

LIFE GROUPS – LEADER OUTLINE
Sunday Sermon Notes – Discussion – Application
Esther 1:1-9
There Is A Higher Throne (THE POWER OF INFLUENCE)

STARTER QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

- What is the most over-the-top celebration, party, or event you've ever attended?
- Why do you think people sometimes feel the need to prove themselves to others?
- What is one area of life where it can be difficult to say no when everyone else is saying yes?

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER – Esther 1:1-9

- Have each group member read a couple of verses that will be covered during the study time.

PRAY FOR THE TIME TOGETHER IN THE WORD

- Invite someone in the group to open the study time in prayer.

HIGHLIGHTS and OBSERVATIONS OF THE TEXT

- What does the opening of the chapter emphasize about king Ahasuerus and his kingdom (v. 1-4)?
- Why did king Ahasuerus host multiple feasts at his palace (v. 4)?
- Why do you think the king went to such lengths to display his wealthy and glory (v. 4)?
- What stands out about the way the king celebrated (v. 5-8)?
- What are some ways the king encouraged others to pursue excess rather than contentment (v. 8)?
- What does the lack of details about Vashti's feast contrasted with Ahasuerus' tell us (v. 9)?

FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON – Reflect and discuss the main points

- What stood out in the sermon to you and why?
- What is the biblical view of wealth?
- How did the king's desire to display his greatness influence his actions?
- What are some ways pride can surface in the life of a Christian? What are strategies for combating pride?
- Are you ever tempted to declare your own glory and greatness instead of God's? Why is this dangerous?
- In what ways is Jesus a better king than Ahasuerus?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE THIS WEEK – PERSONAL APPLICATION

- In what area of life are you failing to acknowledge God or His provision?
- How and why should we put away any temptation to want the same abundance Ahasuerus had?
- What is one area of your life where pride is most likely to show up?
- Where are you tempted to care more about how you appear to others than about honoring God?
- Are there places where you are trying to control people or circumstances that you need to surrender to God?
- How can you use whatever influence or authority God has given you to serve rather than control others?

CLOSE YOUR TIME IN PRAYER TOGETHER FOR ONE ANOTHER

- As we close out this study, spend some time sharing with one-another prayer requests for where you feel the Lord has been speaking to your heart about what might be a needed change in habits, thoughts, or attitudes as it relates to our walk with Christ.