



# ESTHER

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD

## Straight Flush, Winning Hearts | Esther 9 & 10

1. What's been the standout theme in our teaching series through Esther? Discuss. Is there one big message from God that is your takeaway from the series?
2. As you read chapter 9, what's your conclusion? Did God's people exceed their God-given authority to defend themselves? Was all the death of destruction self-defence or a lack of self-control? What's the basis for your conclusions?
3. How does God triumph over evil in the story? Discuss how the story of the Jewish people in Esther is a dimly reflecting mirror of all that Christ has achieved for us.
4. Can you think of an example from your own life where/when you've been caught in the turbulence between two conflicting 'rivers'? How did you ensure your decisions were wise and God-honouring under such circumstances?
5. Do you ever feel the tension between the restriction of the law vs the freedom we have in Christ? It might help if you reflect on the debate in 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, 9:19-27.
6. Chris spoke about our 'triumphant hope'. How is this message an encouragement in your everyday walk of faith, not just on the day of your funeral?
7. How much time and attention do you give to your eternal future? Share together what you think heaven will be like and explain the reasons for your thoughts.
8. What, do you think, might contemporary politicians learn from the example of Mordecai? He was second in command but held in high esteem. You may want to contrast his example with that of Haman.
9. Why is 'integrity' a watch word for Christians? How have you observed the integrity of Esther and Mordecai in the story? Where have you seen a lack of integrity in the story?
10. Purim was established to so that the Jews would annually remember the events described in the book of Esther. What are the significant annual celebrations in your own journey of life and/or faith? Why? What (if any) traditions or practices have been passed on from previous generations of your family? Why do you cling onto them?
11. Spend some time praying for one another, especially that you would be a people who hold onto the 'triumphant hope' which is yours in Jesus and that you will be a people of integrity as you wait.