Esther Ch 2
Darkness to Light

Warm Up

What is the scariest thing you have had to face in your life? What made it scary? Did you cope? What helped you?

Background and context

Xerxes' rule over the Persian Empire was brutal. Last week we learned how his character was volatile, how he lacked self control and was ultimately a weak man who was easily manipulated. In chapter two we see a contrast between the brutality and dark nature of Xerxes and the light and compassionate nature of Esther and Mordecai.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?   This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

Read Esther Chapter two.

1.   Chris gave some examples of dark things in the Bible that are often 'sanitised', what were they?

2.   Why might we do this (sanitise) and what might the consequences be?

3.   What does the Bible say is the source of this darkness? (Jer 17:9, Mk 7:20-23)

4.   Modern culture suggests that 'darkness' is the result of poor education, poverty and social conditions. What is your response to this?

5.   What is the Bible's prescription to remove 'darkness'? (Jer31:33-34, Jhn 3:3ff)

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

6.   How does our Christian faith enable us to face the darkness and not be afraid/overwhelmed?

7.   In Gethsemane, Jesus faced the greatest darkness of all for us. How can reflecting on that help us? (Matt 26:36-46)

8.   What sacrifices do you think were involved in Mordecai's adoption of Esther? What can we learn from him?

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.