

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of November 7-13, 2021

“GOD’S COINCIDENCES”

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.

What is one country that you would love to visit and why? (Be sure it's a place you've never been to.)

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Esther 5-6. (It is suggested that you read the chapters before the small group session.)

1. Read Proverbs 16:1-4;19:21;27:1; James 4:13-15. How do you make plans? What do these verses teach us about making plans? How would you know if you were living God's plans for you? How does a Christian balance between making plans and depending on the Holy Spirit?
2. What do you learn about Haman in these verses (cf Esther 5:9-14)? Remember this is the man who has the seal of the king, who makes decisions for him! What kind of man do you see? What lurks in his heart? How deep does his anger go? What are his wife and friends like? How do they impact him? Was their advice good for him? Can a person's friends make a difference?
3. Haman did not see how blessed he was. What one blessing in your life do you often remember to thank God for? On the other hand, what is one blessing in your life today that you may have neglected or taken for granted?
4. The event that was brought to Xerxes' attention happened some 5 years earlier (cf Esther 2:21-23). God providentially allowed the oversight of Mordecai not being rewarded to accomplish his plans and timing. How do you respond when people don't recognize or ignore something that you know you have put a lot of energy on? (Be honest!) What lesson do you need to remember when you go through moments like these?
5. Why do you think Haman assumed that it was he that the king wanted to honor? What are some foolish assumptions that you have made in the past?

6. Waiting on God while the “Hamans” of this world seem to be getting away can be very difficult. What are some of the things that Psalms 34:15-16 and 37:5-9,34-38 remind us of when we struggle with this?

7. How do you respond to the ironic turn of events of the story? As you think back over these chapters, what are some things in your life that God reminded you about faithfully waiting on his perfect timing and plans, and not giving in to discouragement?

8. NEXT STEPS

“God is in the details. He works in the small moments.” (Max Lucado)

- I will plan but always with God's sovereignty in mind.
- I will check my pride.
- I will check on any bitterness or anger in my heart.
- I will trust in God's providence even when things may not look good on the outside.

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 will be mindful of God's providence, grow in your faith and trust in God, no matter what circumstances you may be facing today.
- 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 8	Proverbs 16:1-9;19:21;27:1
November 9	Esther 5:9-14
November 10	Proverbs 23:9-12; Psalm 1
November 11	Esther 6:1-6
November 12	Esther 6:7-11; Philippians 2:1-11
November 13	Esther 6:12-14; Joshua 2:1-13
November 14	Psalm 149