



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 22/1/23

Overview of the book of Esther



Warm Up

Who is your favourite literary (or film if you're not a reader) hero? What makes them a hero? Are they perfect people? What do they do wrong? How does that sit against the big picture of their story?

Background and context

Esther is set about 100 years after the Jewish exile to Babylon in the time of the Persian empire. Some Jews have remained in exile and live under Persian rule. The book is unique in the Bible as it does not mention God but the writer (unknown) wants us to look for God's activity behind the scenes. The book encourages us to look for contrasts and role reversals to reveal God at work. Esther and Mordecai are not perfect but are symbols of hope, courage and determination.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

If you are able watch the Bible project overview of Esther.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JydNSlufRIs>

What is the story of Esther? Retell it in your group.

1. Who are the main characters?
2. What is the threat?
3. How is it resolved?
4. Think of as many signs of God's hand at work in this book as you can.

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

5. How have you experienced God's silence in your Christian life?
6. What are the things in your life that you look back on and see God's invisible hand guiding you?
7. What does Romans 8:29 tell us about the extent and purpose of God's hand at work in our lives?
How can we co-operate with this?
8. Read Philippians 1:3-6 How does this encourage us? What does it call us to as we have this hope?
9. How does Esther point us to Jesus?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.