



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 5th March 2023

Esther ch 3: Dealing with a challenge.



Warm Up

What do you know about the persecuted church? Share a story you know/ book you have read, that might encourage others to recognise the need to stand up and protect our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Background and context

Haman was an Amalakitite (Agagite), traditionally enemies of the Jews. They attacked them in the wilderness after the Exodus. They were the first nation to make war against God's people. Haman was already prejudiced against the Jews before any incident with Mordecai.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Esther Ch3. 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.

1. Having read Ch3, how would you describe Haman's character?
2. How did he use his position of authority to enable his plans? Can you think of others in history who have done this? Both bad and good.
3. Haman appeared to be in a spiritual battle, giving in to his negative emotions and prejudices. What does Jesus say we should do when facing similar issues of hatred? (Matthew 5:21-24)
4. Given Mordecai's good character (ch2) why do you think he refused to bow to Haman?
5. It is possible Mordecai's faith played a part in his rebellion against Haman. Should faith be the basis of standing up against an untruth or 'evil'? Can you back it up from scripture?
6. Why would the situation get worse, if Mordecai was in the right?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

7. How should we respond to difficult and confusing times in our lives /in the world? What scriptures have been of help to you?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 4:8, Romans 8:28. Discuss how these scriptures may help you in difficult times.
9. How might focussing on Jesus' death and resurrection encourage us when facing challenges?
10. What hope do you have for the future? Why is it important to share this with others?



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.