

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: Have you ever received a gift you didn't really want or need? What was it? Who gave it? How did you handle the situation?

Read Esther Chapter 8 - But first, summarize ch 1-7 in your own words. . .

How would you summarize the big idea(s) of this chapter?
How would you describe the relationship between Esther & Mordecai?
Where do you see parallels and reversals from earlier in the story?
Where do you see Old Testament connections and hyperlinks?
Read 1Sam 2:1-10 - how is Hannah's Song played out in Esther?
Where do you see God in this chapter?
What questions does this chapter bring up for you?

Think Big - King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) continues to be shown as a largely inept and unjust ruler. But now, in ch 8, he is also revealed as essentially being powerless to undue the threat of death and word of condemnation which hangs over Israel.

What does this tell us about human powers?
How does this contrast with YHWH God? (see Is 25:7-8 & 26:19)
What hope does this give us?

Reflect on the Sermon - Pastor Adam talked about how Esther and Mordecai used their unique gifts and opportunities to put people over possessions and to faithfully live out God's mission in the world.

In what ways are we tempted to value possessions (in a broad sense) over people? Where do you personally struggle with this?
Read 1 John 3:10-18 - What might happen if we took this seriously?
What gifts do Esther & Mordecai use (think all 8 chapters)?
How do they support one another?
What gifts has God given you?
What gifts has He given other people in your group?
How are we to use these gifts? (1Pt 4:10-11; Rm 12:4-8; Eph 4:11-16)

Close by reading **Luke 1:46-55** as a prayer and praise

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