

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Share with the Group: What is the most intimidating meeting you ever walked in to? Where was it, who was there, how did you dress, and how did it go?

Read Esther Chapter 5 - But first, summarize ch 1-4 in your own words

How would you summarize the big idea(s) of this chapter?

Where do you see God in this chapter?

Where do you see various reversals starting to take place?

What questions does this chapter bring up for you?

Esther Stands

How does Esther prepare before approaching the King? What does this reveal about her character, strategy, and faith?

Why does Esther invite Xerxes and Haman to multiple banquets?

How does Esther change from the previous chapters? What's going on?

What/who enables her to stand up? Who is she standing up against?

How is Esther a model for us as Christ-followers?

Mordecai Sits

What is Mordecai doing in chapter 5? Why?

What does he NOT do? Why?

How has he changed from the previous chapters?

How is Mordecai a model for us as Christ-followers?

Haman Shakes

Trace Haman's attitude and emotions through the story.

How do they change? What do they reveal?

How does Haman contrast with Esther and Mordecai?

How is Haman a warning to us as Christ-followers?

Reflect on the Sermon - Pastor Adam challenged us to consider who we will stand up for in Jesus' name. He highlighted several groups repeatedly named throughout the scriptures: widows, orphans, foreigners, children, the least of these, and the Church (martyrs). Is there any group you sense the Spirit specifically calling you to stand up for? Is there any group you are tempted to neglect? How can you as an individual, or group, take concrete steps in "standing up"?

Close by reading **Psalm 146** as a prayer and praise

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