



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 26th March



Esther ch5:9 — ch7:10
The man the king delights to honour

Warm Up

What do you think of when you think of the word pride? Have you experienced pride at work or when using social media?

Background and context

Haman is excited to be asked to a banquet by Esther and King Xerxes. He believes himself to be honoured. The king, however, wants to honour Mordecai for saving his life. Haman mistakenly thinks the king wants to honour him and becomes very angry at having to honour Mordecai instead. He is consumed by pride, which in the end becomes his downfall.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ: Esther ch5:9-ch7:10 What are the surprising things in the passage? What don't you really understand?

1. Haman is a 'portrait of pride'. Read Psalm 10:4 and reflect on how Haman fits the image described.
2. Ch 5:9-13. How was Haman's pride impacting his emotions? What had he lost sight of?
3. Why do you think Haman was so obsessed with Mordecai's action of refusing to bow to him?
4. Ch 5:14. How has pride blinded Haman? What alternative suggestions may have led to a different outcome?
5. Ch 6:6. How does this verse sum up Haman? What are the dangers in having thoughts like Haman?
6. Ch 7:9-10 Harbona could have spoken up for Haman, and reminded the king of Haman's loyalty. What do you think might have caused that reaction from him?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

7. How is Jesus the opposite to Haman? What lessons can we learn from Haman?
8. Pride has no time for God, it is self centred. Where does pride lead? (Proverbs 16:18) Have you ever seen this?
9. How might 'religion' create pride in people? What is the danger in reliance on religion?
10. Jesus laid down His life for us and God honoured Him (Phil 2:9-11). How can thinking about this deliver us from self obsession?



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