courage? In what ways in the past (or currently) have acted courageously in following Christ? In what ways have you not? In what way(s) is God calling you to exercise courage right now?

7. God used a crisis to change the direction of Esther's life and sometimes does the same to us. Can you think of a time when God used hard times in your life to change your focus and direction? How did you respond?

### 8. NEXT STEPS

*God has put you where you are for such a time as this.*

- I accept God's call in my life in where he has put me today.
- I will value God's daily mercy and grace in my life.
- I will live to do God's will in my life no matter what the cost.
- I will not hold back in my obedience to God's call in my life.

*Don't forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you grow to realize God's providential hand in where he has placed you and respond to his call with courage.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

November 1 Esther 3:1-7  
November 2 Esther 3:3-15  
November 3 Esther 4:1-12  
November 4 Esther 4:4-14  
November 5 Esther 4:12-17  
November 6 Esther 5:1-8  
November 7 Deuteronomy 8:1-20